Vox Populi

19 November 2026

“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.”

With these words, from the encyclical *Quas primas*, Pope Pius XI instituted the Feast of Christ the King on 11 December 1925.

Pope Pius XI had become concerned by the increasing secularisation of the world. He saw people had refused to submit to Christ and He had been relegated from public life.

Through the encyclical and the Solemnity, now celebrated on the last Sunday of the liturgical year, the Holy Father desired to remind the faithful that Christ must reign supreme if there was to be any peace in the world.

“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 said.

“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*.”

A century later, Pope Leo XIV echoed this messaged.

“[This Solemnity] invites us, therefore, to walk together in praise and joy towards the encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, gentle and humble Sovereign, the One who is the beginning and end of all things,” Pope Leo XIV said in his homily for the Solemnity last year.

“His power is love, his throne the Cross, and through the Cross his Kingdom shines forth upon the world. ‘From the wood he reigns’ as Prince of Peace and King of Justice who, in his Passion, reveals to the world the immense mercy of God’s heart. This love is also the inspiration and motive for your singing.”

Since 2021, the Solemnity of Christ the King has been the day for diocesan-level celebrations of World Youth Day. Previously, it had taken place on Palm Sunday.

This year, the Solemnity of Christ the King will take place on Sunday, 22 November.