

# Parish of Blaris

Sunday 22 November 2020  
Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

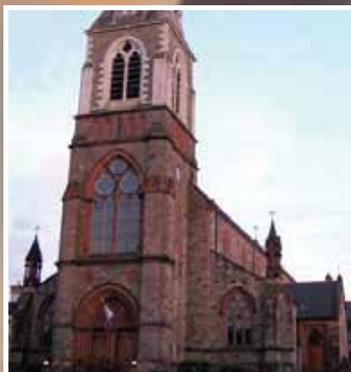
**ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH  
LIVE WEBSTREAMING OF MASSES  
MONDAY - SATURDAY: 10.00AM  
SUNDAY: 11.00AM**

**NEW ARRANGEMENTS RE. WEEKDAY MASSES,  
ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH CAN BE FOUND IN  
BULLETIN NOTICES**

Please note many parishes in the Diocese have webcams installed which provide live coverage of various Masses taking place daily throughout the Diocese. These can be accessed by visiting [www.downandconnor.org](http://www.downandconnor.org) Links to Parish Webcams. Live Church webcam links: CHURCH SERVICES. TV & MCN MEDIA CHURCH WEBCAMS

*'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory.'*

*Matthew 25:31*



Fr. Dermot McCaughan, PP: 028 9266 2341  
Fr. Eamon Magorrian, CC: 028 9266 2348  
Fr. Eddie McGee, Assistant Priest

Parish Office Opening Hours:  
Monday-Friday 10.30am-4.00pm.  
Closed 1.00pm-2.00pm.

Parish Office: 028 9266 0206 Fax: 028 9266 5690  
Email: [stpatricksparish@hotmail.com](mailto:stpatricksparish@hotmail.com)  
Pastoral Centre: 028 9260 7110  
[www.parishofflisburn.org](http://www.parishofflisburn.org)

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

*Congregation stands*

**Entrance Hymn or  
Entrance Antiphon**

**Rv 5:12; 1:6**

**All:** How worthy is the Lamb who is slain,  
to receive power and divinity,  
and wisdom and strength and honour.  
To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

## GREETING

**Priest:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen

**Priest:** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**All:** And with your spirit.

## PENITENTIAL ACT

**Priest:** Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

**Priest:** Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of peace:  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

**Priest:** Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary:  
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

**Priest:** Lord Jesus, you are Word made flesh and splendour of the Father:  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

**Priest:** May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life.

**All:** Amen

## THE GLORIA

**All:** Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

**We praise you, we bless you,  
we adore you, we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

## THE COLLECT

**Priest:** Let us pray.

*Pause for silent prayer*

**Priest:** Almighty ever-living God,  
whose will is to restore all things  
in your beloved Son, the King of the universe,  
grant, we pray, that the whole creation,  
set free from slavery, may render your majesty  
service and ceaselessly proclaim your praise.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the  
Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*Congregation Sits*

### FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel **34:11-12, 15-17**

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them.

As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

The word of the Lord

**All:** Thanks be to God.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 22:1-3. 5-6. R v.1

**(R) The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.**

1. The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose. **(R)**
2. Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit.  
He guides me along the right path;  
he is true to his name. **(R)**
3. You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing. **(R)**
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me  
all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever. **(R)**

### SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians **15:20-26, 28**

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will

come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

**All:** The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Congregation stands*

**ACCLAMATION** **Mk 11:10**

**All:** **Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Blessings on him who comes**  
**in the name of the Lord!**  
**Blessings on the coming kingdom**  
**of our father David!**  
**Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.  
**All:** **And with your spirit.**  
**Priest:** A reading from the holy  
Gospel according to Matthew **25:31-46**  
**All:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

**All:** The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Congregation sits*

## HOMILY

*Congregation stands*

## THE CREED

**All:** **I believe in one God,**  
**the Father almighty,**  
**maker of heaven and earth,**  
**of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,**  
**the Only Begotten Son of God,**  
**born of the Father before all ages.**  
**God from God, Light from Light,**  
**true God from true God,**  
**begotten, not made, consubstantial with the**  
**Father; through him all things were made.**  
**For us and for our salvation**  
**he came down from heaven,**

*(bow your head up to the words 'and became man')*

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin**  
**Mary, and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius**  
**Pilate, he suffered death and was buried,**  
**and rose again on the third day**  
**in accordance with the Scriptures.**  
**He ascended into heaven**  
**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory**  
**to judge the living and the dead**  
**and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of**  
**life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**  
**who with the Father and the Son is adored and**  
**glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic**  
**Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness**  
**of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of**  
**the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

*Congregation sits*

## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Procession

*The gifts of bread and wine which will become the Lord's body and blood are brought to the altar.*

*The celebrant raises the host on the paten saying:*

**Priest:** Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,  
for through your goodness we have received  
the bread we offer you:  
fruit of the earth and work of human hands,  
it will become for us the bread of life.

**All:** **Blessed be God for ever.**

*The celebrant pours wine and a little water into the chalice, saying quietly:*

**Priest:** By the mystery of this water and wine  
may we come to share in the divinity of Christ  
who humbled himself to share in our humanity.

*The celebrant then raises the chalice above the altar and says:*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,  
for through your goodness we have received  
the wine we offer you:  
fruit of the vine and work of human hands,  
it will become our spiritual drink.

**All: Blessed be God for ever.**

*Bowing, the celebrant says quietly:*

**Priest:** With humble spirit and contrite heart  
may we be accepted by you, O Lord,  
and may our sacrifice in your sight this day  
be pleasing to you, Lord God.

*Then the celebrant washes his hands, saying quietly:*

Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin.

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and  
yours may be acceptable to God, almighty Father.

**All: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your  
hands for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

**Priest:** As we offer you, O Lord, the sacrifice  
by which the human race is reconciled to you,  
we humbly pray,  
that your Son himself may bestow on all nations  
the gifts of unity and peace.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen**

*Congregation stands*

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER II

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.

**All: And with your spirit.**

**Priest:** Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

**Priest:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right and just.**

### PREFACE (Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe)

**Priest:** It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,

For you anointed your Only Begotten Son,  
our Lord Jesus Christ, with the oil of gladness  
as eternal Priest and King of all creation,  
so that, by offering himself on the altar of the Cross  
as a spotless sacrifice to bring us peace, he might  
accomplish the mysteries of human redemption  
and, making all created things subject to his rule,  
he might present to the immensity of your majesty  
an eternal and universal kingdom,  
a kingdom of truth and life,  
a kingdom of holiness and grace,  
a kingdom of justice and peace.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,  
with Thrones and Dominions,  
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,  
we sing the hymn of your glory,  
as without end we acclaim:

### ACCLAMATION

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*Congregation kneels*

**Priest:** You are indeed Holy, O Lord,  
the fount of all holiness.

Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray,  
by sending down your Spirit upon them like the  
dewfall, so that they may become for us  
the Body and + Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At the time he was betrayed  
and entered willingly into his Passion,  
he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it,  
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,  
FOR THIS IS MY BODY  
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended,  
he took the chalice and, once more giving thanks,  
he gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,  
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,  
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL  
COVENANT, WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR  
YOU AND FOR MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS  
OF SINS.

DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

**Priest:** The mystery of faith.

**All: My Lord and my God.**

**Priest:** Therefore, as we celebrate  
the memorial of his Death and Resurrection,  
we offer you, Lord,  
the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation,  
giving thanks that you have held us worthy  
to be in your presence and minister to you.

Humbly we pray  
that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ,  
we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.

Remember, Lord, your Church,  
spread throughout the world,  
and bring her to the fullness of charity,  
together with Francis our Pope and N our Bishop  
and all the clergy.

Remember also our brothers and sisters  
who have fallen asleep in the hope of the  
resurrection, and all who have died in your mercy:  
welcome them into the light of your face.  
Have mercy on us all, we pray,  
that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,  
with blessed Joseph, her spouse,  
with the blessed Apostles,  
and all the Saints who have pleased you  
throughout the ages, we may merit to be coheirs  
to eternal life, and may praise and glorify you  
through your Son, Jesus Christ.

**Priest:** Through him, and with him, and in him,  
O God, almighty Father,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honour is yours,  
for ever and ever.

**All:** **Amen.**

*Congregation stands*

## THE COMMUNION RITE

**Priest:** At the Saviour's command  
and formed by divine teaching,  
we dare to say:

**All:** **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**Priest:** Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,  
graciously grant peace in our days,  
that, by the help of your mercy,  
we may be always free from sin  
and safe from all distress,  
as we await the blessed hope  
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**All:** **For the kingdom, the power and the glory  
are yours now and for ever.**

**Priest:** Lord Jesus Christ,  
who said to your Apostles:  
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,  
look not on our sins,  
but on the faith of your Church,  
and graciously grant her peace and unity  
in accordance with your will.  
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

**All:** **Amen.**

**Priest:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**All:** **And with your spirit.**

*The celebrant may add these or similar words.*

**Priest:** Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*All make a sign of peace, according to local custom.*

**Priest:** May this mingling of the Body and Blood of our Lord  
Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it.

