

# Christ the King!



Nov 2011

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Despite the machinations of those who had rejected Christ's peace, Christ's reign is complete and eternal... writes Marilyn Rodriguez



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## This Month...

**Nov 1: All Saints Day**

**Nov 2: All Souls Day**

**Nov: 3** St Martin de Porres

**Nov 4:** St Charles Borromeo

**Nov 6: Ordinary Time 32**  
Be Ready!

**Nov 11:** St Martin of Tours

**Nov 13: Ordinary Time 33**  
Use your Talents

**Nov 15:** St Albert the Great

**Nov 17:** St Elizabeth of Hungary

**Nov 20: Christ the King**  
Sheep and Goats

**Nov 23:** St Pope Clement I  
St Columban  
Bl Miguel Pro

**Nov 27: Advent 1**  
Stay Awake!

**Nov 30:** St Andrew



In 1925 the world was lurching from one major crisis to another, rocked by waves of political, social and economic disorder. Mussolini dismantled the Italian government and took control of the country. Hitler published *Mein Kampf* and his party formed the SS. General Pangulos disbanded the Greek parliament and took control of that country. Finally as the year drew to a close Pope Pius XI published an encyclical, *Quas Primas* (In the First).

The Pope responded to the spectres of growing nationalism, materialism and secularisation, with one clear message: Christ is the ultimate King. He ranks first. And that despite the machinations of those who had rejected Christ's peace, Christ's reign is complete and eternal. It is a reign of peace and profound love.



## A Holy Year



he Pope declared 1925 a holy year, one in which the kingdom of God was present in the hearts of faithful Christians all over the world. This is the mystery of God's kingdom – it is present in the here and now, and it will also be realised sometime in the future. Jesus is the King of the past, present and future.

This is part of what Pope Pius XI wanted to have the world's Christians ponder that year and every subsequent year. In his encyclical he instituted the feast of Christ the King, which we celebrate on the last Sunday of each church year. In 2011 the feast will be on November 27.

## Jesus the King of the Universe



Did you know that this is a proper title for Jesus? The feast day is officially named the Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe - how awesome! But that is what he is, as we say in the liturgy, "through him ALL things were made." And that includes not only the visible things of creation, space, the planets and stars and our earth, but everything invisible as well.

# Jesus the King of our hearts, minds and wills



Jesus himself said that the kingdom of God is not something visible. "The kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed, nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There it is!'. For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you." (Luke 17:21) He also said that his kingdom is not of this world, or not from here. (John 18:36)

The Pope extended on this when he wrote that:

*"Christ is said to reign 'in the hearts of men,' both by reason of the keenness of his intellect and the extent of his knowledge, and also because he is the truth, and it is from him that truth must be obediently received by all mankind. He reigns, too, in the wills of men, for in him the human will was perfectly and entirely obedient to the Holy Will of God, and further by his grace and inspiration he so subjects our freewill as to incite us to the most noble endeavours. He is King of hearts, too, by reason of his 'charity which exceedeth all knowledge.' And his mercy and kindness which draw all men to him, for never has it been known, nor will it ever be, that man be loved so much and so universally as Jesus Christ."*



# What's expected of his loyal subjects?



ast month on the Queen's visit to Australia many people responded by going out to see her as she was driven by, or watching her on the news. People like to follow the lives of the royal family in popular magazines; some debate the relevance of a monarchy for us today.

Christ asks more of us in his kingdom. His kingdom is not about appearances as one of "justice, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit". (Romans 14:17) Thus, our task as subjects is to do what we can to help bring justice, peace and joy to whomever we come across in our work, home, social, and community life. St Mary of the Cross McKillop put it simply when she said, "Never see a need without doing something about it."

Throughout the history of Christianity and up to today, wherever we see people working to maintain peace, care for the poor, fight injustice, and gather in worship, we see the power of Christ's reign.



# Seeking power vs submitting to Christ's power



his is what the Pope wrote about the quest for power as we are used to seeing it played out on the news and in our lives every day:

***"We saw men and nations cut off from God, stirring up strife and discord and hurrying along the road to ruin and death."***

And about submitting to Christ as Lord:

***"A nation is happy when its citizens are happy....Oh, what happiness would be Ours if all men, individuals, families, and nations, would but let themselves be governed by Christ!"***

Peace and happiness will reign on earth to the extent that we let ourselves be governed by Christ.

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By Marilyn Rodrigues

Links:

Pope: Message on the Feast of Christ the King, [Catholic Online](#)

Who is like our King, [Faith and Family Live](#)



# Couple's Corner

## Who is King in our Marriage?

**G**od calls couples to place Jesus at the centre of our marriage – to let him reign over our decisions and our relationship. In St Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, he says: Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ (Eph 5:21, NRSV). It's the language of loyal obedience and it recalls the servant leadership that Jesus exemplified at the last supper, washing the feet of his disciples, feeding them, and eventually giving his life for them.

