

## **Sunday 21st November - Christ the King**

### **John 18 33-37**

#### **Jesus before Pilate**

This reading comes not long after Jesus is arrested, Jesus has already been questioned by the High Priest, and Peter has denied knowing Jesus. It may seem strange having this reading not long before Advent Sunday, when we are already thinking about the coming of our Lord. But I think, Jesus is stressing why he came to earth – he says ‘ For this I was born, and for this I came into the world’. What do you think ?

Sunday is the feast of Christ the King, and this reading concentrates on Pilate questioning Jesus on whether he is the King of the Jews. Jesus does not answer directly – but he does say that ‘his kingdom is not from here’ and ‘his kingdom is not from this world’. We are told in the preceding verses that The Jews have brought Jesus to Pilate, as they are not allowed to condemn Jesus to death – and straight after this reading we are told that Jesus is condemned to death.

I feel sorry for Pilate, he has been put in a difficult position. The Jews have made it clear to Pilate that Jesus is a dangerous person, and they need him put to death. Pilate says he cannot find any fault with Jesus, but then offers the Jews the possibility of releasing Barabbas, and as we know they choose Barabbas to be released. Pilate must have felt he had to do what the Jews are asking, so finds a way which really means that the Jews made the decision.

On this festival of Christ the King, let us celebrate our Lord, Christ the King.

With love and blessings

Jill Gollins