

**Homily Christ the King, 34<sup>th</sup> and last Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> November 2020**

This Sunday is the Solemnity of Christ the King. It is also the 34<sup>th</sup> and last Sunday in Ordinary Time. Next Sunday we will begin again the Church's year, starting with the season of Advent.

“Christ the King” celebrates exactly what it says. Jesus Christ is our King, King of our hearts and our lives. He is King over the whole world. God creates the world by his Word; now that Word, who is Jesus Christ, is King of creation. We end the Church's year by ‘crowning’ the year.

What sort of King is Jesus? In the readings (*Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17* and *Matthew 25:31-46*), we are invited to see Him as a shepherd: a shepherd who cares for his flock, pastures the sheep, and keeps all of them in view.

But there is also a harder reality to being a shepherd. Decisions and judgements have to be made.

What is perhaps alarming about the Gospel is that neither those who have done good (the sheep) nor those who failed (the goats) have any idea about their good works or their failures – they are not aware.

Perhaps, then, our prayer should be for the grace of awareness: to be aware when the person in need – lonely, upset, angry, depressed – is actually the presence of Jesus there for us. And to realise that this is our moment to offer service to our King.