**All:** **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.**

*Congregation kneels*

*The celebrant says quietly:*

May the receiving of your Body and Blood,  
Lord Jesus Christ, not bring me to judgment and  
condemnation, but through your loving mercy  
be for me protection in mind and body  
and a healing remedy.

## INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

**Priest:** Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**All:** **Lord, I am not worthy  
that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word  
and my soul shall be healed.**

**Priest:** May the Body of Christ keep me safe for eternal life.

**Priest:** May the Blood of Christ keep me safe for eternal life.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Ps 28:10-11

**All:** **The Lord sits as King for ever.  
The Lord will bless his people with peace.**

*Purifying the chalice the celebrant says quietly:*

What has passed our lips as food, O Lord,  
may we possess in purity of heart,  
that what has been given to us in time  
may be our healing for eternity.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Congregation kneels*

**Priest:** Let us pray.  
Having received the food of immortality,  
we ask, O Lord, that, glorying in obedience  
to the commands of Christ, the King of the universe,  
we may live with him eternally in his heavenly  
Kingdom. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**All:** **Amen**

## THE CONCLUDING RITES

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.  
**All:** **And with your spirit.**

**Priest:** May the peace of God,  
which surpasses all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds  
in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All:** **Amen**

**Priest:** And may the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit,  
come down on you and remain with you for ever.

**All:** **Amen**

*Then the celebrant, with hands joined and facing the  
people, says:*

**Priest:** Go forth, the Mass is ended.  
**All:** **Thanks be to God.**



### THE LITURGICAL YEAR ENDS TODAY WITH THE SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE.

Christ Jesus, I acknowledge You King of the universe.

All that has been created has been made for You.

Make full use of Your rights over me.

I renew the promises I made in Baptism, when I renounced Satan and all his pomps and works, and I promise to live a good Christian life and to do all in my power to procure the triumph of the rights of God and Your Church.

Divine Heart of Jesus, I offer you my efforts in order to obtain that all hearts may acknowledge your Sacred Royalty, and that thus the Kingdom of Your peace may be established throughout the universe. Amen.

#### THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday 23 November – St Columbanus

Tuesday 23 November – Ss Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Jacqueline Barlow: Sean Cairns (Kildare, formerly Lisburn).

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Jim Murray: Joan & John O'Kane: Nancy Gilroy: Joseph Laverty: Mary Brennan: John Hughes: James McMahon: Bel Moran. May they rest in peace.

#### MASS SCHEDULE – ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Monday-Saturday (inclusive) – 10.00am

Sunday – 11.00am

#### NOVEMBER – MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

All weekday Masses offered throughout the month of November will be for the Holy Souls

God our Father, Your power brings us to birth,  
Your providence guides our lives,  
and by Your command we return to dust.

Lord, those who die still live in Your presence,  
their lives change but do not end.  
I pray in hope for my family, relatives and friends,  
and for all the dead known to You alone.

In company with Christ, Who died and now lives,  
may they rejoice in Your kingdom, where all our tears are wiped away.  
Unite us together again in one family, to sing Your praise forever and ever. Amen.

#### ADVENT DAY OF REFLECTION

Saturday, 19 December 2020: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm Led by Sr Pam Thimmes OSC and hosted by Drumalis via Zoom.

Cost is £20 per person or £30 per household. Payment in full is required to secure your place.

To book, please email [drumalis@btconnect.com](mailto:drumalis@btconnect.com) or phone 028 28272196/28276455 (Mon-Fri, 9 am-5 pm).

Card payments welcome.

#### SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

This year we will celebrate a 'different kind of Christmas'. Whilst the need to support children living in poverty will be greater than ever, the safety of our volunteers, those donating gifts and the families receiving the gifts is paramount. Instead of the 'Giving Tree' as in previous years, gift vouchers/food hampers will be provided.

If you wish to support our Christmas Appeal you may help in the following ways:

- 1) Online transfer to our St Vincent de Paul Bank Account with Danske in Lisburn.  
Sort Code 95-06-79. Account No. 00149373
- 2) Leave vouchers/tinned food with Damian in Pastoral Centre. (One4all or Tesco vouchers are particularly welcome)
- 3) Arrangements to collect vouchers/food can be organised.

Thank you for your continued support.

**N.B: PLEASE CONTACT DAMIAN FRENCH, PRESIDENT SVP, LISBURN ON 07821 190775 OR 028 92607110 REGARDING ALL ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ENQUIRIES, ETC. THANK YOU.**

**SUBSCRIPTIONS TO SACRED HEART MESSENGER ARE NOW DUE.**

Cost £22 per annum. Please leave in Parish Office. Thank you.

