

TRINITY NEWS

November 21, 2010

The Festival of Christ the King

Jesus of Nazareth was a political figure with a revolutionary agenda. But at his trial before the most powerful figure in Israel, he told Pontius Pilate that unlike Pilate's derived Roman authority, his Kingdom was "not of this world". He said that his authority came from God, not from human pretension. Unlike his prophetic companion John the Baptist, he did not attack political figures. John and Jesus are the Elijah and Elisha of the New Testament. But John worked no miracles and Jesus attacked no power figures directly as Elijah and John had done.

Nevertheless, Jesus was a political figure, albeit an unusual one. He sought no power for himself. He was concerned with empowering others with an invasive Spirit that toppled their dumb idols of egoistic power pretensions. He fostered a conversation with God that connected with everything. He called this "everything" the Reign of God. He was also mysterious, unpredictable, and extremely passionate about the heart of his teaching, the awareness of God's presence on earth "as in heaven". The mobs against Jesus were always more numerous than the mobs that followed him. He lived in a world of despots and conquerors, prominently displayed in power groups extremely visible in his own "land of Israel". He would never have won an election even if that possibility had existed. He is not on record as believing in political saviours. He was crucified like the worst of criminals. The sign over his head in Hebrew, Greek and Latin, was entitled "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews". This was the official charge against him, a trumped up accusation.

Jesus of Nazareth lived in no palace, he sat on no throne, and he had authority over no one. Yet no one has ever been so quoted or so revered. The Gospels are slanted towards blaming the Jews for his death because the gospel writers had to present this crucified Christ to the Roman world. Pilate was the only one in Israel who had the authority to condemn him to death. Pilate was asked by the Jews to change the official written charge: "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews', but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written." The unlikely king was executed as a royal pretender.

The gospel writers may have a say in it, but it appears that Pilate adroitly put the blame on the Jews for something that only he could execute.

We keep the feast of Christ the King today. We honour the one exalted to the right hand of God. This is his royalty. He proclaimed the royal kingdom of God, the reigning presence of God amongst his people, as actually happening on earth. As we gaze at the figure of Christ, the exalted one, we see that his destiny shapes our own destiny and our sense of identity as his people in the world.

What priority do we give to being a community of faith in this place, and what is our real mission in Manila and in the Philippines? How much are we prepared to back this mission with our worship, with our participation in parish endeavours, our financial resources, and most of all with a heart for mission backed up by our prayers as believers? A Confederate officer, writer and attorney called Albert Pike wrote: "What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others will remain and is immortal."

Abba Eban, a Jewish politician, writer and academic, said: "The Palestinians never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity." He might have added that this is exactly what the prophets of Israel said about the Jews on their long pilgrimage towards identity as a people. So many opportunities were lost on the way. Let us make the most of every opportunity to sparkle with inner life and contribute outwardly to the betterment of humanity.

Bishop Arthur Jones

Next week's readings:

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 24:36-44

Your prayers are asked in our healing ministry for Diana Croyston, JPeter, Beryl Tanner, Ron Thoburn, Suzanne Jacobson, Cena Quiapos, Ron Jacob, Bonnie SyCip, Fidelia Matthews, Jovel Llagas, Ted Whale, Emaduhaylongsod, Loy Solasco, Emerinciana Gatela, Amy Gonzales, Carrie Angus, Augusto Natividad, Avelina Collado, Eric Williamson, Susan Dalmas, Carlyn -Fern Manning, Richard Kendall, Jaqueline Acquiatan, Johnny Manning Jr, Sunny Cabanang, Valerie Jones, Gloria Domingo, Katsi Araneta, Emilie Nauntofte, Marian Kermanshahchi, Rosaline Soulsby, Fr. Barry Cumberland, Divinagracia Benitez, Les Vye-Parminter, Wilson Teh

TO PLAN:

Today.

- **STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY.** Speaker at both services: Esther C. Tan
- Sunday school, 9:15
- **ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE**, 6:00pm, Union Church of Manila, Rada corner Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati

Nov. 22, Monday.

- Finance Meeting, 5:30pm, Parish Office
- Vestry Meeting, 6:30pm, Rectory.

Nov. 23, Tuesday.

- Bible Study, 10am
- Bible Study, 7:15 pm @ the Tutton Residence (#3 Sta. Potenciana, Urdaneta Village)

Nov. 25, Thursday.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10am, Chapel

Nov. 27, Saturday.

- Christmas Pageant rehearsal, 10am

	Last Sunday	Year-to-date	Prop Budget	2010 Budget
Pledge	P179,600	P3,396,591.80	P3,450,000.00	P3,900,000.
Loose Plate	P29,545	P775,241.73	P831,538.46	P940,000.

WOMEN'S BAZAAR 2010
 Nov. 21 & 28 (Sundays),
 8am-6pm with **RAFFLE DRAW**
 on November 28, 4pm.
Contact Persons:
Patricia Dalmas & Cecile Katigbak

The church's monthly **Sources & Uses** report is available for viewing in the Church Office. Please look for Maricel. For questions, feel free to email Edison at edisonyap@gmail.com