



## Feast of Christ the King

24 November 2024

Today we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King which is the last Sunday in our Liturgical Year. Many of you will know the Church of Christ the King in Cabra which is dedicated to today's feast day. Outside the church, there is a striking statue of Christ the King which was sculpted in Trieste. It's a very imposing statue which I am sure has made a strong impression on parishioners over the years. The term "king", as we understand it today, is quite different to what it meant in the time of Jesus. We may think of a largely ceremonial figure who is Head of State but with very little real day to day political power. However, in New Testament times, Kings were often absolute monarchs with complete control over their subjects and were often the rulers of large territories. People listening to this reading in the early church would have understood it in this light.

In all four Gospels Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus is indeed a King in this story but, from a human point of view, is a very unusual King. He rules from the cross and his gifts to us are forgiveness, mercy, and eternal life. The crown that Christ wears is a crown of thorns.

In our Gospel today, Jesus says: *'Yes, I am a king. I was born for this; I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.'*

But the kind of Kingship that Jesus is talking about is very different to what we might regard as a brash regal figure with great powers ruling over a large territory. In fact, it is the complete opposite. Jesus's power of love can be seen in the way he forgives, shows mercy and is open to everyone.

Kingship is also mentioned elsewhere in the Gospels. In Luke 17:21 Jesus tells us that "the Kingdom of God is among you". This reminds us that Jesus continues to accompany us as community of faith as they travel on our journey of life.

It's really important that we take a little "time out" before Christmas and have an opportunity to pause even briefly to thank God for the gift of his life for our salvation on the cross. Perhaps we might consider attending our partnership Advent Reconciliation Service which takes place on Monday December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm here in Portmarnock or go to confession at another time that suits, in order avail of the opportunity to experience God's forgiveness and mercy.

Let us reflect on the presence of Jesus in our lives, what direction they are taking and how we can become more aware of his forgiveness and mercy as we approach the Season of Advent which begins next Sunday. I hope we will allow ourselves some space for prayer and reflection before the busyness of Christmas arrives.

As we reach the end of this Church year, let us give thanks to God for all the graces and blessings that we have received in our lives, for the gift of ministry to others, for the gift of life itself and, above all, for the gift of faith. It is important to pause for a moment and to give thanks before we move forward to celebrate the short but really important Season of Advent.

Deacon Gerard

### COLLECTIONS

Common Fund € 1441

Share Appeal Sunday € 1005

*Thank you for your generous support*

### WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, 6.30p.m**

Deceased members of the Condon Family Family.

**Sunday, 10.30a.m.**

Deceased members of the Lawless Family

**12 noon**

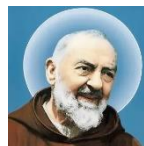
John Fitzgerald, [Month's Mind]

Margaret O'Flynn, [A]; Edward Muldowney, [1<sup>st</sup> A];

Kathleen Walsh, [11<sup>th</sup>A]; Terence Mongan, [5<sup>th</sup> Mth]

Hugh & Mairead O'Donnell, [A];

Freda & Ita Quinn, [A]



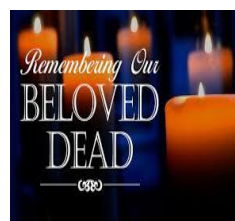
### ST PADRE PIO DEVOTIONS

Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> November

Will begin with Rosary at 7.10pm.

Mass will be celebrated at 7.30pm,

Followed by Blessing with St. Pio Relic



### NOVEMBER ALTAR LIST OF THE DEAD

envelopes are available in the church and may be left in the Parish Office or in the church safes



## Statement on the General Election 2024 Archbishop Dermot Farrell

It has been said that politicians campaign in poetry and govern in prose. It is certainly true that extravagant promises and self-promoting claims are the order of the day. That said, there are two slogans you will hear in these days, whose cynical falsehood is not only dis-energising, but more importantly risks degrading our democracy and political health: they are: 'voting doesn't make any difference', and 'they are all the same'.

First of all, voting does make a difference. Every vote counts. Your vote counts. Imagine living in a society with no elections, no democratic accountability, no contest of ideas, programmes, or vision. History shows that such societies are run by the powerful for their own benefit, while freedom of belief and expression are restricted, or even suppressed. Voting matters because it is how we hold our leaders to account and mandate what we believe to be important.

