

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 5:1-3

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron. 'Look' they said 'we are your own flesh and blood. In days past when Saul was our king, it was you who led Israel in all their exploits; and the Lord said to you, "You are the man who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you shall be the leader of Israel."' So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a pact with them at Hebron in the presence of the Lord, and they anointed David king of Israel.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 121:1-5
R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced when I heard them say:
'Let us go to God's house.'
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem. R.

Jerusalem is built as a city
strongly compact.
It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord. R.

For Israel's law it is,
there to praise the Lord's name.
There were set the thrones of judgment
of the house of David. R.

SECOND READING: Colossians 1:12-20

We give thanks to the Father who has made it possible for you to join the saints and with them to inherit the light.

Because that is what he has done: he has taken us out of the power of darkness and created a place for us in the kingdom of the Son that he loves, and in him, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins.

He is the image of the unseen God and the first-born of all creation; for in him were created all things in heaven and on earth: everything visible and everything invisible, Thrones, Dominions, Sovereignities, Powers - all things were created through him and for him. Before anything was created, he existed, and he holds all things in unity. Now the Church is his body, he is its head.

As he is the Beginning, he was first to be born from the dead, so that he should be first in every way; because God wanted all perfection to be found in him and all things to be reconciled through him and for him, everything in heaven and everything on earth, when he made peace by his death on the cross.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION. MARK 11:9, 10
Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed is he who inherits the kingdom of David our Father; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Luke 23:35-43

The people stayed before the cross watching Jesus. As for the leaders, they jeered at him. 'He saved others,' they said 'let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.' The soldiers mocked him too, and when they approached to offer him vinegar they said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.' Above him there was an inscription: 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals hanging there abused him. 'Are you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and us as well.' But the other spoke up and rebuked him. 'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said, 'You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus,' he said 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you,' he replied 'today you will be with me in paradise.'

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Next Sunday's Readings- 1st Sunday of Advent -

Isaiah 2:1-5 , Ps 121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9, Romans 13:11-14 ,
Matthew 24:37-44

Christmas Mass Times

Sat 24 December: 5.00pm Family Mass (Manly)
7.00pm Mass (Gumdale)
Sun 25 December: 9.30am Mass (Manly)

This parish is Child Safety Aware and complies with Australian Privacy Laws. A copy of the Safeguarding policy is situated in the foyer of the church. STOPLINE CONTACT: Phone 1 300 304 400. Email. AOB@stopline.com.au



St John Vianney's Catholic Parish

embracing the worshipping communities of
Manly & Gumdale

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Parish Pastoral Council
Chair Peter Smyth-Kirk
Secretary Pam Biggs-Chapman

Parish Finance Committee
Chair Hugh Davies

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SACRAMENTS
All enquires for Baptism,
First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion &
Confirmation, please contact **Nola Smith**
Ph. 0412 345 752
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FUNERALS AND WEDDINGS
All enquires about Funerals and
Weddings, please contact **Kate Sellwood**
manly@bne.catholic.net.au

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday 4.30pm or by appointment

For the Children... King of the Jews

Today is the last Sunday of the Church's liturgical year, when we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. Jesus had been sentenced to die on the cross; and the soldiers and crowds, who gathered to watch his suffering, jeered and made fun of the "King of the Jews."

LET US PRAY
Lord Jesus, you come to share the good news of God's kingdom with the whole world. May your love reign in our hearts always. Amen



19/20 NOVEMBER
Feast of Christ the King, Year C
Gospel Reflection

Throughout his Gospel, Luke portrays Jesus as the humble, obedient servant of God. In the resurrection, such humility and selflessness will be exalted by God. In Luke's account, Jesus steadfastly refused any demonstration of power for himself but manifested the power of God only for the faith and healing of the poor, the troubled, the lost and the rejected. Even while hanging on the cross (an incident recorded only by Luke), Jesus only claims power to save the "good thief" who places his trust in him.

Luke's account of Jesus' crucifixion is a pretty hopeless depiction: Jesus, the generous teacher and the loving healer, is hung on a tree like a common criminal; he is the object of scorn and derision by the very people he came to serve and save. But in one of his last breaths, Jesus offers peace and healing to a criminal hanging there with him. Such is the transforming and redemptive love of Christ. From the crosses and crucifixions of our world, the reign of God takes shape when we imitate the humble selflessness of Christ in bringing his spirit of hope and reconciliation into the lives of those around us.

In Luke's account of the crucifixion, only the "good thief" recognizes the grave injustice that is taking place. In recognizing the innocence and goodness of Jesus, he is able to see and accept responsibility for his own sinfulness and need for forgiveness. With that realisation comes hope – the thief understands what even Jesus' closest disciples do not: that God will vindicate the injustices of this life in the fullness of the next.

On this last Sunday of the Church year, we honour Christ the King whose kingdom knows neither boundaries nor walls, neither castes nor classes; Christ the King whose rule is one of humble service; Christ the King whose crown is compassion, whose sceptre is humility; Christ the King whose court belongs to the poor, the forgotten, the lost, the despairing; Christ the King whose coin is forgiveness and reconciliation.

To be a disciple of Christ demands a clear, conscious decision, not passive, rote compliance; to claim Christ as King means to make his vision of compassion and justice the measure of our integrity and the compass for our journey through this life to the life of the world to come.

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**We acknowledge and pay respect to Traditional Custodians– the Quandamooka and Jagera Peoples
on whose land we walk, live and worship.**

