

Kingship of Christ

In our second reading St John speaks of Jesus as the faithful witness. By his life, death and resurrection he speaks to us of the love of God our Father. He demonstrates that the power of his love overcomes the power of this world and all evil. He comes to reign over every human heart and to transform our world into a place of light. His kingdom has no boundaries. It has a single currency: **truth!** *“I came into this world to bear witness to the truth.”* Life, holiness, grace, justice, love and peace, spring from the truth which is God’s love for us.

Where truth, holiness, grace, justice, love and peace are found, we can be sure that there is the Kingdom of God and that Christ our King is near at hand. And that one day this Kingdom will consume all hatred and jealousy, overturn disease and hunger, end pain and suffering.

Christ our Lord has entrusted to us the task and challenge of building this Kingdom, not by force of arms, but through the power and grace of the Holy Spirit he has given us. We must not be discouraged by the size of the task and challenges it brings. St Oscar Romero reminds us to take a long view. *“We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God’s work...We cannot do everything, and there is liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something and to do it very well...it is a step along the way.”* As we celebrate a day of prayer for our young people, we pray that this dynamism of hope may inspire and fill their lives, and so transform our world into the kind of place God wants it to be.

At the end of the recent Synod in Rome the Bishops had this message for our young people:

“We the Synod Fathers now address you, young people of the world, with a word of hope, trust and consolation...We are familiar with your inner searching, the joys and hopes, the pain and anguish that make up your longings. Now we want you to hear a word from us: we wish to be sharers in your joy, so that your expectations may come to life. We are certain that with your enthusiasm for life, you will be ready to get involved so that your dreams may be realized and take shape in your history.

Our weaknesses should not deter you; our frailties and sins must not be an obstacle for your trust. The Church is your mother; she does not abandon you; she is ready to accompany you on new roads, on higher paths where the winds of the Spirit blow stronger – sweeping away the mists of indifference, superficiality and discouragement.

When the world that God so loved, that he gave us his only Son, Jesus, is focused on material things, on short-term successes, on pleasures, and when the world crushes the weakest, you must help it to rise up again and to turn its gaze towards love, beauty, truth and justice once more. The Church and the world urgently need your enthusiasm. Be sure to make the most fragile people, the poor and those wounded by life your traveling companions.”