Voting also matters because all politicians are *not* the same: individual politicians, and political parties, differ in their values and beliefs, their ideas and priorities, their capabilities and judgement. It is true that powerful forces may constrain some policy choices. But governments exercise influence and control over vast areas of community life, and of the land we share. Their judgements and priorities do make a difference, through the legislation and policies they choose to pursue. They are those on whom we rely, not only to act wisely when crises occur and the unexpected happens—as it always does, but to plan prudently and with vision for a shared future in our common home.

The democratic system aligns with the Christian vision of the dignity of each person and our duty to serve the common good. To be effective, democracy needs people who are willing to put themselves forward, outline their policies, and accept the judgement of the people in the ballot box. Recent months have seen efforts to intimidate and threaten public representatives. We have seen many politicians choose to step back from politics as a result. We should be grateful that there are many women and men who, despite this frightening and dangerous turn in public life, are willing to offer themselves in public service at these elections.

Christians legitimately differ in their political views: there is no Christian party that can lay claim to the Christian community as a bloc. There is no obligation on Christians to support any particular party. But there is a duty on every Christian to support the common good to the best of our ability. Voting in the General Election on November 29th is a feasible and responsible act of citizenship to support the common good. Taking the trouble to consider who offers the best prospect of advancing the common good rather than personal interest or advantage is an important exercise in solidarity with our sisters and brothers who are most

affected by public policies. Identifying candidates who have the personal qualities and experience to be effective public representatives is an important judgement. The Irish electoral system ensures that personal qualities and characteristics do matter, since multi-seat constituencies and the PR system mean we can judge personal qualities, as well as party policies.

Like every aspect of life, voting is open to the work of the Holy Spirit to guide our judgement. To vote is an exercise in hope, and hope is a mark of authentic Christian faith—the great gift of the Holy Spirit. To express our hope by voting is to overcome the negativity and cynicism that result in political propaganda, and the devaluing of those who are different. It is to take a stance against the fear and lack of courage which generate resentment, hatred, anger, even violence.

Let us pray for all those who have offered themselves for election, that they will engage with the public and with each other with respect, and will in turn receive the respect of those they canvas. Let us pray too that our society will vote into office leaders who will govern the people with integrity and wisdom and serve the common good with dedication and commitment.

### *Online Advent Retreat:*

#### *Keeping Vigil for the Vulnerable God.*

It features a series of online reflections given in preparation for Christmas. The Retreat Giver is Stephen Cummins OP. Using the four Sunday Gospels as signposts, the four Advent reflections will be an invitation to explore the question: "What God are we awaiting to birth in us this Advent?" Four recorded presentations will become available over the four Sundays of Advent. Participants can download the Gospels, watch the films whenever suits them, and revisit films they have already viewed, so people can register at any time during Advent <https://prioryinstitute.com/events/2024-online-advent-retreat> or [prioryinstitute.com](https://prioryinstitute.com).

### *FAITH CLASS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN:*

*Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* teaches children about prayer and faith using Montessori principles. Time: 11:35am-12:35pm (after family mass), in the Parish Centre. Contact: Aoife 086 1646971



### *THE ARCH CLUB*

is hosting its bi-annual Christmas Fair in the Centre on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024 from 11am - 3pm.



### *THIRD DAY CHORALE*

*St Gabriel's Church*

*Clontarf - A Choral Celebration at*

*Christmas Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024 at*

**3.00p.m. In aid of Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind**

**SAINT ANNE'S PARISH, STRAND ROAD, PORTMARNOCK CO. DUBLIN D13 WK33. Tel: 01 8461561.**  
[www.portmarnockparish.ie](http://www.portmarnockparish.ie) [stannes@portmarnockparish.ie](mailto:stannes@portmarnockparish.ie). **Governance Code Charities Act RCN 20016166**

**TIMES OF MASSES: WEEKDAYS 10AM: MON, WED, THURS and FRI. SATURDAY: 6.30PM (VIGIL), SUNDAY: 10.30am & 12 NOON.  
BAPTISMS 1<sup>ST</sup> & 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAYS AND AT THE EASTER VIGIL (SOME EXCEPTIONS AROUND CHRISTMAS AND EASTER.). CONFESSIONS SAT. AFTER 6.30PM  
MASS, AFTER DAILY MASS (UNLESS THERE'S A FUNERAL), OR ON REQUEST.**