



Advent meditation 28 by Father Robbie Low

ADVENT XXVIII

*O King of the nations, and their desire, the cornerstone making both one:*

*Come and save the human race, which you fashioned from clay.*

The penultimate O Antiphon echoes the final great feast of the Christian year, the celebration of Christ the King.

On an obelisk in St Peter's square there is the legend, *Christus Vincit, Christus Regnat, Christus Imperat* – Christ conquers, Christ reigns, Christ commands. For the Christian, indeed for everyone whether they know it or not, Jesus Christ is indeed the Sovereign of all (the modern addition of 'the universe' is unnecessarily limiting). He represents, the monarchy, the one over all, of God. The triumph of His Kingdom is central to the salvation of Man. His participation in the fabric of our created humanity is essential to our redemption, our translation from mere mortal clay into the indestructible being of eternity.

As Christians our sacred task and privilege is, by word and example, by invitation and encouragement, by spiritual battle and intellectual and

affectionate persuasion, extend that Kingdom over all humanity. Such is the primary act of love of the Gospel. We proclaim His victory over sin and death, the most ancient enemies of Man. We rejoice in His reign, and we seek the inclusion of all mankind in that glorious hope that alone can restore us to 'one'. In order for our witness to be authentic and convincing, we ourselves need to be 'territory' captured by Christ and bearing witness to effects of His loving rule.

A kingdom is a place over which the King rules. Subject or rebel is the choice before us. 'Subject' sounds like oppressed to the modern mind. 'Rebel' sounds like a freedom fighter. But, in truth, it is the rebel who chooses tyranny, for that is the tyranny of the dark lord whose rebellion predates and prefigures the Fall of Man. It is the subject who chooses life and freedom and fulfilment and futurity. The meaning of the freedom of God's love means we get to choose – choose between the scorched ruins and wasteland of the satanic insurrection and the glorious beauty and peace and joy of the eternal city of God.

Spiritual Exercise: Reflect on those unconquered and unliberated areas that remain in our own lives and ask for courage to subject them to the transforming love of God. Ask Him to show you how to expand the benevolence of the kingdom to others.