

# ST. THOMAS INDIAN MISSION

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.  
(Last Sunday of Ordinary Time)  
November 21, 2021

Fort Yuma, California | P. O. Box 1176, Winterhaven, CA 92283

Website: [www.stthomasindianmission.org](http://www.stthomasindianmission.org)

Email: [saintthomasindianmission@gmail.com](mailto:saintthomasindianmission@gmail.com)

Tel: 760-572-0283

Fr. George "of the desert" Decasa  
Pastor

**Entrance Hymn: — 485**  
To Jesus Christ,  
Our Sovereign King.  
**Recessional Hymn: — 628**  
How Great Thou Art!

## SATURDAYS:

3:15 pm to 4:15 pm – Holy Hour  
3:45 pm to 4:15 pm – Confessions  
4:30 pm – HOLY MASS

## SUNDAYS:

7:15 am to 8:15 am – Holy Hour  
7:45 am to 8:15 am – Confessions  
8:30 am – HOLY MASS

## SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

This weekend has been designated for the 2021 Collection for National Needs. The collection will be taken right after Communion. To those who have no envelopes as yet for this collection, please take one at the church entrance.

Before you hand in the collection envelope with your donation, you may check the particular national need/s that you would like to be the recipient of your donation. They are listed on the envelope as follows: 1.) Black and Indian Missions, 2.) Catholic Campaign for Human Development, 3.) Catholic Communications Campaign, 4.) Catholic Home Missions, 5.) Catholic University of America.

## A TALK ON THE EUCHARIST ON Nov 27 & 28.

Per Bishop McElroy's recommendation, I will give a Talk on the Eucharist in Advent in the hope that questions that parishioners may still be asking regarding the Eucharist as the source and summit of our Christian Life may be answered.

The Talks will take the place of the respective Holy Hours of the First Sunday of Advent (Nov 27 & 28). In other words, on that weekend there will be no confessions and NO Holy Hour.

## There will be no Penance Service in Advent.

Instead, I will be available for Confessions for one hour, that is, from beginning to end, of each Holy Hour in December.

Please don't postpone your Advent confession to the last weekend before Christmas. There may not be enough time especially if most of you will come only then. In the same way, when you come, please do so at the beginning time for confessions, not in the last 15 minutes or so.

## The Mystery of Faith:

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

## UNIVERSAL PRAYERS

### CELEBRANT:

God's kingdom, Jesus says, is among us. It is not necessary to wait for heaven to live as citizens of his Kingdom. Let us pray today, responding together, "*Thy Kingdom come.*"

### LECTOR:

In the Kingdom of God there is peace. For peace among the nations; within families and communities; for peace within our hearts, we pray, O God....

In the kingdom of God there is love. For an increase in charity towards all people; for attitudes of acceptance; encouragement and generosity, we pray, O God....

In the Kingdom of God there is gratitude. For the grace to count our blessings when we are troubled and to remember those less fortunate when we are happy, we pray, O God....

In the Kingdom of God there is simplicity. For the will to cast off the unnecessary burden; to let go of the baggage of too many possessions and too many worries, we pray, O God....

In the Kingdom of God there is joy. For the grace of a light heart, an open mind, a welcoming spirit, we pray, O God....

As we approach Thanksgiving, we ask for generous hearts that allow us to share our many blessings with those in need, we pray, O God....

We remember our loved ones who have died (*brief pause*); for all who have gone before us to prepare our way into heaven and for eternal life with you, we pray, O God....

### CELEBRANT:

Good and gracious God, we pray for the coming of the Kingdom of your Son in all places and in the hearts of every human being. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

# **THE READINGS . . . SOME REFLECTIONS . . . AND GUIDEPOSTS.**

## **Introduction**

Today is the last Sunday of the liturgical year. Since 1925 it has been celebrated as the Solemnity of Christ the King. Pius XI, the pope at that time, created the solemnity in the aftermath of the First World War and the rise of nationalism, which served to divide people and often cultures. Since nations put their own self-interest above all, conflict naturally arose. The solemnity of Christ the King was created to remind the world that it is Jesus Christ to whom we owe our ultimate allegiance.

Today, nearly one hundred years later, our world continues to be in turmoil, as any glance at the news headlines will confirm. Now more than ever, we need to acknowledge Jesus Christ as the Lord and King of our hearts and lives. We are to examine what it means to us to have a king and to actually submit ourselves to a ruler in humility.

## **1st Reading – Daniel 7:13-14**

<sup>13</sup>As the visions during the night continued, I saw one like a Son of man coming, on the clouds of heaven; when he reached the Ancient One and was presented before him, <sup>14</sup>the one like a Son of man received dominion, glory, and kingship; all peoples, nations, and languages serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not be taken away, his kingship shall not be destroyed.

*The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.*

## **Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 93:1, 1-2, 5)**

**“The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty.”**

<sup>1ab</sup>The LORD is king, in splendor robed; robed is the LORD and girt about with strength.

**R.**

<sup>1c</sup>And he has made the world firm, not to be moved.

<sup>2</sup>Your throne stands firm from of old; from everlasting you are, O LORD.

**R.**

<sup>5</sup>Your decrees are worthy of trust indeed; holiness befits your house, O LORD, for length of days.

**R.**

## **2nd Reading – Revelation 1:5-8**

<sup>5</sup>Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead and ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup>who has made us into a kingdom, priests for his God

and Father, to him be glory and power forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>7</sup>Behold, he is coming amid the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him. All the peoples of the earth will lament him. Yes. Amen. <sup>8</sup>“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “the one who is and who was and who is to come, the almighty.”

