

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



'Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.'

'Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

Upon the death of Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Charles ascended to the throne in England; having waited seventy years for this moment, he is now King.

What does this mean for the British people, what consequence does it have in the lives of those in the Commonwealth? Perhaps not much - life will go on as usual.

Today, the last Sunday of what the Church calls 'Ordinary Time', we celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.

What difference does this make in our lives? Everything.

Christ is King of those who discover, and belong to, his Kingdom. This Kingdom is within us.

Christ, has no throne, his throne is the Cross. He has no crown; he is crowned with thorns. He has no vassals or servants; he came to serve others. He has no royal carriage, he entered Jerusalem on a humble donkey.

The Kingdom within us is discovered by those with the attitude of Dismas, the 'good thief' crucified alongside Jesus. Unlike the other thief - Gestas, who reviled Jesus - Dismas recognized that he deserved what happened to him, and yet in the midst of his travail he looked to Jesus.

Gestas and Dismas live within us. The Gestas in us blames others, defends oneself, makes excuses, has a pity party and a temper tantrum.

The Dismas within us does the opposite. He says 'mea culpa,' have pity on me because I am a sinner, I deserve all of this and much worse.

We are the guilty ones, we all deserve to be condemned, we have wrought death upon ourselves - the just consequence of our selfishness, pride, and arrogance. A hard truth to swallow; but Dismas swallows it.

He can do so, and we can do so, because Christ is crucified alongside us, he is crucified in our place. Looking at him, and not at ourselves, we too can hear him say 'Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

Fr. Sean