

TRINITY NEWS

WEEK 48. November 24, 2019. CHRIST THE KING

*C*his morning we celebrate the feast of Christ the King, the final Sunday of the liturgical year. It's a relatively new feast, first introduced in the Roman Catholic Church in 1925 during the reign of Pius XI and later picked up by Anglicans, Lutherans and Methodists, I believe in the 1970's. It does seem to be an appropriate theme to close the year with, celebrating the Reign of Christ: it reminds us that beyond our earthly loyalties we have a higher one that transcends them all.

Then, next Sunday, the first of Advent, the start of the Church's new year, we begin all over again on the journey that leads through the Birth, Life, Passion, Death, Resurrection and Ascension of Christ, and the coming of the Holy Spirit back to this very point: our acknowledgement of Jesus Christ as King. And so it is, year after year as Christ's Reign gradually takes root in our hearts and through us, in this world.

Because let's remember that the principal purpose of our liturgical calendar is an educational, formation one. If we live by it, aware of it, if we participate as individuals and as community in the activities of worship, fellowship and study that flow from it, it will transform us as it has transformed Christians down through the ages. We should take advantage of such a powerful tool.

Living the liturgical calendar also develops in an ability to stand back from the frenzy of the world around us; and this allows us to view that world more critically, precisely in order to serve it more faithfully. So I invite you to make a 'New (church) Year's resolution' to enter more fully into the liturgical life of this community and to incorporate the seasons and feasts into your own lives as occasions for communal and individual celebration, reflection and growth, beginning perhaps with a resolve to live a full and meaningful Advent starting next Sunday to prepare for the truly joyful 12 days of Christmas that follow.

Prayer for the search of a new Rector: Almighty God, fount of all wisdom: Grant us thy Holy Spirit to lead and guide us in choosing a Rector for this Parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and empower them for ministry; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen