



St Theresa's Presbytery
High Lane
Stansted Mountfitchet
CM24 8LQ

18th November 2020

Dear Friends

As I wrote last week's letter, we were awaiting the engineer to come and fix our audio problems so that we could live stream our Masses via Church TV. Sadly, I have to report that it was not possible to fix our sound issues, and the only solution open to us would require the replacement of much of our audio equipment. So, we will not be able to live stream our Masses via Church TV and will have to persist with our current set up until lockdown ends. We will look at the cost of having a permanent solution to live streaming of our Masses in the coming weeks, but we know this will be quite expensive to do. This comes at a time when our income has been significantly reduced during the past year due to the restrictions placed upon us all during the pandemic.

We are looking forward to what we hope will be an end to lockdown at the beginning of December. We had hoped that the churches would be able to return public worship before then, but this will probably not happen. So, 2nd December is the date when we hope we will be able to resume public worship. The government have said they will look at the evidence and make a decision next week, so keep an eye on what is said and pray that this lockdown ends when it was promised.

This weekend we celebrate the wonderful Feast day of Christ the King. Pope Pius XI instituted this Feast in 1925, to be celebrated throughout the universal church, in his encyclical Quas Primas. He connected the increasing denial of Christ as king to the rise of secularism throughout much of Europe. At the time of Quas Primas, many Christians (including Catholics) began to doubt Christ's authority and existence, as well as the Church's power to continue Christ's authority. Pius XI, and the rest of the Christian world, witnessed the rise of non-Christian (or nominally Christian) dictatorships throughout Europe, and saw Catholics being persuaded by these earthly leaders. These dictators also often attempted to assert their secular authority over the Church. Just as the Feast of Corpus Christi was instituted when devotion to the Eucharist was at a low point, so the Feast of Christ the King was instituted during a time when respect for Christ and the Church was waning. It would be easy to point to the parallels in our own time, with our governments all over the world asserting their authority over the Church of our own day, forcing the closure of Churches to public worship and the withdrawal of the Sacraments. Let us remember dear friends, secular governments have no authority over the Kingship of Christ.

As ever, do please be assured of mine and Deacon Des' continued prayer and support for you, and do please keep us in your prayers too.

God bless you all

Fr Lee