ST MATTHEW'S
PARROQUIA
CHURCH
SAN MATEO

Christ the King

22nd November 2026



Take me home!

Priest's Tidings

Today we celebrate the last Sunday of the liturgical year, while our gaze—fixed upon Advent—prepares to await the One who is to come to judge; that is, to bring the life of each person to its fullness. A year is drawing to a close, but rather than leading us toward an end, it invites us to contemplate a final purpose; instead of prompting us to fix our eyes on a conclusion, it suggests that we look forward to a fullness. This is the fullness that Saint Paul proclaims to the Corinthians as the culmination of his reflection on the Paschal mystery of Jesus—who must reign until He has placed all His enemies under His feet, the last of which shall be death. Once this has come to pass, "when all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all" (1 Cor 15:28).

Fr Hugo

Entrance Hymn: 532 – All creatures of our God and King,

Collect:
Almighty ever-living God,
whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, the King of the universe,
grant, we pray,
that the whole creation, set free from slavery,
may render your majesty service
and ceaselessly proclaim your praise.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

First Reading:

Reading from the book of Ezekiel 34

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them.

As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm 24

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

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.**R/**

Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.**R/**

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **R/**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. **R/**

Gospel Acclamation :

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!
Alleluia!

Gospel Reading

Hear the The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left.

Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me."

Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

Prayers of Intercession

R/ Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer

- Loving Lord, we ask your blessing upon all who seek to care for your people. We pray for all bishops, priests and deacons, all who preach the word, administer the sacraments and show pastoral care. May we all share in your outreach and mission of love. We remember especially those who are reaching out to the confused and the lost. **R/**

- Loving Lord, we ask your blessing upon this world, which is your creation. We remember today all who are struggling against evil, war or poverty. We pray for all who share in your redeeming work through their caring for others and seeking to bring them freedom.
We pray for all relief agencies and all who reach out to those in need.**R/**

- Loving Lord, we ask your blessing upon our homes and our loved ones. We remember today all who live alone and those who are homeless. We pray especially for young people living on the streets of our towns and cities and all whose lives were diminished by circumstances they could not avoid.**R/**

- Loving Lord, we ask your blessing upon all who are ill at home or in hospital. We remember also loved ones who are caring for them and are anxious and fearful. We pray for all who cannot cope on their own. We ask your blessing upon all carers and those involved in medical care and the rescue services.**R/**

- Heavenly Father, we lift St Matthew's Elephant and Castle to You. By Your Spirit, grow Your church in number, faith, and love. Draw those who are searching to Christ, equip us to share the Gospel with boldness, and make us a welcoming community where lives are transformed. May all who come encounter Your presence. In Jesus' mighty name we pray. Amen.**R**

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

Offertory: 357 – All people that on earth do dwell,

Communion Hymn: Jesus, lover of my soul,

Jesus, lover of my soul
Jesus, I will never let You go
You've taken me from the miry clay
You've set my feet upon the rock
And now I know
I love you (I love you)
I need you (I need you)
Though my world may fall (though my world may fall)
I'll never let You go
My Saviour (my Saviour)
My closest Friend
I will worship You (I will worship You until the very end)
Sing it, Jesus (Jesus, You're lover of my soul)
Sweet Jesus (Jesus, I will never let You go)
And You've taken me (You've taken me from the miry clay)
You've set my feet upon the rock
And now I know
I love you (I love you)
And I need you (I need you)
Though my world may fall (though my world may fall)
I'll never let You go
No, no My Saviour,
My closest Friend
My closest Friend
I will worship You until the very end
Jesus, lover of my soul
Jesus, (Lord) I will never let You go
And You've taken me
You've taken me from the miry clay
Yes, You have
You've set my feet upon the rock (and now I know)
And now I know
I love you (I love you)
I need you (I need you)
Though my world may fall I'll never let You go Never, never let You go, no
My Saviour
My closest Friend
My closest Friend (I will worship You)
I will worship You until the very end
Oh I love You
Oh, we need You
I need you (though my world may fall)
Though my world may fall
I'll never let You go
Never, never, never, never let You go
My Saviour
My closest Friend (I will worship You)
I will worship You until the very end.

Post Communion Prayer:

Stir up, O Lord,
the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

ALL: Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Strengthen us by the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. **Amen**

Recessional: 769 – Rejoice! The Lord is King,

Prayer and Meditation

Reflection Reading:

Jesus teaches us that, at the end of time, we will be judged according to the love and mercy we have shown to others.

He reminds us that whenever we help someone who is hungry or thirsty, welcome a stranger, clothe those in need, visit the sick, or care for those in prison, we are doing these things for Him.

Likewise, when we ignore the suffering and needs of others, we are turning our backs on Jesus Himself.

Main Message Christ is present in every person who needs our help. Our faith must be demonstrated through acts of love, compassion, generosity, and solidarity. To love and serve our neighbour is to love and serve Jesus Himself. Let us remember that every act of kindness, no matter how small, is an expression of our love for Christ.

Personal Questions:

1. What criteria does Jesus use to separate people from one another?
2. Who are the least of His brothers and sisters, with whom Jesus identifies Himself?
3. How did Jesus show throughout His life His preference for the least and those in need?
4. Who are the least of Jesus' brothers and sisters that I encounter in my daily life?
5. Am I able to recognise, love, and serve Jesus in them?

Concluding Prayer:

Lord God, You have made Jesus, Your Son, the King and Judge of all nations. He comes to us every day through Your Word, the Eucharist, and especially through those who suffer and need our help.

Open our hearts so that we may recognise, love, and serve Him in others. Amen.

What's happening in our Parish!
Sunday

Mission WhatsApp Groups
We have a series of WhatsApp groups with activities voted for by the congregation. Please have a look and see if you would like to join one: if you are already in one, please think of ways you can proactively help run the activity you have volunteered for.

Welcoming at our Eucharist
Are you able to arrive at 9.15am to help welcome people into our church? If so, it would be lovely to have you join the welcoming team! Please chat to Cynthia so we can add you to the rota

Regular Giving
Many thanks for your generous giving to the ministry of St Matthews' each week. If you have taken home a red envelope please fill out the form and return it so we can plan our future developments of St Matthew's

Youth Club
Our Youth Club runs on Fridays from 5-7pm at Christ Church, 90 Brixton Road, SW9 6BE. All 14-18 year olds are welcome!

CONTACT US

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