

# SUNDAY PLUS

## King of hearts

# King of the universe

By Pope Francis

Only by entering into [Jesus'] embrace do we understand: we come to realise that God went to this extreme, even to the paradox of the cross, in order to embrace every one of us, no matter how far distant we may be from him: he embraces our death, our pain, our poverty, our weakness. He embraced all of it. He became a slave so that each of us could

become a son. By his becoming a slave, he purchased our sonship. He let himself be insulted and derided, so that whenever we are brought low, we will never feel alone. He let himself be stripped of his garments, so that no one would ever feel stripped of his or her rightful dignity. He ascended the cross, so that God would be present in every crucified man or woman throughout history. This is our king, the king of the universe, for he journeyed to the furthest confines of our human

experience, entered into the black hole of hatred, the black hole of abandonment, in order to bring light to every life and to embrace all reality. My brothers and sisters, this is the king whom today we acclaim! His is not a kingship easy to understand. And the question we ought to be asking is this: Is this king of the universe also the king of my life? Do I believe in him? How can I celebrate him as the Lord of all creation unless he also becomes the Lord of my life?



[Jesus'] kingdom is liberating, there is nothing oppressive about it. He treats every disciple as a friend, not as a subject.

Pope Francis

## Serious about truth

By Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R.

Kings are a rare breed. There used to be legions of them around the world occupying thrones of various importance, and the history that most of us learned at school was about the rise and fall of royal households.

In 1950 King Farouk of Egypt told a group of reporters that soon enough there would be only five kings left in the world: the king of hearts, the king of spades, the king of diamonds, the king of clubs and the king of England.

In today's Gospel Jesus points out to Pilate that his kingship is not in the realm of political struggle; his claim to be king, therefore, can hardly affect national security. Jesus' kingship is in the realm of witnessing to the truth – something that the Roman procurator is having great trouble doing. Pilate may be sincere in his concern for Jesus' safety, but he is not serious about the truth he has discovered.

Fr Denis McBride's many books, CDs and DVDs are available from Redemptorist Publications, [www.rpbooks.co.uk](http://www.rpbooks.co.uk).

Feast of the week  
Saturday 30 November

## St Andrew, Apostle


When Christ our Lord to Andrew cried: "Come, thou, and follow me," the fisher left his net beside the Sea of Galilee. To teach the truth the Master taught, to tread the path he trod was all his will and thus he brought unnumbered souls to God.

When Andrew's hour had come, and he was doomed, like Christ to die, he kissed his cross exultingly, and this his noble cry: "O noble cross! O precious wood! I long have yearned for thee; uplift me to my only good who died on thee for me."

E.M. Barrett



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Loving Lord, watch over, protect and bless all young people. Fill their lives with joy and hope and lead them in the ways of generosity, understanding and compassion.  Amen.

<b>Today:</b> Daniel 7:13-14 Apocalypse 1:5-8 John 18:33-37	<b>Monday:</b> Apocalypse 14:14-19 Luke 21:1-4	<b>Tuesday:</b> Apocalypse 14:14-19 Luke 21:5-11	<b>Wednesday:</b> Apocalypse 15:1-4 Luke 21:12-19	<b>Thursday:</b> Apocalypse 18:1-2. 21-23; 19:1-3. 9 Luke 21:20-28	<b>Friday:</b> Apocalypse 20:1-4. 11 - 21:2 Luke 21:29-33	<b>Saturday:</b> Romans 10:9-18 Matthew 4:18-22	<b>Next Sunday:</b> Jeremiah 33:14-16 1 Thessalonians 3:12 - 4:2 Luke 21:25-28. 34-36
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