



HOMILY by Father Robbie Low

CHRIST THE KING -November 21st 2021

Readings: Daniel 7: 13-14, Psalm 92, Apocalypse 1: 5-8, John 18: 33-37

You will appreciate, comrades, that in this day and age, the title ‘King’ has little place in the lexicon of modern governance. True, there are few random remnants of this concept scattered throughout the world, but, for the most part the concept has been overtaken by historical events.

The monarchical principle, one over all, is philosophically redundant in a post- democratic age. The reality lingers on, not in the harmless and nostalgic manifestations like our own much-admired and remarkable sovereign who is, while being a welcome sign of unity, politically impotent, but rather in the great and oppressive dictatorships that litter the continents of Asia and Africa.

It is inappropriate, therefore, to burden Jesus with this anachronistic title with all its implications of supremacy and dominion. Perhaps we could retitle this feast day, The Feast of Jesus Christ Provincial Governor, Jesus Christ, the Member for Planet Earth, or Christ the Democratically Elected Representative of Humanity – obviously with a slightly longer term in office than the average Member of Parliament. In this way we could surely most effectively hope to make our Faith relevant to the modern age and subject to all the necessary changes that will inevitably occur in the years to come. A built-in flexibility. At a push the old fashioned among

us could see it as a sort of constitutional monarchy, simply rubber stamping the whim of the people.

How does that sound, comrades?

Well, it sounds like the manifesto of Old Nick to me.

The dethroning of God, while not possible in reality never mind eternity, has ramifications in the society in which we live and on the behaviour of the nation. A person or community that has rejected the sovereignty of God will not enjoy the liberty of an empty throne.

If authority is no longer seen to come from the author, its logical and ultimate origin, there will be demonic usurpers aplenty.

The benevolent authority of our Creator will quickly be replaced by the cruel inhumanity of the glove puppet servants of the Dark Lord in all his many guises. At its worst it produces the great tyrannies of the Marxist heresy or the amoral rampages of the Great Khan or The Hun. At its best a dreary return to paganism where Man reverses reality and makes God in his own image – the lonely, alienated tyranny of the sinful self, a fatuous and deeply unsatisfying exercise in self-delusion.

The glory of Christ's kingship is that it is an extraordinary in its benevolence. It does not rule for the sake of self but rather for the restoration and enrichment of its subjects. The rule is not oppressive but liberating. It is there to enable us to become the people that we were intended, in God's sovereign mercy, to be. His power is employed for our salvation. His realm is universal. He is the king who, mightier than all worlds, lays down His crown to walk beside His creatures and receive, from them, in earnest of their rebellion and rejection, a crown of thorns. He is the king who has chosen sacrifice and suffering as the road to sovereignty. Both now and at the end of time, when the secrets of all hearts are revealed, we acknowledge Christ as Supreme. It is this that we celebrate today. That the sovereign king of all is our ruler, our judge, our

saviour, our companion and our Lord. The alternatives are well rehearsed, inimical to Man and hostile to Man. Into whose hands would you choose to fall, those of temporal, self-centred Man or the hands of Almighty God whose majesty, breath-taking as it is, is only matched by its mercy. As His loyal subjects, Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe grants us access to the court of Heaven where we, once lost creatures, may enjoy the company of the saints in His Presence for ever. VIVAT REX IN AETERNUM.