

## EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

# FOOD BANK

### EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

#### *Reflecting on the Gospel*

##### *Christ the King (Matthew 25: 31-46)*

The last Sunday of the Church's year (before Advent Sunday begins the new year next week) celebrates the theme of Christ the King, although a better translation of this concept could be the Reign of Christ. The notion of the Reign of Christ emphasises better what Christ does and what we might expect a world to look like over which Christ reigns. Jesus' teaching began in Matthew 5 where the beatitudes identified the qualities of life to which the kingdom of heaven belongs (for example, 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy'). Now at the close of Matthew 25 where Jesus' teaching ends, we glimpse the actions that display the Reign of Christ, when the hungry are fed.

Our image to stimulate reflection on this passage is *foodbank*.

#### *Extracts from the Gospel passage (Matthew 25: 34-36)*

Jesus said, 'Then the King will say to those on his right hand,  
"Come, you that are blessed by my Father,  
inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world;  
for I was hungry, and you gave me food,  
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,  
I was a stranger and you welcomed me,  
I was naked and you gave me clothing,  
I was sick and you took care of me,  
I was in prison and you visited me.'

#### *Gospel prayer*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you reign for ever.  
Help us to see your face  
in the needs of those around us,  
that we may truly serve you;  
for you are the king of glory.  
Amen.

**READING NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL**

**Matthew 25: 31-46**

‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” Then he will say to those at his left hand, “You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.” Then they also will answer, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?” Then he will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.” And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’

## **ENGAGING WITH THE THEME AT HOME**

### ***Reflecting and meditating***

Reflect on Matthew's teaching about the signs of Christ's reign in Matthew 25: 31-46:

- what details in the passage catch your attention?
- what big ideas does the passage spark in your mind?
- what most touches your heart in the passage?
- what most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage?

### ***Thinking and talking***

- how do you understand the image of the Son of Man coming in his glory?
- what do you make of the separation of the sheep from the goats?
- what do you make of the response of the sheep?
- what do you make of the response of the goats?
- what can we make of this teaching for today?

### ***Using your Bible***

This particular narrative is distinctive to Matthew, but we can see some of these actions exemplified in Luke's Gospel:

- Luke 10: 33-35

Explore passages in the Old Testament and Apocrypha that resonate with this theme:

- Job 22: 4-7
- Isaiah 58: 6-9
- Ecclesiasticus 7: 32-36

### ***Exploring online***

- explore interpretations of the sheep and the goats
- explore images of the sheep and the goats
- explore foodbanks and social justice

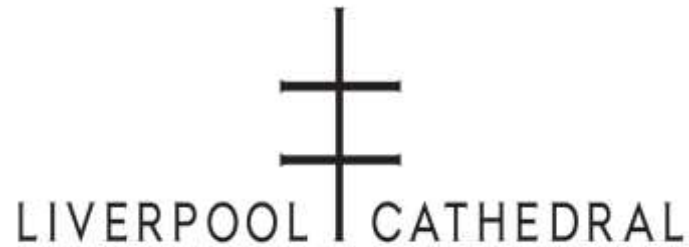
### ***Drawing on experience***

- reflect on your experiences of foodbanks
- reflect on your experience of engaging with the social gospel
- reflect on your experience of engaging with inequality and injustice

## CHRIST THE KING (YEAR A) SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2020

### *Creating and making*

- create a poster on the theme of Matthew 25: 31-46
- create a collage illustrating the Reign of Christ: Today we celebrate Christ the King
- create a poster illustrating how your church responds to social justice issues
- create a reflection, poem, or prayer on Matthew's narrative about the sheep and the goats



## **EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME**

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

Our invitation then is for you to share your reflections, prayers and photos of your creative work with the Cathedral by emailing them to [Nelson.Pike@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk](mailto:Nelson.Pike@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk)

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales and the St Christopher's College Trust.



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