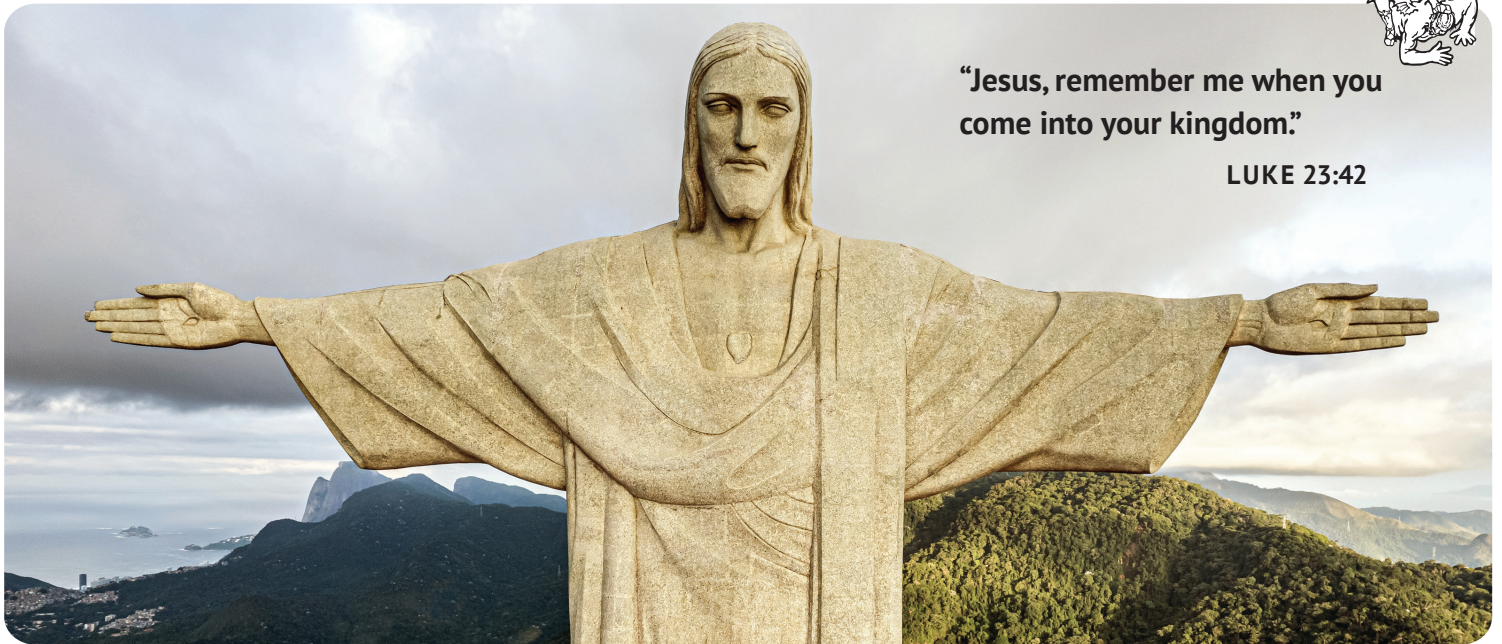




“Jesus, remember me when you
come into your kingdom.”

LUKE 23:42

The Hero King

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Some think of a myth as something once presumed to be true but discovered to be false. For example, we say it's a myth that Christopher Columbus discovered America. There is, however, another quite different meaning to “myth,” as in a story that helps us understand life and how to negotiate it. Such myths are often centered around heroes who overcome great odds for the sake of the greater good. *Star Wars* and Luke Skywalker is one such myth. *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy and Frodo Baggins is another. These are myths capturing the need for courage and commitment to the good at the hero's own expense. We often find ourselves wishing we could be like these heroes.

The biblical story of the Hebrew people can be thought of as such a myth, culminating in the story of Jesus. It differs from those other myths in that this story is not fiction. It is a saga that helps us understand and negotiate life as we live it. It culminates with the sacrificial death of the one we call King of the Universe. This King is a servant-king, one who gives his life for us so that we might live. Despite being urged by religious leaders and soldiers and the thief on the cross to save himself, he resists. Saving himself is not what he is about. Jesus is the King whose true myth we tell whenever we come together. ●

Editor's note: This is Fr. Joseph Juknialis' final reflection for *Our Parish Community* bulletins. The new liturgical cycle begins next Sunday, November 30, 2025, and we will welcome three new reflection authors: Miguel Dulick, Ann M. Garrido, and Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR, the president and publisher of Liguori Publications. We thank Fr. Joe for his three years of insightful reflections and wish him well.