The question for every married person is: Have I placed my marriage under the reign of Christ? Here's a short Examin for spouses to reflect upon.



# Christ the King Marital Examin



**I**s God an essential partner in my marriage?

**D**o I pray to be a better spouse, or do I pray for God to 'fix' my difficult spouse?

**D**o I pray for my spouse's fulfilment, placing his/her needs and intentions before God's throne?

**D**o I let God influence my decisions in relation to my marriage and family or do I make my decisions in isolation?

**D**o I turn to God in both good times and bad, thanking him for the blessings and calling for God's grace in difficulties?

**D**o I seek God's grace to live my vows faithfully, seeking to avoid anything that would undermine my affection and respect for my spouse?

**D**o I trust God to be the Lord of my marriage, directing it, forming it in his image? Or do I seek to conform my marriage to my image, my expectations?

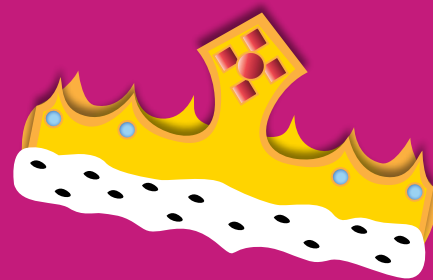


# King's Crown and Robe Activity

## rown

Create a crown using gold cardboard and decorate with sequins, rhinestones and fake fur (or cotton wool) around the bottom rim.

Use this in your prayer space (p10)



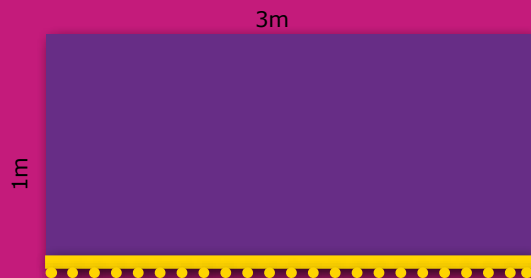
## obe

*3m of soft purple or gold fabric (velvet works well, check the remnants bin for a suitable bargain)*

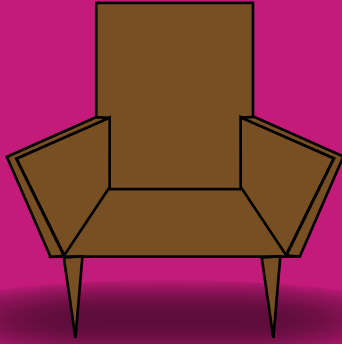
*3m of Fringing in purple or gold.*

Sew the fringe to the length of the Fabric.

Use this in your Majesty Liturgy. (p10)



# Majesty Liturgy



## Music:

*Select a suitable hymn or song with a kingly theme. Download the music/lyrics from the web. Eg. "Majesty, Worship his Majesty."*

## Materials

- Arm chair
- Robe
- Crown
- Side Table, table cloth
- Candles, matches

## Format:

This is a very simple, but powerful reflection. Using the music to set the tone and pace, reverently 'construct' a throne. Then together say the Litany of Praise (p11).



## Construct the Throne

1. Begin by having one or two people bring the arm chair into the sacred space and set it down.
2. Bring the robe and drape it over the chair with the fringe to the front.
3. Bring the side table and table cloth and set it next to the throne
4. Bring the candles and light them
5. Finally, bring the crown and place it on the seat of the throne.



# Litany of Praise

## Leader:

*Lord Jesus Christ, Almighty King.*

**Response: We worship you.**

*Lord Jesus Christ, King of creation. R*

*Lord Jesus Christ, King of the heavens and the earth. R*

*Lord Jesus Christ, King of the oceans and seas. R*

*Lord Jesus Christ, King of all creatures. R*

*Lord Jesus Christ, King of all peoples. R*

*Lord Jesus Christ, King of Kings. R*

*Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. R*

*Lord Jesus Christ, Name above all Names. R*

*Lord Jesus Christ, Lord of Lords. R*

*Lord Jesus Christ, Lamb of God. R*

*Lord Jesus Christ, Beloved son of the Father. R*

*Lord Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace. R*

*Lord Jesus Christ, Light of the World. R*

*Lord Jesus Christ, Anointed One. R*

*Lord Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. R*

*Lord Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life. R*

*Lord Jesus Christ, Perfect Mercy. R*

*Lord Jesus Christ, Redeemer of our souls. R*

*Lord Jesus Christ, Living Word of God. R*

*Lord Jesus Christ, the Alpha and Omega. R*

*Lord Jesus Christ, the Resurrection and the Life. R*

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
You are the Universal King, our Lord and  
saviour.**

**The one who rules with justice and peace.**

**May your Name be held holy and your  
reign complete.**

**You are worthy of all our praise. Amen.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and  
to the Holy Spirit.**

**As it was in the beginning is now and ever  
shall be world without end, Amen.**

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