

Homily – Christ the King - 2021

One of the greatest coming-together as a Pastoral Area was the liturgical initiative 'Born for This'. Members of the six parishes worked to put together a moving 'production' of Jo Boyce's Passion of Our Lord. Singers, musicians, actors, sound and vision technicians and backstage support worked tirelessly to celebrate the liturgy to a full St Joseph's Church over The Palm Sunday weekend in 2018. What a fitting way to begin Holy Week.

Today's reading from Daniel 7, which I referred to briefly in last week's homily, states 'The Son of Man will come riding on the clouds' as King of the Nations. The Jewish people interpreted this as the coming of a military leader Messiah who would free them from slavery and oppression, a powerful King leading a violent regime against their enemies.

The Second Reading of St John from The Book of Revelation reminds us that instead Christ the King is a humble, servant Messiah who suffered for our transgressions, died and rose again to make us members of a kingly, priestly and prophetic people. No mention of power or military violence but only of humble subjection, infinite mercy and unqualified love for his people.

The truth of St John's portrayal of The Messiah is borne out in The Way of The Cross and Christ's death on Calvary, treated as a common criminal, spat upon and pierced for our sins. At the beginning of that terrible and horrific suffering Pilate asks 'Are you a King?' to which Jesus answers 'I am a King, I WAS BORN FOR THIS. I came into this world to bear witness to the truth and all in the side of truth listen to my voice. My Kingdom is not of this world.....

The scene in 'Born for This' which spoke to me so poignantly about the type of Messiah Christ is and the kind of Kingdom Jesus came to proclaim is when Our Blessed Lady cradles the dead body of the crucified Christ at the foot of the Cross. He was truly BORN FOR THIS moment when his sacrifice once and for all took away the sins of the world. My only response can be 'Lord I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof but only say the word and my soul shall be healed'.

Praised be Jesus Christ