Reflect

What does servant-leadership mean to me in my job, my community, my home?



ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH

53 South Road, Paget PG 03 | P.O. Box HM 727, Hamilton HM CX

Pastor: Reverend Joseph F. H. Morley, Vicar General • Cell: 705 0236

Email: stmichaelsbermuda@gmail.com

Weekend Masses: Vigil: 5:00pm, Sunday: 10:15am

Saturday 8:00pm (Neo-Catechumenal Mass).

Baptisms: by appointment 3 weeks in advance

Weddings: by appointment 6 months in advance

www.facebook.com/stmichaelpaget & “LIKE” us | [Diocesan Webpage: www.romancatholicbermuda.bm](https://www.diocesanwebpage.com)

Parish Administrator:

Karen Marsh
email: karenmarsh.bda@gmail.com
(c) 799 0842

Pastoral Council CCD Coordinator:

Patricia Carreiro
email: pcarreiro1976@gmail.com
(c) 737 1047



Mass Schedule & Intentions

*We welcome our parishioners and visitors who have come to St. Michael's to worship this weekend.
May you be blessed by your presence here today.*

MINISTRIES ...

NOVEMBER 22/23rd - OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

5:00PM Lector: Karen Marsh EM: Peter Marsh
10:15AM Lector: Pat Robinson EM: Willie Forbes
Collection: Karen Marsh

NOVEMBER 29/30th - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00PM Lector: Joshua Blee EM: Susan Shreeve
10:15AM Lector: Lucy Attride-Stirling EM: Pat Robinson
Collection: Pat Robinson

MASS INTENTIONS ...

NOVEMBER 22/23rd - OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

5:00PM Maria & Manuel Soares Moura & Sons & Daughters ++
10:15AM For those recovering from World Disasters

NOVEMBER 29/30th - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00PM Maria & Manuel Soares Moura & Sons & Daughters ++
Peter Marsh (Birthday)
10:15AM For the Souls in Purgatory



Stewardship

sharing the gifts we have been given

NOVEMBER 15/16th COLLECTION: \$389.00

Votives \$18.00 Poor Box (SVDP) \$20.00

Monthly Maintenance Collection: \$373.00

Thank you for your generosity.

ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE MADE ONLINE
to St. Michael's Church's: BNTB Account # 2000 6060 081824 100.

WHEN MAKING YOUR ONLINE TRANSACTION, BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND "COLLECTION" AS YOUR MEMO ON YOUR BANKING TRANSACTION.

Pastor's Point ...

Dear Parishioners,

We (always) end the liturgical year with the celebration of the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. While our prayers on this day speak in praise of His majesty and glory, we also remember that we serve a humble king who reigns through service and self-emptying love. Today's solemnity invites us to embrace His vision of justice and truth, that we might be transformed more and more into subjects fit for His heavenly kingdom (which is our final destination).

In the selection from the Second Book of Samuel, we hear that David was both recognized by the people and appointed by God to be king of Israel. The responsorial psalm emphasises the great delight that Israel had in visiting their holy city, Jerusalem, the home of both the united monarchy, established with King David, and the temple, built by the son of David, King Solomon. The song is one of tremendous delight!

Luke's Gospel text for today's feast invites us to consider what it means for Jesus to be king. He is on the cross. He has been crucified. While Jesus hangs there, the rulers and the soldiers sneer at Him, and above His head the inscription reads, "This is the King of the Jews." The scene is filled with irony. Those who use this title for Jesus do so to mock Him. Yet all the while, we and one of the criminals know the truth. Jesus is, indeed, the King of Jews. This is no ordinary kingship. The kingship of Jesus, the Christ, is made known not in extravagant robes and ceremonies but in the embrace and the humiliation of the cross.

Personally, when I feel a little of what Jesus experienced, I realize that I am in good company, and I realize that I am never, never alone in my feelings, my experiences, etc. I know in my mind and my heart that I am in good company because of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, king of the universe (who has done it all). There is no greater advocate that I can have. He is truly the GOAT - Greatest Of All Time.

Fr. Joe
Fr. Joe, Pastor and Vicar General



WORDS OF LIFE:

"Having received the gift of the Gospel of Life, we are the people of life and a people for life. It is our duty to proclaim the Gospel of Life to the world. To proclaim Jesus is to proclaim life itself. Gratitude and joy at the incomparable dignity of the human person impel us to bring the Gospel of life to the hearts of all people and make it penetrate every part of society."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "The Gospel of Life: A Brief Summary"

Bishops Corner ...



