

## Christ the King Solemnity

A police officer pulls over a semi-truck. He gets the usual license and registration, but hears strange noises coming from the trailer, so he decides to investigate. Inside, he finds 50 penguins. "Sir, why do you have 50 penguins in your truck?", the officer asks the driver. "Well, they're my friends, and we like to go on journeys together in my truck", the man replies. "I'm sorry sir, but you can't just own 50 penguins. I'm afraid you're going to have to take them to the zoo" The man agrees and drives off.

The next day the same cop pulls the truck over again, and once again hears strange noises in the trailer. He goes to check and finds the same 50 penguins. "I thought I told you to take these penguins to the zoo yesterday!" The cop angrily tells the driver. "I did take them to the zoo! They loved it! Today we're going to the beach."

Dear Friends,

This weekend, we remember the Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. This feast brings the culmination of the liturgical year. We are very close to celebrating the 100 years of its promulgation. As we all know, very few countries have kings ruling. Most of the countries in the world have become democratic. Still there are a lot of differences in the world in ruling people. Democracy gives a lot of power to people in different ways.

The readings today point to the paradox of Christ's kingship: He is a king who reigns not from a throne but from the cross. In the first reading, Daniel speaks of a glorious vision of the Son of Man receiving everlasting dominion.

The Gospel invites us to reflect on the kingship of Jesus. This feast reminds us of Christ's role as the Lord of the Universe, reigning not with worldly power but with love, truth, and justice. In the Gospel, we encounter Jesus standing before Pilate, a man who represents worldly authority. Pilate asks Jesus, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus' response is both profound and

challenging: "My kingdom does not belong to this world." Here, Jesus redefines what it means to be a king. Unlike earthly rulers who exercise dominion through wealth, armies, or political influence, Jesus' kingship is centered on service, humility, and sacrifice which was displayed by his death on the cross. His kingdom is not about conquering lands but transforming hearts.

The kingdom of Jesus is based on Truth. Truth is at the heart of Christ's kingship. In a world filled with false promises, half-truths, and deceit, Jesus calls us to stand firmly in His truth—the truth of God's love, mercy, and salvation.

Living in truth means aligning our lives with the values of the Gospel. It challenges us to speak truth to power, to stand up for the marginalized, and to live with integrity. Are we willing to listen to His voice and testify to the truth in our daily lives?

We pray in the Our Father Prayer, "Thy Kingdom come" and "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven". Which means we transcend ourselves to his kingdom who won by shedding his blood on the cross. We are supposed to embrace his kingdom on earth by following the Gospel values.

Let us ask these questions: when we pray the Lord's Prayer and pray for his kingdom to come; Are we doing our part to bring his kingdom to our world? Do we have material things that rule over us in this world which stand in the way of our love for Christ the King?