

Week beginning 25th November (Monday)



Jesus
— King of Kings —

'If the kingdom of God is not first, it does not matter what is second'

Neal A. Maxwell

Yesterday we celebrated the feast of Christ the King. The feast day was established and proclaimed by Pope Pius XI in 1925 to confirm the sovereignty of Christ and the Church over all forms of government and to remind Christians of the commitment and loyalty they owed to Christ.

Jesus, by his Incarnation and sacrificial death on the cross had made us both adopted children of God and future heirs of the Kingdom of Heaven. Christ is our spiritual King and Ruler who rules by truth and love. We declare our loyalty to him by the quality of our Christian commitment, expressed in our serving of others with forgiveness and love, and by our solidarity with the poor.

As children of God, and future heirs to His kingdom, let us pray together;

**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.
Amen.**

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The feast of Christ the King is also National Youth Sunday. Pope Francis has called for the whole Church to see how Christ works through the young each and every day and how young adults and young people can help us to remember the newness of the Gospel and better live it out in our modern world. For him it's young people and young adults, too often on the peripheries, who are key to the renewal of the Church.



Take a minute to reflect in silence:

Do I always take the opportunity to grow in my faith?

Do I always recognise the strength I have from God?

How hard do I try to follow the mission we have been given to spread the word of God?

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Today is 'Red Wednesday', a day when we remember, think of and pray for all Christians who are persecuted because of their faith.

Persecution takes many forms. Christians in the Middle-East have been violently attacked and chased from their homes, neighbours who were once their friends too scared to offer them shelter from Islamic extremists. Burkina Faso, Sri Lanka and the Philippines are only a handful of countries that have been subject to bomb attacks in the recent months. Christian widows in Nigeria have been left with no money when their husbands have been murdered by extremists.

Lord Jesus, we pray for all suffering Christians throughout the world, especially children who have been made refugees or left displaced by war.

We pray for all those unjustly held or kidnapped because of their Faith.

We pray for all those suffering with mental or physical illness, especially those facing constant discrimination and oppression. We pray that you may ease the pains of those whom we pray for today, may they be granted peace and hope in the knowledge of Your kingdom.

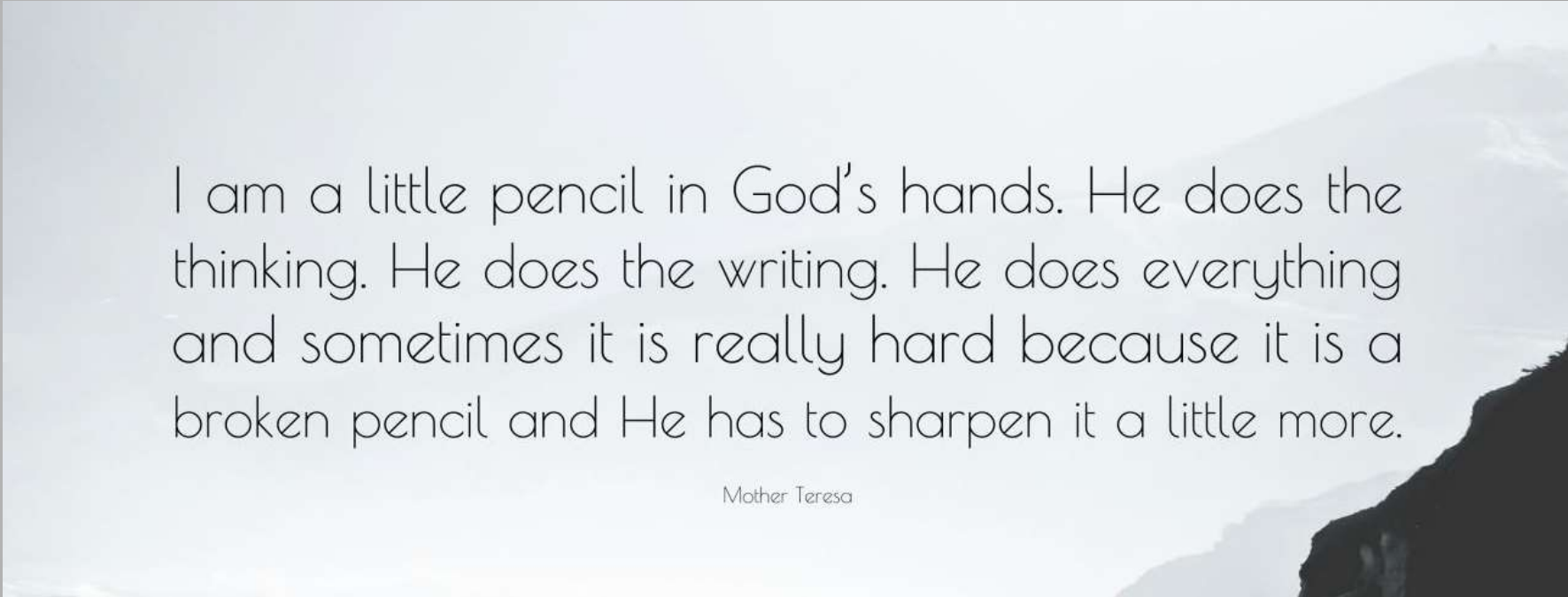
Amen.

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I am a little pencil in God's hands. He does the thinking. He does the writing. He does everything and sometimes it is really hard because it is a broken pencil and He has to sharpen it a little more.

Mother Teresa

This quote by Saint Teresa of Calcutta reminds us that we are never alone. God is always with us to help and guide us, even at our weakest we can be used for the good of His kingdom. All we have to do is be open to his presence.

Christ has no body now on earth but
yours, no hands, no feet but yours.
Yours are the eyes with which Christ
looks out his compassion to the world.
Yours are the feet with which he is to go
about doing good. Yours are the hands
with which he is to bless us now.

— *Saint Teresa of Avila* —

**Dear God in Heaven, we offer you now our hands, our feet and our eyes.
We offer you ourselves, to serve you and in doing so serve our brothers
and sisters.**

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Mary is the Queen and mother of all Christians. From the cross, Jesus told John to “behold his mother” (John 19:27), and in his vision of Heaven described in the Book of Revelation John sees the Blessed Virgin “clothed with the sun...and on her head a [queenly] crown of twelve stars....” (Rev. 12: 1).

Mary is the Queen of Heaven and our Mother. May we always be reminded of the good example she set in obedience to her son.



**Let us turn now to Mary. Our Mother, Queen of heaven to
intercede for us as we say;**



Hail Mary,

FULL OF GRACE,
THE LORD IS WITH YOU.
BLESSED ARE YOU AMONG WOMEN,
AND BLESSED IS THE FRUIT
OF YOUR WOMB, JESUS.

HOLY MARY, MOTHER OF GOD,
PRAY FOR US SINNERS,
NOW AND AT THE HOUR
OF OUR DEATH.
AMEN.