Dear Fellow-Catholics,

A few weeks ago we were following attentively the development of Hurricane Melissa. Our interest was even bigger as our beautiful Island home seemed to be on the list of places to be visited by Melissa. In fact, it hit us but thankfully it did not have its full fury anymore.

However, we saw what the Hurricane caused to the people of Jamaica which was terrifying, afflicting and heart-breaking. Once possible, the collection of first aid supplies was organised and the response of the generous people of Bermuda was overwhelming.

As time is moving on, the tragedy of Jamaica only occasionally appears in the news and media. But there is still a huge need of help with supplies.

Bishop John Persaud, who is responsible for the Catholic Church in the most affected areas, shared this information with other bishops of our Antilles Episcopal Conference:

Four of our communities in the Diocese of Mandeville were badly hit. This is not to say that other areas do not have damage and destruction but not on a scale as these. All our buildings in Black River have been pretty much destroyed, Church, School and Rectory. In Maggotty, the Rectory roof has gone, the Convent roof is gone, and other buildings have been destroyed. But the Church remains standing almost untouched. In Balaclava the building that houses the Missionary Sisters of Charity and a home for the aged destitute has lost its roof. The Church doors were blown off and destroyed. In Santa Cruz there was some minor damage to the Church, and we lost the roof of the Medical Clinic. In the Montego Bay Diocese, we have lost roofs to the Chancery building, the Cathedral Rectory, Parish Hall, Convent, and all three schools. The Parish of Reading: Rectory roof was lost, Church and Parish Hall roofs still in place but leaking badly. The two mission communities of this parish have had significant damage to Church and School. The Church at Savanna-La-Mar has been destroyed and significant damage to the Sir Clifford Campbell School. In Lucea, we have lost a major part of the Church's roof. The Church roof at Discovery Bay is completely gone. Seaford Town has been hit badly, and all our buildings have lost their roofs. The Parish Priest is presently sleeping in his car.

I am O.K. All our Priests and Religious Sisters are O.K. Our bodies are tired, but our spirits are strong. It will be a long and painful road to recovery, but the spirit of the Jamaican people is amazing and resilient. Thank you for your prayerful support, your care, concern and love expressed in so many ways. We are truly experiencing what it means to be CHURCH, the Body of Christ. As we face the future we know that you are walking with us and this gives us much encouragement and hope.

I would like to inform you that on the weekend of 29th/30th of November, 1st Sunday of Advent, there will be a special collection in our Diocese. It will be totally used to assist the Catholic Church in Jamaica using the vehicle of our Conference of Bishops.

I am aware that there has been a devastating typhoon in the Philippines and there is a strong will to help those good and needy people as well. We cannot assist everyone everywhere. I am sure that the local Churches of the region have been already engaged in helping the Catholic communities in the affected areas of the Philippines.

We are part of the Antilles Episcopal Conference, and our principal objective is to come with aid to the people within our Conference.

May God bless you for your generosity.

Have a restful weekend and a blessed last week of the liturgical year!

Bishop Wes

+ Wes Persaud



Reverse Advent Calendar Food Drive

"It is better to give than to receive" Acts 20:35

Reverse Advent Calendar Food Drive

"It is better to give than to receive" Acts 20:35

Each day of advent, add an item from the list to a box. Completed boxes should be delivered to your church hall during the weekend of January 3/4, 2026 when attending mass. Alternatively, you can deliver your box to St. Patrick's Church Hall on Saturday, January 3, 2026 from 10:00am to 11:00am. Arrangements will be made for the boxes to be collected from the church halls for distribution. All food collected will be donated to The Eliza Dolittle Society food bank. Collection at each parish will be coordinated by each parish's St. Vincent de Paul representative. All questions can be directed to Elaine Kelly at 236-4613 or ekelly@ibl.bm.