### OFFERTORY ENVELOPES 2021

Preparations are now been made for the supply of Parish Offertory Envelopes 2021.

If you would like to support the Parish and require an envelope please download form from Parish website or contact Maria in Parish Office – 028 82 660206.

Alternatively, if circumstances permit, you are encouraged to make a monthly offering to the Church by means of a Standing Order. Please contact in confidence above number. Thank you. Our grateful thanks to parishioners who have forwarded Offertory envelopes/donations over recent weeks, in the absence of our regular weekly Sunday collections.

Your co-operation and generous support is very much appreciated in these difficult times.



### ST ALOYSIUS PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY UNIT:

#### Are you applying for a Nursery/ Primary 1 place in September 2021?

We are delighted to welcome you to our school family. Please phone or email me as soon as possible, with this expression of interest and I will send you a welcome pack.

First time parents are warmly encouraged to make an appointment to visit the school and meet with Mrs Catherine Milne, Principal.

Principal: Mrs Catherine Milne, 7 Ballinderry Road, Lisburn, BT28 1TB. 9266 2293. cmilne224@c2kni.net

Please be aware that **LIVE STREAMING** of all Masses takes place in St. Patrick's Church. The Privacy Notice for the Diocese of Down and Connor including the Parish of Blaris is available to view on the Parish website, in all our churches, Parish Office and Pastoral Centre. CCTV cameras also operate 24 hours daily in St. Patrick's Church, Pastoral Centre, car park and church precincts.

**Annual Mass for deceased Pioneers in Down and Connor Diocese will be celebrated in St Malachy's church, Alfred St. on Monday 23rd November at 1pm. The Mass will also be streamed.**

## Gospel Commentary

If you were born in a Republic the language of royalty is alien to you: kings, queens, princes, thrones, etc. So we have a great deal of adjustment to do. When the feast of Christ the King was introduced in 1925 there was polemical intent: it was a defiance of secular governments which were increasingly anti-clerical at the time. It set up a principle of opposition between Christ and the world. Good, if by 'world' you mean what the Scriptures mean (not the physical world but the structures of evil: the word 'worldly' retains some of this meaning). But it is fatally easy to slip from a Christ/world opposition to a Church/world opposition, to imagine that because we are members of the Church we are automatically on the side of Christ. In reality, many members of the Church often represent 'the world' far better than non-members do. When the Jews of his day had a similar thought about themselves (thinking they were saved just because they were Jews, 'children of Abraham') Jesus said to them, "Do not think: 'We have Abraham for our father.' I tell you that God can raise children for Abraham from these stones!" (Matthew 3:14). Likewise, with us, being a Catholic puts us in no privileged position in relation to the world. Like Jesus we have been sent into the world not to judge the world, but to save it (John 3:17).

"Yes, I am a king," said Jesus (John 18:37). So... can you see him sitting there displaying himself beside King Herod the Great, for example (one of the most vicious men who ever lived)? No, no. He was parodying the very idea of kingship. When he said "Yes, I am a king!" he was a prisoner standing before Pilate's judgment seat! "What is truth?" Pilate asked him, but got no answer. (Matthew and Mark say that Jesus was silent before Pilate, and Luke says he was silent before Herod.) How could anyone hear an answer to such a question while sitting on a throne of judgment? When you are sitting on your throne of judgment don't expect to come across any truths!

I ask myself if the atmosphere in my own mind isn't sometimes like the atmosphere in Pilate's judgment chamber? Cold, shallow, judgmental, merely tactical. The real King, the Lord, is the accused, not the accuser.

Objection! In today's Gospel reading he appears as a judge sitting on a throne! And furthermore he puts the whole human race in just two categories! (Can you put the whole human race in two categories: the good and the bad? Surely there are shades of goodness and badness, and to ignore them is a great injustice.)

But that is not the point of the parable. A parable makes only one point, but we often read parables as if they were allegories, that is, stories whose every single element points some moral. No, the single point of today's parable is that there can be no love of God without love of other people.

The English novelist and playwright John Galsworthy (known to many as the author of The Forsyte Saga) once complained that religion was now being replaced by service, "social service – the ants' creed, the bees' creed." But this is to make little of what today's Gospel writes large. Other passages in the New Testament make it equally clear: "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world" (James 1:27).

**+**

## Pond Park Pharmacy

**A & A Rooney**

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Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm  
Sunday 12:30pm - 5.00pm

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