

## **Peter Mayen Homily on the 25.11.2018. Christ the King:**

**Readings: John 18: 33-37.**

**Theme: Christian's greatest vocation is to love and serve graciously all humankind.**

**Prayer: let us pray:** May I speak in the name of God the Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer. Amen.

Thirty years ago, I became a refugee moving from place to another place, from country to country for safety and to stay alive. It's become crystal clear to me through in my own experience and destitution as a refugee that I and others need assistance from each for survival. The selfless generosity from the representative of the western governments helped me to live to this day. The donations and prayers from Christian communities globally sustained me and many million refugees who are deprived by their governments of basic service and liberties in their countries of origin.

So, what does Christ the King mean to us as the people of God here today at St. Luke's, St. Mark's and All Saints Christian communities, to us as parents, sisters, brothers, and friends or even to those who are being called to respond to serve within our communities as leaders?

Today's gospel does focus on who is being judge or saved, but what is central and incumbent on us is doing good deeds toward each other without calculation. It is about being there for one another physically, delivering service selflessly without counting on how much energy or wealth's you have given.

It is not about I give more than others and therefore, I have eternal life only through what I give and do, even if being faithful in generous offering and hardworking are core to human dignity and self-worth.

But today's gospel reminded us about the humble, gentle works of Christ Jesus our Lord and Saviour, who empty Himself from heaven and became one equal with us, God Emanuel, God among all human beings. Christ Jesus love for us is His abundance grace embodied in His Kingship reigns, fulfilling reconciliation and mediation works and calling us to imitates His love for others.

We are now saved in Christ the King, not because of what we are, how we look, how smart, rich we are or by our own self moral standing. But as peoples in Christ we are called as one community, called to care for the less fortunate of the Kingdom of God, the marginalised, the poor, the prisoners, the sick widows, widowers and all peoples struggling for daily bread. We are invited stand together in solidarity with people who are suffering mental and psychological isolation in offshore detention centres.

Those peoples in Manus Island and Nauru deserved our love, social justice from Australian community and government. They are part of us in those detention camp, they are loved and valued by God the Trinity like us here in this Church, they need our support, finances, prayers and advocacy, they are thirsty for identity and belonging. They deserve what we value and protect; our freedom, security and better life.

We all have the responsibility to exercise moral justice on issues at stake in our daily lives. We have a duty of care for vulnerable people, as a community of love, we are encouraged to imitate Christ the King to do justice at home with our families, relatives, friends and strangers. The German theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer explains how Christians Communities must demonstrate their love in serving one another like our King Jesus "one is a brother or sister to another person only through Jesus Christ. I

am a brother or sister to another person through what Jesus Christ has done for me and to me; others become brothers and sisters to me through what Jesus has done for them and to them". We are called to build trust and relationship with others as Christ revealed it to us and commissioned His communities, us to do the same toward one another. To love and care for each other's needs. We are called to study the words of God with one another and to come to worship together as redeemed people through the death and resurrection of Christ the King. Our Christian community must adopt and cherish consistently what Jesus Christ as commands in His life.

We must in some way empty ourselves for the sake of others and continue this path set by our King from now leading into the presence of God in eternal life. For example, Christian people could make a distinctive contribution by being more genuine and profound in imitation of Christ love and through sharing of Christ love. What would people say of the Church if we truly lived that! I believe that our Church will continues to invite generations upon generations to read and learn the Scriptures, celebrates the breaking of bread as a constant remainder of selfless giving for the sake of others life and dignity.

As broken peoples, we now live as a new creation through God's love in Christ the King of the universe. Therefore, in Christ the King, the whole world is called to repent, individuals are called to conversion, and we become transformative symbols through our reunion in Jesus Christ. We Christians are called to befriend those of lower soci-economic background, those unloved and often lonely and vulnerable. We must extend Christ the King selfless love in words and actions inclusively by offering services to meeting their needs and wants.

Each person in this building has the image of the seed of the Women, the Son of Man our King who was born of the Virgin Mary in order to destroyed and transformed unjust socials barriers and delivered us from darkness to eternal life, He Came to reveal to us the Father's loves for the whole world.

As Christian Community, Christ the King's great commission is to spread the Good News of God Kingdom, for repentance and holding on to this treasury of grace and by doing so in reaching out to the more vulnerable peoples of God, by providing essential services, to the poor and unemployed people who constantly knock on our doors. We are reminded to share with the most vulnerable among us people.

For example, the Pantry office that is operated by Jennifer Murray and good peoples of these three centres is part of our response to fulfil Jesus Christ the king's commands to love others as we would like to beloved.

In the month of December, Christian communities are reminded that, Jesus Christ was born, and is continually born in our life. We demonstrate that continuing birth and by our way of treating each other, as people who have first been loved by Almighty God through the Son. Created in the image of Jesus the King, the second Adam, Christ the King's message for our families and strangers is simple and hard: grow in love, grow in serving each other as Your King Jesus has done it and stay loving and working for the vulnerable people of God's kingdom and in doing that, we have fulfilled our Christian's greatest obligations to love our God, ourselves and all human families in honouring God's sovereign grace in Christ's the King .

In Jesus Christ name, Amen.