December 1	box of cereal or oatmeal
December 2	bottle of peanut butter or jam
December 3	canned fruit or vegetables
December 4	box of pasta or rice
December 5	bag of flour or sugar
December 6	canned spaghetti o's or ravioli
December 7	canned tuna or sardines
December 8	bottle of pasta sauce
December 9	bottle of applesauce
December 10	canned or dried beans (all types)
December 11	tea bags or instant coffee
December 12	canned soup or broth
December 13	canned chicken or corned beef

December 14	bottle of vegetable or olive oil
December 15	box of powdered milk
December 16	box of granola bars or pop tarts
December 17	aluminum foil
December 18	a condiment: ketchup, mayo, etc
December 19	toothpaste or deodorant
December 20	disposable razors
December 21	bottle of dishwashing liquid
December 22	bottle of hand and body soap
December 23	container of laundry detergent tabs
December 24	pack of toilet paper (pack of 4 or 8) or paper towel

The Catholic Company presents

GET FED™
Bite-Sized Faith

Who is the patron saint of the souls in purgatory?

This saint experienced purgatory while on earth.

A saint who was particularly devoted to the holy souls—and is now considered their patron saint—is St. Catherine of Genoa.

St. Catherine was born into an aristocratic Italian family in 1447. She was a quiet, obedient, devout child who practiced prayer and penance and had a deep devotion to Jesus' Passion.

At the age of sixteen, her family arranged a marriage for her, possibly to end a feud between the two families. Her husband proved to be faithless, however, having also a violent temper and spending his money unwisely. Their married life was miserable. Catherine did not bear any children, and for the first five years lived in "melancholy submission" in her home.

For the next five years, she turned to the world for consolation, and began to engage in the kind of social activity expected of her state in life. This only increased her weariness and depression, and led to the loss of her religious fervor.

So Catherine prayed earnestly for assistance in her trouble. Taking the advice of her sister, who was a nun, Catherine went to confession, and before the sacrament was begun or completed, had a profound mystical experience in which she clearly saw the depth of her sinfulness contrasted with the depth of God's love.

Catherine renewed her commitment to rigorous prayer, penance, and works of mercy.

Meanwhile, God continued to favor her with mystical visions. She experienced within her soul a real purgatory, and had a deep understanding of what the Holy Souls experience and suffer there. She was given profound insights into the relationship



between the Poor Soul and God, the reasons why they suffer, and the fact that these Holy Souls willingly embrace purgatory in order to be made perfectly pleasing in the sight of their Divine Lover, God Himself.

As for Catherine's husband, her virtue later won his conversion and he became a Third Order Franciscan. Together they cared for the poor and sick in the Genoa hospital.

Catherine's mystical experiences were recorded by her confessor toward the end of her life in such treatises as Dialogues on the Soul and the Body and Treatise on Purgatory.

Another saint who had a great devotion to the poor souls in Purgatory was St. Faustina. She went a long way in teaching us how to pray for the souls in Purgatory, which is something we are all asked to do. During the month of November, the Church urges the faithful to pray for the souls in Purgatory.

Dear Padre,

Why is a US secular holiday like Thanksgiving on the Church's liturgical calendar?

Since November 1969, the Proper Calendar offers a Thanksgiving Day Mass for US dioceses. While it also includes Independence Day, no suggestion is made for other civic holidays (Memorial Day, Labor Day, etc.). Instead, the *Roman Missal* provides “Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions” that are suited to these observances (*Ordo* #5, *GIRM* 368–378).

In the United States, November is associated with giving thanks to God. In 1623—three years after the Pilgrims sailed to this land on the *Mayflower*—a severe drought threatened their crops. Consequently, a day of prayer was observed, an abundant rain saved the harvest, and a Day of Thanksgiving was established. In 1863, President Lincoln issued a proclamation for “Thanksgiving and Praise to Our Beneficent Father” on the last Thursday of November (later moved to the fourth Thursday).

However, thanking God isn't just a one-day event; it's meant to be a perennial practice. Recall the lesson of the ten lepers healed by Jesus, only one of whom returned to thank him. (See Luke 17:11–19.) People who don't take their blessings for granted return thanks to God in prayer. Therefore, offer brief prayers of gratitude to God throughout the day, every day, for such gifts as your health and faith, the freedoms allowed in this country, “thy daily bread,” and the Eucharist—a word that means “thanksgiving.”

“Become what you pray”—a grateful disciple of our Lord! ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org



BRENT HOPACKER / SHUTTERSTOCK



PAUL HARING / CNS

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Listen to [Christ's] offer of love and become his one family: in the One Christ, we are one. This is the path to follow together, among ourselves but also with our sister Christian churches, with those who follow other religious paths, with those who are searching for God, with all women and men of good will, in order to build a new world where peace reigns!

