



A DIFFERENT KIND OF KING.

St Mary's Way Values: Reverence.

Pilate went back into the palace and called for Jesus. He said, "Are you the 'King of the Jews'?" Jesus answered, "Are you saying this on your own, or did others tell you this about me?" Pilate said, "Do I look like a Jew? Your people and your high priests turned you over to me. What did you do?" Jesus replied, "My kingdom is not of this world: if it was, my people would have fought so that I wouldn't be handed over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not like this." Then Pilate said, "So, are you a king or not?" Jesus answered, "It's you who say it. Yes, I am King. I was born for this, I came to the world for this: to witness to the truth. Anyone who cares for the truth listens to my voice."



Day 1: This week, we celebrate the feast of Christ the King, which marks the end of the Church's year. This feast celebrates Jesus as a King, and each year we have a different reading to show us what kind of King he is. This year's reading is taken from Jesus' trial, just before his death on the cross. His sacrifice shows us the kind of King Jesus was: he gave up his life for us to conquer death and open up the gates of heaven to us.

Pope Pius XI explained why the feast of Christ the King is so important to us. He said that as our King, Jesus:

"must reign in our minds, in our wills, in our hearts, and in our bodies."

In other words, our faith and love for Jesus should touch every aspect of our lives.

Lord Jesus Christ our King, as we begin this week, may you draw closer to us and we to you. May we allow you to reign in our minds, wills, hearts and bodies, and may our lives serve your Kingdom. Amen.

Practical suggestion:

Cut out an image of a throne and write on it all the words you can think of to describe the kind of King Jesus is. Fix it to your notice board this week.

Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yzqTFNfeDnE>

This video describes the kind of King Jesus is. Watch it as a class and discuss: what are the words that stood out to you? What kind of King do you think Jesus is? Perhaps you could add some of those words to your throne display (above).

Day 2: Led by 8R. In the Gospel this week, Pilate asks Jesus:

“Are you the ‘King of the Jews’?”

8R thought Pilate had a lot of misconceptions about Jesus, including what type of king he was. They wondered if Jesus was being set up by Pilate, as Pilate asked him leading questions, and persisted when Jesus tried to evade the subject. They also wondered why Jesus didn't answer Pilate's questions clearly, as Jesus is so direct and open in other parts of the Gospel. Was he scared to tell the truth? Or was there another reason?

Discuss/ Reflect:

- How would you react to Jesus' way of answering questions?
- Would you admit to something, even if it would be worse for you than if you had lied?

Dear God, Please Guide us to your kingdom. Let us not assume things of people or judge them without getting to know them first. Amen.

Day 3: This week's Gospel is taken from Pilate's interrogation of Jesus, just before he is sentenced to death. Jesus tells Pilate:

“My kingdom is not of this world”

A King or Queen usually rules over a specific place or group of people. Pilate thought that Jesus was claiming to be a King over the Jews, but Jesus tells him that he is something different: his kingdom is without borders. Jesus isn't just the king of the Jews, but of us all.

Discuss/ reflect:

- In what ways could Jesus be considered a king?
- What sort of king was he?
- A King creates laws and tries to get people to act in a certain way. What laws does Jesus ask us to follow?

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace, where there is hatred let me sow love, where there is injury let me sow pardon, where there is doubt let me sow faith, where there is despair let me sow hope, where there is darkness let me give light, where there is sadness let me give joy. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in forgiving that we are forgiven, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.



Day 4: Christ our King taught his disciples a special 'kingdom prayer'. It's called the 'Our Father' and we know it very well, though perhaps it is so familiar to us that we rarely think about what we are actually saying.

In it, we pray: 'Your Kingdom come, your will be done.' In other words, we invite God to take charge! The rest of the prayer is then asking God to give us what we need:

Discuss/ Reflect:

- "Daily bread" doesn't just mean food, but the things we need to live. What do you think that covers?
- The Our Father also includes a request for forgiveness. Why is forgiveness so important?

Finish by saying an 'Our Father' together. Pray it slowly, and as you do, think about the meaning of the words you are saying.