



A KINGSHIP OF LOVE

We are all used to the 'instant replay' or 'catch up' that modern electronics allows us to have. Even refereeing decisions in rugby have the back-up of the TMO (television match official). Nor can we forget the infamous Hawkeye in GAA which was stood down for one match in 2022 – even machines get it wrong. This is reassuring. I was watching a rerun of a race where a jockey was badly injured. The camera swung rapidly and sensitively away when he was unseated and hurt badly: humanity is ultimately the most important consideration. Technology also gives us the slow-motion replay so we can analyse what went right or wrong in the field of play.

On this fifty-second and last of the Sundays of the Liturgical Year, the Feast of Christ the King gives us a replay of Good Friday—but why? Because we may have missed it for whatever reason in our usual premature Easter preparations. Some even erroneously refer to the great days of Good Friday and Holy Saturday as 'Easter Friday/

Saturday' such is our haste. So why this replay now and not in the months before? Because as the old saying goes, Christmas celebrates His birth; Easter celebrates the reason why he was born. So where better than this pivotal November Sunday just before the Advent preparation for Christmas? It's also important that we don't "shut away" the Easter Christ of April from the other seasons. Every Sunday is in fact meant to be a

mini-Easter and a reminder like every crucifix that He died for us.

Calvary is such a familiar story that we can think we know it all. But only one person there saw Jesus in a different light: the good thief. Some mocked him as we know from the Gospel, but one person saw something different in Jesus. He saw Jesus' authority not as power or control but as love. We have everything we have because of this man. He's a king, but his power is completely different. He rules by love not by fear. For love ultimately is what draws us onwards to be the best people we can be.

Grant us your peace, O Lord, knowing that you are more powerful than any earthly power, that therefore Love governs the world. ■

- Tom Cox

Reflection

Think of people you know and admire for the manner in which they use their power for the benefit of others.

Lesson

It is by the love we have for one another that people will know we are disciples of Jesus.

Prayer

'Lord, remember me, when you come into your kingdom'

This Week (21–27 November)

- 21 M The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 22 T St Cecilia, virgin and martyr
- 23 W St Columban, abbot and missionary
- 24 T Ss Andrew Dũng-Lạc, priest and comp., martyrs
- 25 F St Colman, bishop
- 26 S St Leonard, Bl James Alberione, priest
- 27 S FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (CYCLE A)