

Homily Christ the King Yr C

Pope Pius XI instituted the Feast of Christ the King in 1925, in response to growing nationalism and secularism and modernism. It is celebrated on final Sunday of the liturgical year, before the commencement of a new liturgical year on the First Sunday of Advent.

The philosophies of nationalism, secularism and modernism were becoming anti-religion. The Pope was concerned that people's faith in God and in Christianity was eroding and being undermined. The above mentioned philosophies were beginning to rule the people rather Christian principles.

Pope Pius in his encyclical (*Quas primas*) stated the importance of the feast:

The faithful, moreover, by meditating upon these truths, will gain much strength and courage, enabling them to form their lives after the true Christian ideal. If to Christ our Lord is given all power in heaven and on earth; if all men, purchased by his precious blood, are by a new right subjected to his dominion; if this power embraces all men, it must be clear that not one of our faculties is exempt from his empire. He must reign in our minds, which should assent with perfect submission and firm belief to revealed truths and to the doctrines of Christ. He must reign in our wills, which should obey the laws and precepts of God. He must reign in our hearts, which should spurn natural desires and love God above all things, and cleave to him alone. He must reign in our bodies and in our members, which should serve as instruments for the interior sanctification of our souls, or to use the words of the Apostle Paul, as instruments of justice unto God.

The Pope maintains that none of us must exclude himself/herself from Christ who is the Lord of heaven and earth, and who redeemed us by his precious blood. That Christ reigns in our minds to accept all revealed truths, in our wills to obey the revealed truths, in our hearts to love God above all things, and in our bodies to be his instruments of God's justice. That is our desire and prayer today: Christ reign in my mind to know your precepts. Christ reign in my will obey your precepts. Christ reign in my heart to love God above all things. Christ reign in my body to be your instrument.

Anti-Christian philosophies are far more now than in 1925. Those who exclude themselves from Christ are daily increasing in number. Unbelief and idolatry are on the increase. Governments' and institutions' policies that exclude true Christian ideals are multiplying daily. Therefore, it is absolutely important for believers to reaffirm and re-profess the ruler-ship of Christ. There are people who are ruled by money. There are people who are ruled by property. There are people who are ruled by what they eat and what they drink. The Scripture says of these people, "their belly is their god" (Phil 3:19). There are people who are ruled by what to wear. There are people who are ruled by all sorts of addictions. There are people who are ruled by bad friends. There are people ruled by anger. There are people who are ruled by gadgets. There are people who are ruled by pride. There are people ruled by pleasures of the flesh. There are people ruled by other kinds of vices. None of these can give us true peace and true joy because they are not rooted in Christ.

An important question, is something else ruling me beside Christ? How do we know what is ruling us? It is whatever that is taking more of my mind, will, heart and body over and above Christ. Heb 12:2, say, "Look unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith."

Let us pray together: God, let death not rule me. Let poverty not rule me. Let fear, worries and concerns of life not rule me. Let sickness not rule me. Let enemies not rule me. Let confusion not rule me. Let bad luck not rule me. Let despair and frustration not rule me. May Jesus rule me, both now and forever. Amen.

Fr Martin Eke, MSP