Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24
Ezekiel is prophesying against the so-called shepherds of Israel, their leaders. He says earlier in his book that they have been far too concerned with feeding themselves and not tending to their sheep. They have failed to heal the sick and seek the lost and have instead ruled harshly. This puts the sheep in danger. Our reading today therefore draws a link between scattered sheep and bad shepherding. By contrast, it also tells us that a good shepherd will work diligently to prevent the scattering of the sheep under his care, so that they do not become isolated, alone or vulnerable. This is why he goes out in search of the lost sheep, to bring them back under his care and into his fold. Historically, Ezekiel's prophecy would come true when King Cyrus of Persia, a new shepherd, would rid the Israelites of their Babylonian captors, but we can also look at this passage typologically. That is, looking ahead to Christ, the Son of David, who in his life gathered the scattered tribes and lost souls of the world into his one flock, the Church, which is universal. It is for all, whoever they are, and wherever they come from.

Christ the King
The annual cycle of the Church's year reaches its conclusion with the Feast of Christ the King. The year that began at Advent with the hope of the coming Messiah, ends with the proclamation of his universal sovereignty: Christ is Lord of earth and heaven. Final judgement is one of Christ's proper kingly purposes; the Feast of Christ the King returns us to the Advent theme of judgement, with which the Church's year begins again. We are a pilgrim people, journeying with our Lord towards the glory of His Kingdom.

The Society
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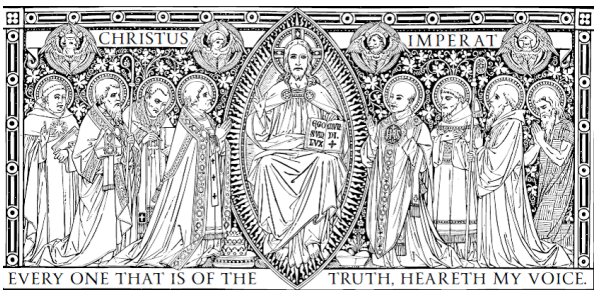
Sunday 22nd Nov. 2026
Christ the King
Gospel: Matt. 25: 31 – 46



As we recall the Kingship of Jesus over all of creation, we are brought up short in today's Gospel. The King will judge, and he will consider those acts of mercy and charity which we have offered to others in our lifetime. There is nothing here about the judgement we often employ; trying to decide whether a person asking for help is worth our time, our effort, our charity. What matters is what is within our hearts, and the reason we perform such acts. Do we see Christ, our King, in the eyes of the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, the imprisoned? If that is difficult to us, let us pray to God, that he will open our eyes to the need which is around us; the need for material assistance, love and companionship – the need for practical help and a helping hand. And in knowing that, and in doing those things, we are ministering in the name of Christ Himself.

Feast Day of St Cecilia: 22nd Nov.

St Cecilia is the patron saint of church music and is often depicted holding a musical instrument. St Cecilia, pray for us and for all church musicians!