

ICCH
International Catholic Community of Heidelberg

St. Michael's Church, Kirschgartenstr. 35, 69126 Heidelberg Südstadt
06221/13020 – office Fr. Christoph Heimpel

Today's readings: Dn 7:13-14 | Rv 1:5-8 | Jn 18:33b-37

Welcome Father John

November 22, 2015 – Solemnity of Christ the King

"My kingdom does not belong to this world."



Jesus proclaims the kingdom of God, the kingdom of holiness and grace, of justice, love and peace. This kingdom is God's final aim and purpose in everything he has done from the beginning. It is his final act of liberation and salvation. Jesus speaks of this kingdom as a future reality, but a reality that is mysteriously already present in his being, his actions and words and in his personal destiny.

The kingship and leadership of God's Son refuses rank and privilege, and any attempt to be master of the world. In him there is no lust, greed and ambition for power. His reign completely overturns our notions of earthly kingship. His is a kingship of ultimate service, even to the point of laying down his life for others. He did not come to rule over peoples and territories, but to set people free from the slavery of sin and to reconcile them with God.

The whole of Christ's life reveals that God is love: This is the truth to which he witnessed to the full with the sacrifice of his own life on Calvary. Jesus established the kingdom of God once and for all from the cross. The way to reach this goal is long and admits of no short cuts: Indeed, every person must freely accept the truth of God's love. God is Love and Truth, and neither Love nor Truth are ever imposed. They stand gently knocking at the doors of our minds and hearts, waiting for us to open the door and welcome them.

As we contemplate Christ crucified, we understand something of why Christ has remained a king even up to modern times: He didn't bow down. He who was Truth incarnate never imposed himself on others. He stood, waited and knocked. He never responded to violence with more violence. Jesus took his wounds to heaven, and there is a place in heaven for our wounds because our king bears his in glory.

On this last Sunday of the liturgical year, our Crucified King hangs in our midst, arms outstretched in loving mercy and welcome. May we have the courage to ask him to remember us in his kingdom, the grace to imitate him in our own earthly kingdoms, and the wisdom to welcome him when he stands knocking at the doors of our lives and hearts.

[shortened from: Fr. Thomas Rosica, <http://saltandlighttv.org/blog/category/rosicareflections/>]

OUR PROGRAM IN DECEMBER

Social Gathering Our monthly get-together after Mass will take place on **Dec 6**, "Saint Nicholas Day".

Confessions Occasions to receive the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation before Christmas will be on Sunday, **Dec 13 and 20**, after Mass each.

Christmas Mass Mass on Christmas Day, Friday Dec 25, will be celebrated at **12 noon!**

Dec 27 There will of course be Mass as well on Sunday, Dec 27, at our usual 1p.m. time.



If you would like to be added to our email list please send your contact information to:
infoheidelberg@internationalcatholiccommunity.com