

Did you know . . .

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, formerly called the Feast of Christ the King. It occurs on the last Sunday of Ordinary Time, the last Sunday before Advent. This feast celebrates the all-embracing authority of Jesus as King of all the universe.

All advent awaits the “coming King”; in the chants of the breviary, we find two expressions repeated again and again...”king” and “is coming”. On Christmas the Church greets not the Child of Bethlehem, but the “*Rex Pacificus*”...”the King of Peace gloriously reigning.”

The Feast of Christ the King was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925 in his encyclical *Quas Primas*. At that time, secularism was increasing and many Christians, including Catholics, doubted not only Christ’s authority, but also His very existence. It was a time when the feast was most needed, as it still is today.

“Today's Mass establishes the titles for Christ's royalty over men: 1) Christ is God, the Creator of the universe and hence wields a supreme power over all things; "All things were created by Him"; 2) Christ is our Redeemer, He purchased us by His precious Blood, and made us His property and possession; 3) Christ is Head of the Church, "holding in all things the primacy"; 4) God bestowed upon Christ the nations of the world as His special possession and dominion.” [Catholic Culture]

The Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe was formerly celebrated on the last Sunday of October but was changed with the calendar reforms in 1969. It is fitting that it is now right before Advent, when we celebrate the coming of the King.

PRAYER TO CHRIST THE KING

O Christ Jesus, I acknowledge You King of the Universe. All that has been created has been made for You. Exercise upon me all Your rights.

I renew my baptismal promises renouncing Satan and all his works and pomps. I promise to lead 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 poor actions in order to obtain that all hearts may acknowledge Your sacred royalty and that thus the reign of Your peace may be established throughout the universe. Amen.

Judy Pearson

