

Parish of Ribbleton

St. Mary Magdalene (SMM) The Ascension (ASC) -Longsands (LS)

Sunday 21st November

Christ The King

Alleluia! Alleluia!

*“I was born and came into the world to testify to the truth.
Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.” declared Jesus.*

Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

FIRST READING (Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14)

As I looked, thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat.
His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool.
His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze.
A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.
The court was seated, and the books were opened.
In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence.
He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshipped him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 93

)

The response to the psalm is:

**The Lord reigns, he is robed in majesty;
holiness adorns his house.**

The Lord reigns, he is robed in majesty;
the Lord is robed in majesty and armed with strength;
indeed, the world is established, firm and secure.
Your throne was established long ago;
you are from all eternity. **R/**

The seas have lifted up, Lord,
the seas have lifted up their voice;
the seas have lifted up their pounding waves.
Mightier than the thunder of the great waters,
mightier than the breakers of the sea —
the Lord on high is mighty. **R/**

Your statutes, Lord, stand firm;
holiness adorns your house
for endless days. **R/**



SECOND READING (Revelation 1:4b-8)

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne,

and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father –

to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him;

and all peoples on earth will mourn because of him.

So shall it be! Amen.

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

GOSPEL (John 18:33-37)

Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him,

“Are you the king of the Jews?”

“Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?”

“Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied.

“Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me.

What is it you have done?”

Jesus said,

“My kingdom is not of this world.

If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders.

But now my kingdom is from another place.”

“You are a king, then!” said Pilate.

Jesus answered,

“You say that I am a king.

In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth.

Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”



Sunday Reflection

Jesus Christ is the everlasting King whose Kingdom is not of this world but grows in the hearts of his people and lasts for ever.

If you live in a Kingdom, or a country, you have to live by its rules.

If you live in Britain, you drive on the left side of the road.

If you cross to France and drive on the left side of the road, you will cause an accident or soon be stopped by the police.

In our country, everyone must pay taxes to keep the country running properly.

There are laws and unless we keep them, we will be in trouble.

A kingdom only continues if people keep the rules.

If the rules are broken it will break up and not exist.

This is also true for the church.

The Church of England, to which our parish belongs, has certain rules and practices that have been accepted by the General Synod, the ruling body.

The church is meant to follow these rules and practices or will be in a difficult dangerous place, like driving on the wrong side of the road when everybody else is going the other way.

When Jesus was born there were hints that he was to be a king.

The wise men came to Herod and asked, 'Where is he that is born king of the Jews?'

Because of this Herod tried to find the baby Jesus to kill him.

Herod did not understand that Jesus would be a different kind of king and was not after worldly power.

The rule of Jesus was one of love.

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem the people wanted to make him king because they thought in terms of power and force.

Jesus rode in on a donkey and not a war -horse.

He did not want to win a kingdom by force but by love.

Jesus would not force people to accept him.

He wanted them to accept him because they loved him.

If there were rules, they were about loving God and loving each other.

Jesus could have escaped the cross and the crown of thorns, but he chose out of love to allow this to happen.

The cross shows the deep love of Jesus for us all.

As the King of love, Jesus was still in control.

He was giving himself in love for the whole world.

Jesus rose again to offer us eternal life.

In love he rescued us from death and wants us to share in his kingdom.

Even now he wants us to be part of his kingdom of love.

Every time we try to love and seek to do what Jesus wants; we are part of his kingdom.

Jesus is with us.

He is alive and is our King.

Let us give our love to him.

The church's year has come full circle.

We began last Advent by preparing ourselves for the coming of Jesus, both at his birth into our world and at his second coming.

Through the year we have walked with Jesus learning of his life and ministry, led mainly by Mark's lively Gospel account.

We have watched Jesus and listened to him, grieved, and rejoiced with him.

We have seen the gradual understanding of the disciples and their growth in faith and transformation through the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Today as we celebrate 'Christ the King' we proclaim the basic Christian belief that JESUS CHRIST IS LORD.

This will enable us, like the first disciples, to grow in love as we put our faith and trust in Jesus, and as we move forward in preparation for Advent and for our ministry to see Christ's kingdom come in our Parish.

Love and prayers,

Captain David



Intercessions

Lord our God, may your Kingdom come in the world-wide communities of those who believe in Jesus Christ, and worship in his name. May we live the Kingdom values in our life together.

Open our hearts to the needs of your children who live in fear and suffering because of their love for you. We hold before you the Christian communities in the Holy Land and in Egypt. May they know the comfort of your presence in their lives.

We ask your blessing on those you have called to lead and teach your church, among them our bishops, Julian, Philip and Jill, and Archdeacon David.

