

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. 24-25/11/2018.

Becoming part of the Church as an infant, a child or an adult means becoming a member of a community dedicated to the truth. This is so because Jesus stood for the truth in all that He said and did, even to the end of His life. It's so because He was executed, assassinated even, by people who were led to their choices through a tissue of lies and self-deception. Scandal happens in the Church, as we've seen so clearly, when our community that is publicly dedicated to the truth acts, or permits others to act, in ways that are deceitful and secret, supported by self-justifying rationalisations and misguided, fearful decision making.

What makes Jesus King of the Universe and our King, our loving leader and trustworthy guide today, is that though tempted like us in every way He didn't succumb to falsehoods, nor did He ever teach or practice them. As St. John's gospel puts it so plainly, He came to bear witness to the Truth and all who are on the side of Truth listen to His voice. A more relevant message in these days when the notion of fake news and false truths is bandied merrily about I cannot imagine. A more important message to take to heart for us who love the Church and want to see her renewed, again, I cannot think.

Christ the King, because of our Graceville Church, is one the patrons of our Parish. The message of this Solemnity carries our minds and hearts to our Parton and to His message. In solemnly ending this Church year, we're put in touch with the meaning of the great battle that Jesus fought for us, a battle that cost Him not less than everything. He went to war against falsehood in all its forms and against our enemy, the great

deceiver. Never one to give up on trying to fool us, this battle raged right up until Christ's betrayal, abandonment, trial and Crucifixion. Everyone, all of us, fell for the deception, from our leaders to His own close friends and disciples and the common folk who had once hung on His words.

What wasn't foreseen by anyone, except in faith by Jesus Himself, was that God could and would win the day, lifting us up with the Lord. Even though the tomb was filled with brokenness and death, with the stone sealed shut, God couldn't be silenced. The truth would come out in what we call the resurrection, that arising from darkness of the light of God's Truth that would not and never will be silenced until the end of time.

This is what Ryan and Gillian are accepting and committing to this night. It's what Ryan, with the support of Aimee, pledges to practice and pass on to Louis and Joseph through their Baptism. Neither of them can do this alone anymore than you or I can. That's why Gillian and Ryan have desired to be come apart of our Church, members of our Parish community; to experience and to contribute to our witness, friendship and support, with the strength of our teaching and the sacraments for help.

Listen to the Preface of this Mass beginning our Eucharistic thanksgiving prayer. It tells us what the victory of Christ for us is all about. Set free from our slavery to self, reconciled to God in the truth Our Lord stood up for, died and rose to give us, we now pray and work only for God and God's reign; a kingdom of truth and life, holiness and grace, justice, love and peace. In this reign and within our community committed to serve its coming the great deceiver has no place. We have no time or space, and this is no place for what is fake, instead being dedicated to one news, the

Good News of Jesus Christ, King of all that was, that is, and that is to come. It's to Him, and Him alone, that we give our praise and thanks as we celebrate with joy the new life we've been graced to celebrate and receive.