*The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.*

## **Alleluia – (Cf. Mark 11:9, 10)**

**Lector:** Alleluia, alleluia. **All:** Alleluia, alleluia.

**Lector:** <sup>9</sup>Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! <sup>10</sup>Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come! .

**All:** Alleluia, alleluia.

## **Gospel – John 18:33b-37**

<sup>33b</sup>Pilate said to Jesus, “Are you the King of the Jews?” <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered, “Do you say this on your own or have others told you about me?”

<sup>35</sup>Pilate answered, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?”

<sup>36</sup>Jesus answered, “My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here.” <sup>37</sup>

So Pilate said to him, “Then you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” *The Gospel of the Lord.*

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **JESUS IS OUR KING**

To honor Christ as king may not exactly stir the blood and move us to a religious experience, but spend some time with today’s readings and you may find yourself drawn deeply into the joyful proclamation of what the dying and rising of Christ mean for believers in the future.

The visionary imagery of the first reading (from the Book of Daniel) and the second reading (from the Book of Revelation) *take us beyond the present to a time* when Jesus, the Son of Man, the firstborn of the dead and ruler of the kings of the earth, comes to receive glory and power and honor.

Precisely because the fullness of this kingdom is

beyond the present, temporal world, but is in heaven, Jesus, in answer to Pilate, declares “My kingdom does not belong to this world.”

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Jesus as King neither lords it over us nor forces his kingdom on us. As we have learned from our reflection of Mark 10:17-30 (cf. Bulletin of October 10, 2021), his kingdom is a gift that comes with expectations. Life in the kingdom of God, that is to say, in heaven, is one in which everyone is engaged in an eternal giving and loving and sharing with everybody else. While still in this temporal world, the earth, we must get used to such a life of self-giving so that we will be at home in heaven. Otherwise, we will discover that we are the ones throwing ourselves out of it.

\*\*\*\*\*

All this means that, for those baptized into Christ, the powers of this life are secondary to the rule of Jesus. Our first and most important reality is that Jesus is the Lord of our lives and this takes precedence over any other allegiance. It means that we have to keep our focus on the Gospels and the Church that Jesus gave us so that we can get true direction for our Christian lives.

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*“Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead . . .”* Yes, as a king, Jesus is not one who seeks to be served but to serve. He leads or rules by example. He shows us the ultimate act of loving and giving by dying for us and rising to lead the way to heaven. So there . . . we understand why our Gospel today is part of the Gospel that is read on Good Friday.

### **“THE FOUR BLESSED LOOKS.”**

As we come to the last Sunday in our liturgical year, perhaps it would be good to reflect using as method the so-called “four blessed looks”: LOOK BACK and thank God; LOOK FORWARD and trust God; LOOK AROUND and serve God; LOOK WITHIN and find God.

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How will it be when you and I will face Christ the King someday? Will we face Him in shame knowing that we have abandoned and deserted Him? Or will we face Him in humility and gratitude knowing that somehow we have done our best for Him?

On that day, may we all be able to say in all humility: “Lord, you know everything. You know me, you know I am a sinner, and you know I tried my best to love and serve you, my Lord and my King.”

But, to be able to say that then, we must truly try to love and serve Him now.

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At the deathbed of many rich, powerful and famous people,

it is not uncommon to see regret written all over their faces, that in their pursuit of worldly pleasures, they forgot their King, and that in their greed for worldly treasures, they hurt their less fortunate brothers and sisters. At the doorstep of eternity, may we not have too many regrets that we loved too little, too late. Let us take time today and take a good look at our lives, our activities, our concerns and ask ourselves: “What for? Whom for?”

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The following edifying example may help us make our personal concrete answers to the above questions. I am referring to the edifying example of the Mexican Jesuit martyr Blessed Miguel Pro who died during the height of political terror against the Catholic Church in Mexico. Under threat of persecution, torture, arrest and even death, priests were prohibited from administering the sacraments. It was under this regime that Father Pro worked and met his death. As the firing squad raised its weapons, Father Pro, on Nov. 23, 1927, in a clear and loud voice shouted, Viva Cristo Rey!

### **TO RECAPITULATE . . .**

During Jesus’ earthly ministry, he announced that the Kingdom of God is “in your midst” or “is at hand,” etc..” The crowds wanted Jesus to be their “earthly” King as they did not as yet understand the meaning of the death and rising of the Lord. The Resurrection did not as yet happen. So they wanted Jesus to rule on their terms, not on His. In the end, Jesus would only pray: “Forgive them Father, for they know not what they are doing.”

We, post resurrection followers of Jesus are lucky people not only because we have understood the meaning of Christ’s death and resurrection but especially as he entered into each one of his followers after the resurrection, that is, at our baptism. He is now in us, not outside us, his voice is waiting to be heard inside each one of us. That’s why we say He is the King of Hearts.

But, this past year, how many times did we really listen to Christ’s voice and follow it? Perhaps there may not be much of a difference between us and the crowds during Jesus’ time. As they wanted Jesus to be their King but wanted him to rule on their terms, not His, we may realize too that many times this past year our faith in Jesus may have taken the same turn: YOU ARE MY KING, MY LORD, but I want you to rule on my terms, not on yours.

So we ask his pardon and mercy. Thus, when we begin the season of Advent next week, we can enter into its spirit which is Penance – Violet.

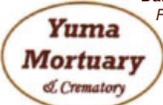
We humbly say: Come Lord, change me.

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