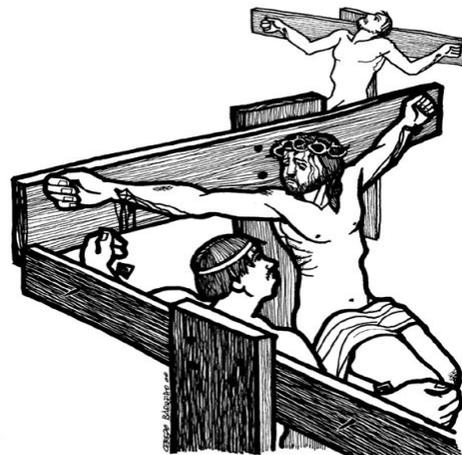


# HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

*Joyfully serving Jesus*



*Weekly devotions, prayers and news*

## Christ the King

*20 November 2022*

The Feast of Christ the King is relatively new in the Church calendar, having been introduced by Pope Pius XI in 1925, a time of rising nationalism and facism, to remind the world of Christ's sovereignty over all forms of political government.

In Sunday's gospel reading we see Jesus, not reigning from a throne, but from a cross; despised and rejected, with a mocking crown of thorns on his head. Not the king that the Jews had been eagerly anticipating, but a king who ate with tax collectors, associated with prostitutes and washed the feet of his disciples. A king who came to serve, to preach peace and reconciliation and to rule, not by force, but by truth and love. A king who comes alongside us in our suffering, reassuring us and welcoming us, as he welcomed the criminal hanging beside him on the cross, into resurrection life in his Kingdom.

Church website: [www.holytrinitycuckfield.org](http://www.holytrinitycuckfield.org)

### **Christ the King 20th November 2022)**

**8.00 Holy Communion** *(in church)* Readers: Margaret Thistlethwaite & Ralph Colbran

**9.45 Family Eucharist** *(in church & online)*

Hymns: 691, Sheet, 489, 612

**4.00 Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving**

**Services during the week:**

**Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (C. Worship)** *(in church & online)*

Readings: Revelation 15: 1-4; Luke 21: 12-19

**Thursday: 9.00 Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic)** *(in church)*

Readings: Revelation 18: 1-2, 21-23; Luke 21: 20-28

**Friday: 11.00 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)** Readings: Second Sunday before Advent *(in church)*

**Next Sunday: Advent Sunday (27th November 2022)**

**8.00 Holy Communion** *(in church)*

**9.45 Family Eucharist** *(in church & online)*

**12.00 Holy Baptism of** Elinor Mariolitz Violet Bourton and Robyn Jessica Chew

**6.00 Advent Carols** *(in church & online)*

**For services live on Zoom: Click the blue link on the front page of the church website**

#### **The Collect for Christ the King**

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

#### **The Post Communion Prayer:**

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Jeremiah 23: 1-6

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

### Colossians 1: 11-20

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

### Luke 23: 33-43

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[ Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.']] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

### **A thought** Feast of Christ the King: Luke 23. 33-43

This is the last Sunday of the Church year which means we focus on the final and glorious things to come! It also means that next Sunday is already the First Sunday of Advent.

When we say Jesus is a king, we mean a few things. First, He is our Shepherd. As our Shepherd He desires to lead us personally as a loving Father would. He wants to enter our lives personally, intimately, and carefully, never imposing Himself but always offering Himself as our guide.

The difficulty with this is that it's very easy for us to reject this kind of kingship. As King, Jesus desires to lead every aspect of our lives and lead us in all things. He desires to become the ruler and monarch of our souls. He wants us to come to Him for everything and to become dependent upon Him always.

But He will not impose this sort of kingship upon us. We are invited to accept it freely and without reservation. Jesus will only govern our lives if we freely surrender ourselves over. When that happens, His Kingdom begins to become established within us! And through us in the world. A kingdom whose ruler is a servant King who wants us to be his loving subjects.

### **A prayer for this time of Vacancy:**

Send us your Holy Spirit at this time of change and uncertainty, to fill us with vision, energy and faithfulness in prayer that we may be true to our calling to bring new life to our community; and guide with your heavenly wisdom those who are to choose a new priest for this Benefice, so that the one whom we receive may be a wise and gentle shepherd of your people, ready to serve us with joy, to build us up in faith, and to lead us by example, in loving obedience to your Son our Saviour, Jesus Christ.  
Amen

### **Please remember those for whom we pray:**

**Immediate need:** John Bernardi (priest), Paul Simpson, Martin Packham, Val Thompson, Ralph Wilkins, Becky Parker, George Snashall, Eileen Macdougall, Eileen Caple, Karen Leese

**Long Term Need:** Young Georgia, Joshua and Reggie, Wendy, Ann Went, Julie Sadler, Wendy Hibling, Yvonne Godsmark, Carla Spear, Pam Sagar, Eileen Knight, Maureen Griffiths, Carol Cox, Liz Graydon

**Those in Care Homes:** Jill Rockey, Jean Simmons, Mary Watts, Ruth Baker,, Rosemary Pardey, Janet Card

### **Please remember the recently departed and their families: Aileen Brice, Jane White, Catherine Harris**

**In our Book of Remembrance** this week we remember: 20th Elsie Dean, Gertrude Grainger, 21st Phyllis Smale, Alfred Humphries, Brian Gehlcken, Derek Tidey, 23rd George Pinney, Colin Stockton, Jacqueline Clinton, 25th Ambrose Upton, Christopher Collins, Queenie Searle, Janet Bradbury