

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and authority for ever and ever.

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 23.

RESPONSE:

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose. *R*
2. Near restful waters he leads me;
he revives my soul.
He guides me along the right path,
for the sake of his name. *R*
3. You have prepared a table before me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. *R*
4. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for length of days unending. *R*

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is coming! Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

The Lord sits as King forever. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 23 Nov (St Columbanus, Ab)

Revelations 14:1-5; Psalm 24; Luke 21:1-4

"Be slow to anger, swift to learn, slow also to speak, ... equally swift to hear. Be respectful to the worthy, merciful to the poor. Be mindful of favours, unmindful of wrongs." – St Columbanus, Letter to a Young Disciple

Tue 24 Nov Ss Andrew Dung-Lac, Pr & Companions, Ms

Rev 14:14-19; Psalm 96; Luke 21: 5-11
St Andrew Dung-Lac represents the 117 martyrs of Vietnam; 97 of the martyrs were Vietnamese and 21 were foreign missionaries. Eight were bishops, 50 were priests and 59 were lay people.

Wed 25 Nov (St Catherine of Alexandria, VM)

Revelation 15:1-4; Psalm 98; Luke 21:12-19

True wisdom comes not only from study but from union with God. True beauty is only attained by reflecting the Source of all beauty. True courage is only possible when it is Christ who strengthens us.

Thu 26 Nov Liturgy of the Day

Rev 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9; Psalm 100; Luke 21:20-28
Do not put off what you can do today. God calls us to deepen our faith and rise to the challenge of loving our neighbours in the here and now. It requires a sense of constant awareness and living in the present.

Fri 27 Nov Liturgy of the Day

Revelation 20:1-4, 11-21; Psalm 84; Luke 21:29-33
When will all people see your goodness, O Lord? When will all come to you and drink at the source of your grace? How can I tell them of your sweetness and your power? How can my happiness reach others?

Sat 28 Nov Liturgy of the Day

Revelations 22:1-7; Psalm 95; Luke 21:34-36
God speaks to our hearts through the Word and other people. God does not want to compel belief by a miracle. God calls us to believe and to trust. Allow God to lead you to a freely chosen faith.

Sun 29 Nov 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8; Psalm 80; Mark 13:33-37
This Advent, as we prepare for the coming of Jesus, our Prince of Peace, let us ask ourselves: Where might we stretch ourselves to love more? With whom can we share our talents and our goods?

KEY: SOLEMNITY; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial)
Ab=Abbot; Pr=Priest; V=Virgin; M=Martyr

Catholic Link

SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT AND WATCHFUL FAITH

Christ the King • Year A
Divine Office: Week II • 22 November 2026



Pope St John XXIII
Photo: De Agostini Editore



Pope St Paul VI
Photo: Fotografia Felici



Pope St John Paul II
Photo: The White House, 1991



Pope Benedict XVI
Photo: by Medialpj



Pope Francis
Photo: Korean Culture and Information Service



Pope Leo XIV
Photo: Edgar Beltrán, The Pillar

Christ the King

Standing before Pontius Pilate, Jesus made two claims, (1) that he is a King, and (2) that he came to bear witness to the Truth. We dedicate our final article in the present *Link* series to recent popes whose watchful faith and witness to the truth, like Christ the King, have helped us to see the times in which we live from God's perspective.

Pope John XXIII surprised many by calling an Ecumenical Council to address the challenges which the modern world posed to the Church. Pope John's inspiration was to renew and update the Church by studying original sources and bring them into dialogue with the present day.

His successor, Pope Paul VI, drew Vatican Council II to conclusion and tirelessly began the project of implementing the decisions of the Council, an ongoing and long-term task.

Pope John Paul II stunned the Church and the world with a burst of energy granted him by the Holy Spirit. For twenty-seven years he served the Church by teaching, preaching and pilgrimaging across the world. He issued a stream of letters on wide-ranging aspects of the faith and morals of Christians. From philosophical reflection on the relationships between faith and reason, to theological insights on the mystery of the Eucharist, Pope John Paul influenced millions of people. Even his death was a sermon on the joy of believing.

Pope John Paul's successor, Pope Benedict XVI, remembered as the pope who resigned from the papacy, will more likely be cherished for the spiritual depth of his theological writings. A brilliant and gifted theologian most of his life, on becoming pope he had a style that

was quiet, gentle, courteous, and profoundly respectful to all. His watchful faith led him to alert the Church and the world of the flaws of the current wave of relativism (i.e. there are no universal criteria for truth). His most inspiring words were always about love. His three encyclicals were: *God is Love*, *Saved by Hope*, and *Love in Truth*.

From the beginning of his papacy, Pope Francis struck an informal note. His style was relaxed and easy. In his first letter to his world-wide flock, he wrote, "I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy ... from clinging to its own security". Throughout his years as bishop of Rome, he urged the Church to think first of people on the peripheries: the poor, the lonely, the lost and forgotten. Francis' personal priority was pastoral. As Gaza was bombed daily, daily he phoned the parish priest of Gaza City.

Francis broke new ground by putting environmental issues and climate change on the Church's agenda, urging "care for our common home". His writings and actions were always pastorally sensitive, as in his exhortation, *The Joy of Love*, reaching out to divorced and remarried Catholics and opening a way forward for returning to the sacraments.

Pope Leo XIV, the present pope, reveals himself as a reflective leader, not intimidated by the "tech revolution", as we saw in our previous *Link* articles, open to human development, but watchful of potential moral pitfalls.

May Christ the King continue to inspire such servant leadership!



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