



What Rules your Life

If you're into reality TV, then you're probably familiar with I'm A Celebrity...Get me out of here. It's a game show series in which a dozen or more celebrities live together in a jungle environment for a few weeks. They have no luxuries, and must do various tasks to win meals and privileges for their companions. These tasks put them face to face with insects and other creepy crawlies or with being required to eat extremely unappetising food. They end up having to do tasks that they – or we – would never normally choose to do. And why are they doing all this? They are competing to be king or queen of the jungle. A peculiar kind of royalty.

The real kings and queens of today – the royal houses of Europe and beyond – may not have absolute power like in the past but they're still associated with privilege and nobility, and we're still fascinated with them. Think of all those who watched the royal weddings, or who get excited about a royal baby. Royalty fascinates us – whether king or queen of the jungle or queen of England.

Today's feast is about a very different kind of royalty. We honour Jesus, the servant king. Pope Pius XI introduced this feast in 1926. Think back to the world of the 1920s. Mussolini was in power in Italy. Hitler was leading the Nazi party in Germany. Stalin was crushing his opponents in Russia; extremist movements offering messiah-type leaders were on the rise. Pius XI wanted to make a statement. In creating this feast he was saying to the world that despite dictatorships and economic collapse, and the rise of ideologies of left and right, Jesus Christ was still King of the Universe. There is only one lord, one ruler, one king – Jesus of Nazareth, a king who washed people's feet and was nailed to a cross. **The kingship of Jesus turns our notions of monarchy upside down.** It's symbolised by his crown. The crown on his head was not made of gold or trimmed with diamonds, but of thorns. He didn't come to lead armies, or levy taxes, or occupy palaces. He doesn't rule by might or threats or Twitter. He doesn't sit on a gilded throne. His kingdom is not an earthly kingdom or something from Game of Thrones. It's about a new way of living, based not on control or power or war-making, but on **love and mercy and service of**

others. He is a king who treats everyone equally, who is interested not in possessions or money or status but in people and compassion and justice. Jesus' authority comes from God and it's an authority that builds people up rather than diminishes them. All that matters to Jesus is God his Father, and to serve God means to serve all. To be a servant king. Two Challenges: Today's feast offers a couple of challenges. First, for the church. It's a reminder that **power and authority in the church should be about service**; that those in leadership must model themselves on Jesus, the servant king, and not on any earthly model of authority. While the church is not a democracy, it's a pity that it still has a structure of authority and even of dress and titles that are based on a medieval model of government and have not been substantially updated, though Pope Francis by his own example of simplicity and humility is trying to change that. Second, today's feast challenges us to think about **who or what rules our lives** – and to honour the only king that matters, Jesus Christ. Society today is a bit of a rat race. It's about wealth and status, celebrity and privilege. It's an element in each of us that wants to be number one. We'd quite like the status and glamour associated with royalty and wealth. The feast of Christ the King reminds us of what our priorities must be; that, whatever our vocation in life, **we must be at the service of others, and never lord it over anyone.** Our model is Christ, the servant king.

The Covid-19 Guidance for Places of Worship has now been reviewed by the HSE and sent to us by

Bishop Leahy One point I would add is that masks should be worn by the priests/Eucharistic ministers in the distribution of Communion. **Key elements** in organising and planning safe services

- Allow sufficient time for cleaning of contact surfaces before each service.
- Congregants are advised not to gather immediately outside the door before or after the service.
- Alcohol-based hand rub should be provided for use at entry, exit and other appropriate points within the space. Tissues and bins should be provided for safe disposal. Hand-washing facilities, including soap dispensers and disposable towels, should be well maintained.
- All hard surfaces that are frequently touched, such as door handles, hand rails, seats, and taps should be cleaned regularly with a household detergent. Touching of surfaces should be minimised.
- It is recommended that congregants continue to wear cloth face coverings or masks during indoor services and ceremonies. A mask provides better protection than a visor, which should not be used unless there are specific problems with using the face mask. Please note the use of surgical masks rather than face cloth coverings

Remembered In Mass

Donoughmore



Sat 20th Nov. 7 pm Hughie Hurley

Mon. 22nd 10 am Nora Heaphy

Tue 23rd 10 am **No Mass**

Fri 26th 10 am

Sat 27th 7 pm Joe & Josephine McCarthy.

Knockea

Sun 21st 11am Anne Kirke (3rd)
Joan Hayes Listowel (1st)

Wed 24th 10am Mons. Ray Mullins (7th) br. Paddy, sister Marian, nephew Raymond

Sun 28th Nov. 11am John & Peg Prendergast. Billy Hartigan. Tom & Ita Kilcoyne

Roxboro

is now recommended to be worn by people who are in high risk and very high risk cohorts when in confined community spaces. Faith and religious leaders do not need not to wear a cloth face covering if they are fully vaccinated and can optimise physical distancing from any participant and the area is adequately ventilated

- Groups of singers (i.e. choirs and musical ensembles) may perform following implementation of any mitigation actions identified by risk assessment.
- Singing in groups indoors (i.e. choirs and musical ensembles) should be limited in line with the capacity of the space, given appropriate social distancing requirements (both from other singers, the choir master, the congregation or other individuals in the setting). Additional mitigation measures ad-

Parish of Donoughmore/ Knockea/Roxboro



Fr Tom Mangan PP
087-2348226

Fr Dave Kennedy, weekend assistant
dkrparish@gmail.com
Website, dkrparish.ie

Facebook: **DKR Parish Limerick**

Sacristan

Terry 087-6686050

The Eircode for St. Patrick's Church, Donoughmore is **V94 V6T3**.
Knockea is **V94 D938**.

vised include checking for symptoms before starting, face coverings should be worn where this is practicable, instrument covers, smaller choirs, performing outside, shorter rehearsals, avoiding contact with others, regularly cleaning commonly touched surfaces, hand hygiene and ensuring adequate ventilation. Members of the congregation should avoid singing, shouting, chanting and raising of voices, as this may increase the risk of airborne transmission of the virus; if possible, encourage the use of microphones or similar equipment to minimise voice volume.

- Pianos, pipe organs, and other forms of musical instruments (e.g. string, percussion, woodwind) not associated with additional risk are allowed during the service if adopting appropriate public health measures.

Weekly Parish Lotto: Winner €6,300 Congratulations to Declan Brosnahan Winning No. 1.18.19.28. Next Jackpot €1,500, Tues. Nov.23rd 9.30pm at the Four Elms.

