

there must be  
more to **life...**



Discover  
Jesus.

Greetings,

### Jesus, King of a Kingdom?

If you look at the readings in November, there is usually a building up of intensity – to do with the consequences of being one of Jesus’ followers and the impact upon one’s life. This year, with the Sunday before Christ the King, there is a parable we might traditionally associate with Advent and the imminent coming of the Kingdom as it seeks to break into our world. The last Sunday of the Church year, the Feast of Christ the King, continues this apocalyptic imagery in the Old Testament reading, and in the Gospel raises the question of Jesus’ kingship, and what sort of Kingdom he is King of?

Again, like each of our monthly themes, this theme is not restricted to this month alone, but has flowed through and undergirded the whole of the Gospel for this year, especially as we have seen Jesus trying to keep his identity secret from people and spirits (the Messianic Secret). The sort of King he is does not match preconceived ideas and expectations!

Also in November we have some significant observances which actually widen the perspective or “realm” of God’s Kingdom:

- 1<sup>st</sup> November – All Saints’ Day – In some places there is a practice of turning the first Sunday in November as the celebration, overriding the Sunday lections (normally only done in Anglicanism if observing a Feast of Title or Patronal)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> November – The Commemoration of the Faithful Departed (All Souls’ Day) – The Church of England’s *Common Worship* actually provides a very good rite to use for this, and for the reading of the names of the year’s departed, as well as any others to be remembered before God. (The attached documents providing seasonal and festal resources also includes a quote from the Church of England’s introduction to the season following All Saints. It seeks to distinguish between All Saints’ and All Souls’ – there is a temptation to conflate to two, but these are very different liturgical and theological celebrations.)

If not on All Souls’ Day, sometime in November might be an occasion to invite any bereaved members of the community who have had a funeral in your church, or at whose funeral you have officiated this past year, to a day for the remembrance of their family member/friends. It would be a good opportunity for hospitality to be shown, as well as an occasion of pastoral care.

November, being the month of remembering the dead, can also be an occasion to ask parishioners whether they have carried out any funeral preparation? This is more than arranging details with the Undertaker/Funeral Director! This could be a time for assisting people to reflect upon hymn choices,

readings, whether any service would be just the Funeral Office or a Requiem Mass/Eucharist (in theory this latter should be normative for the Baptised and Communicant members of the Church!). One of the attached documents is a model format which might be adapted if needed.

We also have Remembrance Day on the 11<sup>th</sup> November, a Sunday this year. Independent of civic celebrations, there is also a rite which can be used at the end of the Eucharist as an observance for the day which is attached, as well as separate material for a specific Remembrance Day act of worship.

The liturgical year concludes with the celebration of Christ, the King. While liturgically we come to the end of the year of Mark, and indeed our Discover Jesus year, the Christ the King celebration provides a good segue into the Advent Season. (Indeed, in the history of liturgical observances, Advent has been longer than the 4 Sundays preceding Christmas, and I think it still is in the Ambrosian Rite of Milan? The Church of England has a pre-Advent season, previously nicknamed the “Kingdom Season”, which is an echo of that previous practice.)

Attachments:

Liturgical material attached is for All Saints’ Day, and the month following (Kingdom Season); All Souls’ Day; All Saints of the Anglican Communion (8<sup>th</sup> November); Remembrance Day; St. Andrew’s Day (30<sup>th</sup> November).

Also here are a couple of web links to talks by Bishop Tom Wright reflecting upon the Kingdom; Imagining the Kingdom: Mission and Theology in Early Christianity - <http://ntwrightpage.com/2016/07/12/imagining-the-kingdom/>

Jesus and the Kingdom - <http://ntwrightpage.com/2016/05/11/jesus-and-the-kingdom/>

Reflections on the “Kingdom Season” from the Diocese of Worcester.

Some hymns especially written for use on Remembrance Sunday this year or at a separate service. Some are with new tunes, but you can use the Metre to find a more commonly known tune, and a couple use well known hymn tunes, including Parry’s Jerusalem! [https://www.jubilate.co.uk/projects/hymns\\_of\\_peace](https://www.jubilate.co.uk/projects/hymns_of_peace)

For the Young at Heart – some children’s (or older) activities from Ruth for the end of October and into November.

Personal Funeral instructions – to assist members to think about and prepare for their funeral.

Some thoughts from Jasmine.

As always, how you use our material is only limited by your imagination and seeing how you can create opportunities to build up the faith and practise of your regular participants, as well as provide opportunities for invitation and engagement with those in your communities.

With every good wish and prayer for the coming month,



Fr David Patterson  
(Chair of Diocesan Task Group)