

My Dear Parishioners,

This week we continue the tradition of recalling to mind the beginning of Christ's saving work; His nativity. It is a time where we continue to pray for this same saving work to enter into our hearts, lives, and world today and fill us with Divine blessings.

One important thing that stands out about the Lord's nativity is that three kings travelled a great distance to worship the King of Kings born of Mary. This is reminiscent of what happens eternally in the Heavenly Kingdom. We read from the Book of Revelation 4:9-11

"Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

As the kings traversed afar to give homage to the Divine Infant, the King of Kings, we are reminded of how important it is for us to give worthy homage to Christ.

The greatest scandal in human history, outside of the Fall, is that people chose to reject the Kingship of Christ who loved us enough to become like us so that we might become like him. Listen to the words with which Jesus speaks of His love for us:

"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world". (John 17:24)

So many rejected this immense love by rejecting the King of Peace. In order to mock him more they crowned him with thorns. How important it is for us to chose otherwise. As they increased his suffering with the crown of thorns, we must counter with our prayers of reparation. As they mocked and ridiculed him, we must offer our wholehearted devotion. They rejected his Kingship, we must enthrone Him.

As yet another year comes to a close and we look forward to 2023 we come before the Divine Infant, the King of Peace, with all the troubles of our hearts and world praying for His loving gaze to look our way, praying for His blessings. In our hearts we must make room for Him, into homes we must welcome Him, and in our parish we have already crown Him as our King expressing our love and devotion, and welcoming His Kingship with love and fervour. The warmth of our devotion to the King of Peace will set the tone for our year.

I pray that you have a grace filled Christmas this year, and that the good Lord bless you in abundance. Draw near to Him that you may reap the benefits of His closeness.

"How precious is thy steadfast love, O God! The children of men take refuge in the shadow of thy wings." (Psalm 36:7)

*In Christ,
Fr. Matthew Chojna*