We give thanks for the Reverend John Ball and his ministry to us today.

Guide and encourage those who minister to our parish, Captain David, Linda and Fr Chris, and our parish wardens, Ron and Jacqueline. Give them a vision of your plan and purpose for our parish and create in us the will to fulfil that vision.

We ask your blessing on those who are working to appoint a new rector for our parish, and on the person you are calling to serve you here.

We pray for Frankie & Janie, being baptised today. May they and their family grow in faith, surrounded by your love.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

Lord our God, may your Kingdom come in the nations of our world and in the hearts of those who lead them. May your kingdom values take root and grow, so that each and every person is respected as your beloved child.

Open the hearts of those in positions of power, influence and authority to the needs of your most vulnerable children.

We hold before you those whose lives have been damaged and destroyed by conflict, warfare and natural disasters, and those driven from their homes and communities.

We pray today for the people of Canada, affected by flooding, for the people of Afghanistan, Syria and Yemen - and all struggling to survive in refugee camps.

Open our eyes and hearts to those who suffer and are in great need.

Bless the work of the relief agencies and those who work for peace and justice in our broken world.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

Lord our God, may your Kingdom come in our homes and families, in our neighbourhoods and places of work.

May the Holy Spirit inspire our thinking, our speaking and our actions so our lives declare your presence.

We ask your blessing on all who live in our parish, and on those who work for their comfort and well-being. We hold before you the staff of our emergency services.

We pray for those who are hungry and homeless in our community, especially those needing the support of the Community Pantry and foodbanks, or struggling in temporary accommodation. Open our eyes and hearts to their needs, and draw us to serve you by serving them.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

Lord our God, may your Kingdom come in all hospitals and surgeries and in every place of pain and sadness. May Christ's healing touch bring wholeness and peace to those who suffer, and hope to those close to despair. May we cherish them and comfort them, knowing that none are beyond your grace.

We ask your blessing on those who need your healing touch in their lives: those known to us, those named on our prayer list, and those among us now.

Bless those who care for them, whether at home or in hospital and support them by your Spirit.

May your healing love work in them all and assure them of your presence.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

Lord our God, may your Kingdom come in our journey through this earthly life, and in our awakening to eternal life. May we, with all your children, be brought to share in the eternal life of your Kingdom.

We pray for those who have been killed this week in the ongoing conflicts and disasters in our world and for those who have died alone or unprepared.

We commend to your loving mercy those who have died recently, and those whose anniversary is around this time.

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord,
and let light perpetual shine upon them.
May they rest in peace and rise in glory

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

Lord our God, may your Kingdom come in our lives. Open our hearts to your unending love and fill us with the joy of your presence.

We bring to you now our silent prayers for ourselves and for those we love.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

Merciful Father, Accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ Amen

If you would like to sing:

Make Way, Make Way
<https://youtu.be/tK6XuYhL7JI>

Majesty
<https://youtu.be/1Zontyn2TjE>

Jesus is Lord
<https://youtu.be/8HHYt40whHQ>

Lord Jesus Christ
https://youtu.be/QA_g98O42Q4

Lord, the light of your love is shining
<https://youtu.be/op17raOTXbk>

Sunday 28th November
First Sunday of Advent

9:30am Service at The Church of the Ascension
11:00am Service at St. Mary Magdalene

Readings

Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-9;1
Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

Mid-week services and activities

Tuesday 10am – 12 noon – Community Pantry at ASC
Tuesday 11am – Service at Preston Private Nursing Home
Wednesday 10am – Service at SMM
church remains open for private prayer until 12 noon.

Confirmation Classes

We are hoping to run confirmation classes in the new year. These are open to anyone from age 11 (year 6) to 111. If you would like more information about confirmation or would like to join the classes please contact Barbara (01772 702675) or the Parish Office

Notices for members of the PCC:

Sunday 21st November 12 noon, SMM

There will be a short PCC meeting immediately following the Eucharist

Friday 26th November: 1.30pm, SMM

A PCC meeting with Rev. Dave Hanson (the Area Dean), Rev Fleur Green and Fr David Craven, who will discuss their perspectives on women's ministry.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 8th December, 7:30pm, Parish Hall

A concert by One Voice Choir

(Admission is by a bag of groceries for the foodbank or a cash donation on the door.)

Thursday 9th December: 10:00am – 12 noon,
Elf Coffee Morning

Church of The Ascension



Don't forget the Community Pantry:
open on Tuesdays 10am -12noon.
Donations always welcome.

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PARISH CONTACTS

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WARDENS – St Mary Magdalene

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WARDENS – Church of The Ascension

Jacqueline Carter