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Weekly Bulletin – 23rd November, The Feast of Christ the King

Thank you to Hon. Milton Dick, Federal MP, for generously printing our Bulletin.

We acknowledge and respect the Jagera people, traditional custodians of the land where our Parish resides.

23rd November, Christ the King: Jeremiah 23: 1-6; Song of Zechariah; Colossians 1: 11-20; Luke 23: 33-43

30th November, Advent 1: Isaiah 2: 1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13: 9-14; Matthew 24: 36-44

Sentence: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. *Zechariah 9:9*

Prayer of the Day:

Eternal God,
you exalted Jesus Christ to rule over all things,
and have made us instruments of his kingdom:
by your Spirit empower us to love the unloved,
and to minister to all in need,
then at the last bring us to your eternal realm
where we may be welcomed into your everlasting joy
and may worship and adore you for ever;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**



Song of Zechariah APBA p 10

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND YOUR PRAYERS

Christ the King	8.30 am	Eucharist at St Hughs followed by morning tea
23rd Nov	10.30am	Eucharist at Forest Grove Auditorium.
Tuesday 25th	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
	9.00 am	Careforce
	3.00 pm	Service at Opal Oxley Grove Aged Care
Wednesday 26th	9.00 am	Eucharist at St Hugh's with morning tea
Advent 1, 30th	9.30 am	Combined Eucharist and Morning Tea at Forest Grove Auditorium

NOTICES

****ITEMS needed for CAREFORCE: CHRISTMAS GOODIES AND STAPLES NEEDED PLEASE.**
Thank you to both parish centres for your continued prayers and support**

****At Sunday School we nurture faith through liturgy, ritual, imagination, and encourage Christian growth through worshipping, learning, and serving together. Please contact the office for more information - 3372 1216.**



****Women's Fellowship Group meeting 1st Saturday of the month 10am in the hall. All women are welcome. Contact Iris 0418 407 626 or office 3372 1216 for more information.**

***A.M.S. (Anglican Men's Society) meet on the 3rd Friday of the month at 6.30 pm. All men are welcome. Contact Fr Lindsay, Geoff, Steve, David or Rev Jon for more information.**

****Monthly Prayer Meeting is held every 2nd Sunday of the month at 3pm in the Multi-Purpose Room of Aveo. All welcome to come and pray for the church, community, and the world.**

**** We are again seeking prayers for our next Prayer Matters from Advent 2025 to Pentecost 2026. For those wanting to contribute, please write your prayer (or prayers) for the Advent to Pentecost season on forms provided at back of the church and place with our weekly offerings. Thank you all.**

****Please note that as part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, we are called to more concertedly join in prayer for those suffering from this crippling affliction. Commencing on 23rd November for 16 days. A copy with further information can be located at the back of each church. And will be emailed to those already on our mailing lists. Thank you****

+ Contact Viv 0401884505 for our Prayer Chain Ministry. +

Reflection for Christ the King

While The Feast of Christ the King is celebrated today by most orthodox expressions of faith such as the Catholic, Reformed and Protestant denominations, it is actually a more recently instituted festival. Introduced by Pope Pius XI in 1925 as a way of celebrating not only a new Christian feast, particularly in light of countering the increasing secularism that had arisen as a result of the carnage and brutality of WWI, but also as a way of honouring Jesus as Lord and King over everything. That is in all of creation, for whom and through whom everything is made and is ultimately subject (1 Corinthians 15:26; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 2:10). The feast is also an important way of closing the liturgical year. Because everything from each yearly Advent to subsequent Advent ultimately culminates in the person and Godhead of Jesus Christ. And what Christ as the second person of the Trinity accomplished for all humanity and creation on the Cross. Eternal salvation and reconciliation with the one and only true living God.

The caveat of course is whether we chose to accept as much or not. As was demonstrated by the disparity of responses between the two criminals who were executed either side of Jesus. One disbelieving and so unrepentant and disparaging. And the other, penitently willing to acknowledge Jesus as his Messiah, in the context of the injustice of Jesus' crucifixion compared to the criminal's own unworthiness. Even more astounding, that Jesus prayed for God to forgive those responsible for His demise. For they apparently weren't aware of what they were actually doing. Meaning they weren't fully culpable. Despite all the taunting, derision, humiliation, and outright cruelty.

No doubt why as His disciples, we can't be reminded enough of the imperative to forgive too. Because none of us are capable of being fully free from the curse of sin with all its inherent baggage. Including unforgiveness. Especially in light of confronting and overcoming the ongoing struggles of our fleshly inclinations, as we progress through the daily journey of purification. Not that that denigrates or gives cause to despise our frail human bodies, God's Temple, the Body of Christ either. To which Paul was attempting to counter when writing from prison to the Colossians.

Correcting perhaps yet another gnostic orientated fear-based heresy that we need to work at denying our physical and therefore irredeemable selves to attain perfection, lest we risk all manner of nefarious spiritual interference. And what better way to do so than reminding us all that Christ the King of everything was Himself born of a fully physical and so frail human body too. And that true spirituality comes as much, though perhaps even more, from engaging in the nitty grittiness of everyday human physical existence. Rather than striving the heights of spiritual enlightenment and conquest via esoteric knowledge and rituals. Such as caring once again for the unwanted and disadvantaged and challenging the corrupt practices inherent to our societies and communities. As Jeremiah promised God would one day bring to completion. To the glory of the one true God. To the glory of God's people. To the glory of Christ the King.

Jonathan Brook – Priest in Charge.

Please contact the office for Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, and other pastoral matters.