

From the Chaplain...

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. This observance is a comparatively recent practice, having been established by the Roman Catholic Church in 1925 and embraced by the Church of England and other churches thereafter. Part of the feast's appeal has been the need of many Christians to assert an alternative vision of power and authority amidst the political ideologies of the modern age. In observing it, we affirm that despite the tyrannies so many are forced to endure, the kingdom proclaimed by Christ will ultimately prevail.

There can be nothing triumphalist about this claim. As our Gospel this week reminds us (John 18. 33-37), Jesus' readiness to challenge the religious establishment of his time resulted in his condemnation by the political authority. If he is a king, then his is a sovereignty that will always confound religious and political categories alike. Those of us who call him Lord must therefore do so knowing that to follow Christ is to live in the world but never entirely of it. His is a power that does not insist yet cannot be ignored. We listen for the sound of his voice – the voice of truth – to cut through all the sound and fury of human striving.

This Sunday, I will be at St Alfege Church for the 10.00am Parish Eucharist. The Vicar of St Alfege, the Revd Simon Winn, will in turn preach and preside at the 11.00am Chapel service. By changing places on this occasion, Simon and I hope to affirm and celebrate the connection between our two communities.

Lastly, please note that on Sunday, 1 December at 7.00pm in the Chapel, the Choir will perform Haydn's *The Creation* as its Christmas concert. To purchase tickets (£15 full/£10 concession/£5 student), please ring the Blackheath Halls box office on 020 8463 0100 or visit <https://www.trinitylaban.ac.uk/whats-on>.

Yours faithfully,
Robert

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