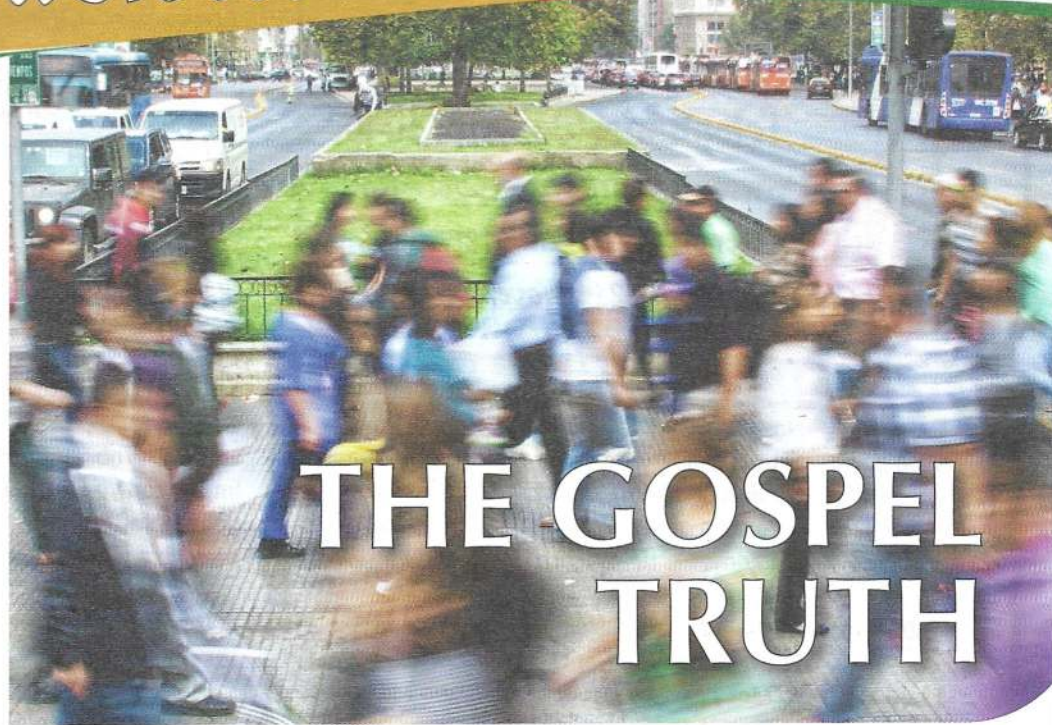


Parish Newsletter



THE GOSPEL TRUTH

Getting back to normal is very much on people's minds. But maybe we need to re-define normal. Perhaps it is about getting parishes to 'do' less and 'be' more; to re-discover what we are about and who we are; to love the neighbour, stand for what is right and (as in today's gospel) true. It all starts with truth - being true to yourself and to others. A priest friend told me about a 'knight of the road.' He had a warm personality, kept himself well and always carried a small suit case. He told my friend once - 'You see the nature in the eyes before you ever get a touch of the hand'. And it's so true.

You can only share what is within you. Jesus, the first born from the dead, was a citizen of a higher and inner kingdom and reminds us that we are also. It is a call to serve, never to dominate. The Gospel of today has a man used to wielding authority, who understand politics and power versus a man who speaks of spiritual reality and has no interest in Pilate's world. So when Pilate asks, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' the reply of Jesus is basically to enquire is this an honest

question or just rehashing rumours flying around. Whenever I hear people say 'someone said' or 'people are saying' I am tempted to ask, what do they themselves believe or wish to say - not the opinions of the anonymous 'other'. It's a very different way of looking at things. Pilate's power seeks to dominate and control, the power of Jesus is to lift up and enable.

'Yes, he is a king' - as he himself put it. But how can this be, unless we are his subjects. Maybe this chafes with us, we didn't 'consent' to this, didn't even choose (forced?) baptism we might say. But

belonging means much more than we may think. It's about trying to be allied with the aims of his kingdom. It means walking with him, trying to be in line with the spirit of his teaching, making sure it is evident in our lives.

His power comes, not through domination, but through humble service. As he stands before Pilate in today's Gospel, he explains his mission: 'I have come to bear witness to the truth'. In so far as we, his followers, speak the truth and act the truth, we allow his kingdom to come.

- Tom Cox

Reflection

In which ways does Jesus exercise his kingship in your life?

Lesson

Jesus is the beginning and the end, the one who is intertwined with everything we do and think and with every moment of our being.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, help me to accept your rule in every corner of my life. May I have in me the same values and outlook as are in you. Amen.



WE DO NOT KNOW THE HOUR OR THE DAY

The world will not last for ever, and marriage too will end when one spouse dies. This week, we married people are reminded to reflect on the treasures of love in our life: romance, warmth, tenderness, joyful celebrations, intimate moments and the fruitfulness of our love. Let's celebrate each other, reconcile past hurts and continually praise God for his blessings.

- Marriage Matters
www.twainoneflesh.org.uk



This Week (22-28 November)

- 22 M St Cecilia, virgin and martyr
- 23 T St Columban, abbot and missionary
- 24 W St Andrew Dung-Lac and companions, martyrs
- 25 T St Catherine of Alexandria, martyr
- 26 F St Leonard; Bl. James Alberione, priest
- 27 S St Fergal, bishop and missionary
- 28 S FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT