



Vox Populi - 20 November 2024

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe will be celebrated this Sunday, the last Sunday of the liturgical year.

The feast celebrates Christ's title as King, recognising He has dominion over all creatures, simply by His essence and His nature.

In the Gospel of Luke, the angel Gabriel proclaims Christ's kingship to Mary before He is even conceived in her womb.

"And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." – Luke 1:31-33

Throughout the rest of the New Testament, Christ's kingship is proclaimed, through the First Epistle to Timothy and in the Book of Revelation.

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe was instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925 although devotions to Christ under this title have existed from the very earliest days of the Church.

In the encyclical *Quas Primas* ("In the first") which introduced the solemnity, Pope Pius XI reminded the faithful that Christ must reign over us completely so we may become instruments of God.

"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.'" - Quas Primas, 33

The feast is a declaration that everyone and everything in this world is under His dominion and under His kingship. We are not to shy away from acknowledging this fact, but proclaim it to the world, just as Christ commands in the Great Commission.