

Christ – the King of the Now (B)

- I listened to a program on ABC Radio this morning about a program that teaches people how to invest in the stock-market.
- It is certainly a concern of people in the modern world to invest wisely for future benefits & financial security in the future.
- There are many ads that talk about investing in the right Superannuation Fund that will provide the best returns.
- And this is all fine, good & necessary, & helps to insure that we don't become a burden on society.
- Society & our Government asks us to invest wisely for the future.
- Today we come to the end of the Church's liturgical year & we are asked the question – where do you invest your life?
- When we consider the "Futures Industry" that is deeper than our financial security, the question of what we invest our life in, has to do with the ultimate purpose of our lives – a preparation for the future beginning in the now.
- One of the fundamentals of our faith is summed up in the very title of the feast we celebrate today, Christ the King.
- Modern day prophets of doom who see negative in every aspect of life have given up on society, but Jesus has not given up on us. He refuses to give up.
- He has dreams for us.
- The purpose of our lives, whether we know it or not, is to have God as our goal in life.
- In today's scriptures, God is revealing to us the ultimate reason for the whole of creation - & that is the visible presence of God here on earth for all to see & experience.
- The Kingdom/Reign of God is not just some out of this world, heavenly realm just above us waiting for us to arrive; but it is already here & now in the present in this material world in which we live, always drawing us forward in the hope of its final, visible completion.
- And Jesus proclaims that in establishing the Kingdom of God, he has come to bear witness to the truth, but Pilate who is hardened cannot understand what this truth can be.
- The truth is that God loves us & that we are called to live in this love.
- Whenever we live self-effacing lives, we live in that truth according to God's values, & not our own self-centred ones.
- The future really does affect our present lives today; it moves us to work to make the present as much as possible like that hoped-for & promised future.
- It gives us a wider & all-embracing concern for the whole human society – a social consciousness – rather than a restricted, individual concern just for ourselves.

- It enlightens & empowers us to be critical of the present world order, to be active for social justice in that world order; to be engaged in the transformation of that world order; to be critical of a world order that exploits creation for short-sighted profits for a few.
- The only goal that matters, the only dream that matters is the dream of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ and our participation in this Kingdom.
- This dream includes the purpose for our lives, the formation of a community of God's love that makes life meaningful.
- The community of love includes reverence and respect for the presence of the Jesus in our families, in each individual in the family, and in each individual in the world.
- All other goals and dreams are transitory and illusory.
- All other goals, no matter how important they may seem at the time, will pass away.
- The last Sunday of the Church year challenges us to decide: What are the dreams that really matter?
- What are the values and principles that we are willing to fight for?
- What hopes are we willing to believe in enough to sacrifice ourselves for?
- He has not given up his hope for us.
- We cannot give up our participation in his dream.
- The Solemnity of Christ the King is not just the conclusion of the Church year. It is a summary of our lives as Christians.
- His dreams are our dreams.
- His hope is our hope.
- His present is our future.