

23 November 2025—CHRIST THE KING

(Sunday next before Advent)

Welcome to our services today

Holly Fair 2025

Thank you to everyone who supported this year's Holly Fair in any way. The final amount raised will be announced soon.

Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)

As mentioned last week we will be launching the Parish Giving Scheme in both our churches on November 30th when we will be handing out personal invitations to join the scheme.

We already have members of our congregations in both churches who have signed up to PGS before its launch – they have already discovered how this is saving our treasurer team time in recording their offerings. PGS also deals with all Gift Aid claims for us – we in turn receive payment within days, rather than many months.

When we launch the Scheme we will have a small dedicated team who will be able to answer your queries and give every assistance in confidence if required. Curious? Go to www.parishgiving.org.uk

Parochial Church Council

Members of the PCC are reminded that we meet on Wednesday at 7.15 pm in Trinity Hall.

Please remember in your prayers this week:

The sick and infirm: June Anderton, Janet Dadson, Jane Lister, Paul Moore, Janet Murton, Roy & Jackie Phillips, Dave Powers, Mike Reed, Pat Rorison, Shirley Whiteley, Christina & Geoff, Graham, Jack & Rosemary, Kirk & Karen, Neville, Pam, Phil, Tony
and the needs of those who mourn

The recently departed & families: Ros Nicholls, Steve Pilkington, Ricky Rawlinson, Mr Woodward

Anniversary of death: Louisa Bacon, Nora Hough, Betty Smith, Joan Young

THIS WEEK

• All events at Holy Trinity—*unless shown otherwise* •
Weekday Readings: Week 34 in Ordinary Time, Year I

Wednesday

6.30 pm: Mass (6.00: Exposition of Bl. Sacrament)
Psalm R. (repeated after every line) *Give glory and eternal praise to him.*

7.15 pm: PCC meeting—*Trinity Hall*

Thursday

11.00 am: Bible Study Group

Friday

11.00 am: Mass (10.30: Exposition of Bl. Sacrament)
Psalm R. (repeated after every line) *Give glory and eternal praise to him.*

2–4 pm: Tea at Two—*All Saints Hall*

Next Sunday—*First Sunday of Advent*

• New Church Year begins: Readings Year A (II) •

9.15 am: Mass with hymns—*All Saints*

11.00 am: Sung Mass

Christmas is coming ... and so is Bishop Luke!

We're delighted to say that the new Bishop of Richborough, Luke Irvine-Capel, will be with us for Midnight Mass as Principal Celebrant and Preacher. Given the vast area that he covers – from the Humber to the Isle of Wight (and technically even as far as Gibraltar!) – we are honoured that Bishop Luke has chosen to be at Hawley for his first-ever Christmas as a Bishop. We trust that this will be an extra incentive (if indeed one were needed!) to join us at Midnight Mass.

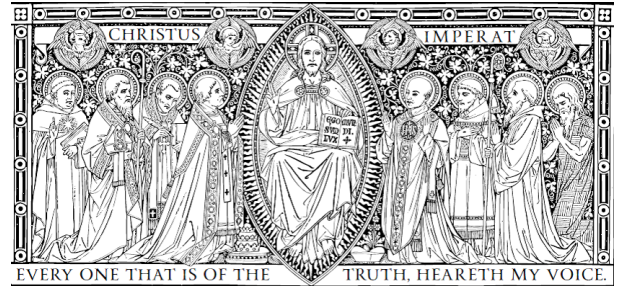
'Tea at Two'

We meet every Friday from 2 – 4 pm in All Saints Hall. Come and join us for great cake, tea/coffee and conversation. We look forward to seeing you!

Weekly news sheet

Please send any items for inclusion on the sheet to Fr William by the end of Wednesday each week.

Sunday 23rd Nov. 2025
Christ the King
Gospel: Luke 23: 33 – 43



We may not think it, but to say ‘Christ is King’ is subversive. If we truly mean it and apply this truth to every aspect of our lives, then it can be dangerously so. It is why there are so many martyrs; if it were a claim without consequence, then we would have few if any martyrs. But Holy Church commemorates ‘a noble army of martyrs’ precisely because in every age the announcement that Christ is King is to say that no one else is. To say Christ reigns over our lives in a personal way is to say that nothing in all creation has ultimacy; nothing in creation has final sovereignty. That means a radical rejection of every ideology, philosophy, and theory that might claim highest place. He alone – Christus Rex – reigns.

And this reign is both personal in the sense of being over our lives but also universal as it extends to the whole creation. When the Last Times come, all created things will awake to the reality of Christ’s victory over death.

Graham Greene’s powerful novel ‘The Power and the Glory’ made prominent the cry, “Viva Cristo Rey!” - “Long live Christ the King!”.

Living the Word: Colossians 1.11-20

St Paul wants us to understand that the purposes of God have implications for our whole world. Jesus Christ is not just a man; He is God’s eternal Son. It was through Christ that God created all things in heaven and on earth. It is in Christ that all things hold together. It is Christ who is the head of the Church, and the King of all creation. It is Christ who reconciles all things to God, through His death on the cross. Jesus Christ is God’s way of restoring us to eternal life. St Paul’s words are an encouragement to think of our Christian lives as part of God’s plan to transform the whole of creation.

From the Fathers – Origen (185 – 254)

If we wish God to reign in us, in no way should sin reign in our mortal body; rather we should mortify our members which are upon the earth and bear fruit in the Spirit. There should be in us a kind of spiritual paradise where God may walk and be our sole ruler with his Christ. In us the Lord will sit at the right hand of that spiritual power which we wish to receive. And he will sit there until all his enemies who are within us become his footstool, and every principality, power and virtue in us is cast out. All this can happen in each one of us, and the last enemy, death, can be destroyed; then Christ will say in us: O death, where is your sting? O hell, where is your victory? And so what is corruptible in us must be clothed with holiness and incorruptibility; death will be cast out, and our mortality will be clad with the Father’s immortality, so that, as God reigns in us, we may truly enjoy the blessings of rebirth and resurrection.