HOMILY, MAY 18, 2025

THE SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST KING OF THE UNIVERSE

*Almighty and merciful God,
you break the power of evil
and make all things new in
your Son Jesus Christ, the
King of the universe.*

*May all in heaven and earth
proclaim your glory and never
cease to praise you.*

*We ask this through our Lord
Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, God, for
ever and ever. Amen.*



What is Happening in Our Diocese?

St. MICHAEL'S

- EMMAUS Bible Study: resumes this Tuesday, November 25th and each Tuesday at 3pm in the Pastor's Office
- Neocatechumenal Way - "The Word" is on Wednesdays at 8:00pm
The celebration of the Neocatechumenal Way Eucharist - each Saturday at 8:00pm.

St. THERESA'S

Please be advised that during the winter season St. Theresa's Cathedral will be locked at 4:00pm from Monday to Friday.

- Daily Mass is celebrated at 7:30am.
- Noon Day Mass in St. Theresa's Cathedral: The 12:10pm Mass is celebrated each Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday

St. ANTHONY'S

- Daily Mass is celebrated Tuesday - Friday at 8:30am

St. PATRICK'S

- Daily Mass is celebrated at 8:00am
- The Rosary is recited every, WEDNESDAY at 10:00am
- The Portuguese Mass on Wednesdays at St. Patrick's Church will be celebrated at 6pm starting from Wednesday, the 12th of November.
- Adoration will be on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.
- A mass in Tagalog takes place on, THE SECOND FRIDAY of the month at 7:00pm.

St. JOSEPH'S

- A Filipino mass is celebrated every, THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH at 11:00am

STELLA MARIS

- A Filipino mass is celebrated on the LAST Wednesday OF THE MONTH at 7:00pm

ST. THERESA'S GIFT SHOP Opening hours - 10:00am-2:00pm.
Tuesdays and Saturdays. Come and see what we have.

NEXT SUNDAY - Nov 29/30th

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR JAMAICA



NEXT WEEKEND

November 29/30, there will be a Special Collection for Jamaica in all of our parish churches, in accordance with the recommendations of the AEC (Antilles Episcopal Conference).



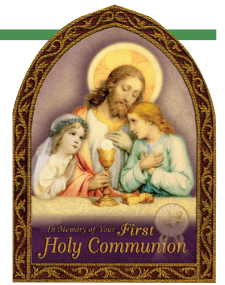
LET'S TALK
MENTAL HEALTH

Mental Health Brochures . . .

Please find included in the Bulletin rack (in Portuguese and English) and as individual links to the weekly email blast three flyers discussing your Mental Health and Wellness. They are brilliant, informative and very helpful flyers.

If you or someone you know is struggling with mental health illness or suicidal thoughts, please call: 236-3770 weekdays from 8:00am to 5:00pm (MWI) 911 or 239-1111 (24/7 Crisis hotline)

Attention Parents . . . OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION (FHC) AGED CHILDREN



... to register your child(ren) to attend FHC classes at St. Michael's starting January 2026, you must register with the parish before **December 1st**.

Any questions please email: stmichaelsbermuda@gmail.com.



All of us, at one time or another, have experienced the pain of losing someone we love. The Church brings us back each November by dedicating the month to our beloved deceased and, especially on All Souls Day, calling us to remember and pray for those who have gone before us.

Praying for the dead is important both for us and for them. It gives us the opportunity to remain connected with our departed family and friends. It is also one of the spiritual works of mercy; we offer our prayers so that they might enter into the wonderful light of Christ. Word On Fire

As customary, there will be a **Memorial Book on the Altar** to place the names of your deceased loved ones, friends and family you wish to be remembered at each Mass throughout this month.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY Christmas Food Voucher Programme - 2025

IS COMPLETELY SUBSCRIBED.

Many thanks and God bless.
SVdP Society Committee



Coffee Social

Please join us on **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14th** following the **10:15am Mass** for our Christmas Coffee Social. Please consider sharing your favourite savoury or sweet offering, we would be very grateful.

Please make every effort to support and enjoy this social.

DECORATE
the Church

Please consider helping, thank you!

The Altar Society volunteers will be decorating the Church for our Christmas season and would like to invite anyone who would like to participate in helping to bring our Church into this festive season is invited to come and join us

We will meet on Saturday, December 13th at 9:30 am.

All are welcome.

Our Sunday Readings

2 SAMUEL 5:1-3
PSALM 122:1-5
COLOSSIANS 1:12-20
LUKE 23:35-43

King of the Jews

2 SAMUEL 5:1-3

Reading closely

1. How do the tribes describe their relationship to David?
2. What reasons do the tribes give for choosing David as their king?
3. What agreement do the tribes make with David?
4. What ritual signifies that David is now king?
5. How might Saul have reacted to this?
6. What all would the tribes have hoped for from their new king?

Living the word

7. What is a king?
8. What good things have you heard about kings?
9. What are the dangers of being ruled by a king?

THE FIRST READING

Israel chooses a king

King David was the first real king that the Israelites had. Saul, his predecessor, had not united the tribes of Israel (the large families that had descended from Abraham). Saul also failed to defeat the Philistines who were dominating the land God had promised the Israelites.

Because David succeeded where Saul failed, the leaders of the tribes went to David's hometown, Hebron, and asked him to be king. Under the reigns of David and then his son, Solomon, Israel grew in wealth and enjoyed peace and stability.

A symbolic reign

This story points ahead to the reign of Christ.

- The tribal leaders freely assent to David's authority. We, in turn, may accept or reject Christ's rule over us.
- Unity and peace mostly prevailed in Israel under David's reign. In Jesus' kingdom there is unity and peace among all people forever.

THE ORIGINS OF THIS SOLEMNITY

Pope Pius XI instituted the feast of Christ the King in 1925 in response to fascism, secularism, and other political forces that rejected Christ. Pius urged people to remember that everything belonged to the risen Jesus, and so individuals and governments must subject themselves to Christ. Pius wanted the annual celebration of Christ's kingship to help Catholics reject systems and institutions that oppose the reign of God.

LUKE 23:35-43

Reading closely

1. Who are all the people in the story?
2. How does each person or group act?
3. How do people mock Jesus?
4. What are the different ways that the word *save* is used in this passage?
5. Why might the two other men have been crucified?
6. What might the two men be thinking and feeling about their situation?
7. What might the two men be thinking and feeling about Jesus?
8. What might have prompted the second criminal to defend Jesus?
9. What does Jesus promise?
10. How might the two men have responded after Jesus made his promise?

Living the word

11. How have you behaved like the various people in this passage?
12. What request would you like to make of Jesus?
13. What kind of king is Jesus?

Who they represent

The first criminal echoes the taunts of the rulers and soldiers, but the second man is like the crowd. The crowd first takes a passive role but then becomes repentant after Jesus dies (23:48). The second criminal is also like the outcasts whom Jesus welcomed during his public ministry.

Save yourself!

Early in Luke's Gospel the devil tempted Jesus to save himself (4:1-13). Now Jesus is tempted again. He withstands this last temptation in order to save all who accept the salvation he brings. He lives out his own teaching that those who lose their lives will save it (9:24, 17:33).

The rulers only understand salvation in political and physical terms. Jesus offers a salvation that is far greater. Here he calls it **Paradise**, a word rarely used in the New Testament. The word recalls the Garden of Eden where people lived in perfect peace (in Hebrew, *shalom*) with God, each other, and all creation.

Others mock Jesus because he doesn't seem able to save anyone, yet they mock him at the very moment he saves everyone. The second criminal is a concrete example of what's happening: when he confesses his sinfulness and his belief that Jesus is bringing about God's kingdom, Jesus saves him immediately (*today*).

THE GOSPEL READING

Anointed one

When a man became king, he was anointed with oil as a sign that God had chosen him to lead. When Jesus was executed, it looked like God hadn't chosen him to do anything. The leaders and one of the criminals thus mock Jesus by calling him God's *chosen one* and *Messiah*. *Messiah* is the Hebrew word for *anointed one*. The title in Greek is *Christ*.

Pain and shame

Roman philosophers considered crucifixion so barbaric that Roman citizens were not allowed to be executed in this way. The empire used crucifixion to warn its conquered peoples not to challenge its authority.

The soldiers at a crucifixion might encourage people to shout insults at the person being crucified. By offering Jesus wine, the soldiers in this scene might have been crudely pretending that they were servants offering wine to their king.

PRAYER

*adapted from the Alternate Collect for the Solemnity
(Roman Missal, 1985)*

Father all-powerful, God of love,
you have raised our Lord Jesus Christ
from death to life,
resplendent in glory as King of creation.

Open our hearts,
and free all the world to rejoice in his peace,
to glory in his justice, to live in his love.

Bring all humankind together
in Jesus Christ your Son,
whose kingdom is with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.