

# Christus Imperat

Quarterly newsletter of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest

Dear friends of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest,

“Beáti, qui lugent: quóniam ipsi consolabúntur” (Matt. 5, 4): as we celebrate the beautiful feast of All Saints, our Holy Mother Church presents for our mediation the Gospel of the Beatitudes, as a spiritual pathway to Heaven. This third promise of our Blessed Lord resonates stronger in our souls: amongst the challenges against our Faith, Hope and Charity, as well as the various crosses we have to bear in the midst of our duties, the peaceful voice of Christ echoes through the Liturgy of the Church. He consoles us in our sorrows, during our short pilgrimage in this “vale of tears”: he repeats everyday the only word which effectively and really consoles hearts when they feel dry, *Heaven*.

We are so often tempted to give up our duties towards our heavenly Father since we feel our weakness and consider our sins. However, if we daily “turn our sights” to this mysterious but real world of happiness, the reason of our life on earth, we would obtain the greatest (for it is supernatural) peace of soul. No matter the transitory consolations the world could provide, we know they will fade and eventually finish: our hearts are placed in the only unchanging place of peace, the Heavenly Court.

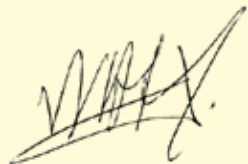
We firmly believe that the Blessed Trinity is the only Good able to offer a place of rest and repose for ever. Why would we look for other earthly goods? They are only means provided by the Creator to support us during our journey towards final Beatitude. Our Lord’s promise is clear: through our tears, we unite ourselves to his Blessed Passion, we mingle the blood of our sorrows to his Precious Blood, and this is the cause of our consolation amongst sufferings. We find more intimacy in the Passion of Christ than in consolations of earth.

This is how the Saints we celebrate during November lived in the world - at their time, in their own culture: we follow these great models of fidelity, for they are our “best - invisible - friends”. We all find in the mystery of the Communion of Saints a unique source of consolation, in the firm belief that our heavenly friends intercede for us before the Throne of God; this mystery also unites us as a spiritual family, in particular within the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest: the prayer of the Canons and of the Sisters during the divine Office gives a true glimpse of the unity of Angels and Saints singing the glory of our loving God.

Thank you so much for your support, your prayers and sacrifices for the Institute!

God bless you and all your families,

In Christo Rege,



Msgr Gilles Wach

Prior General of the Institute of Christ the King



# FROM SHROPSHIRE...

# ...TO CORNWALL

In Shrewsbury, where the Institute has been for the last two years, we are now offering the Sacrifice of the Mass at the Cathedral at 9.30am on Sundays and at 10am in the week. This year we saw the addition of Father Anslem Gribbin. We also saw the transition of all of our Masses to the Cathedral which is undergoing a reordering in light of its history and tradition. It is a tremendous gift to be at the Cathedral for Mass offered every day according to the Traditional Roman Rite with the strong support of His Lordship, Mark Davies, the Bishop of Shrewsbury.



In March, just before the lockdown, we were able to celebrate the last public Mass on the Feast of St. Benedict with chant and incense in the Church of St. Winefride.

The circumstances of this year allowed us to stream for a time the Masses which are now always available at <https://www.churchservices.tv/shrewsburycathedral>. We also were able to offer a selection of talks with Father Gribbin.

With the resumption of public Masses in July our first public Mass was at the High Altar of the Cathedral at noon. It was a blessing to see so many returning to the celebration of Mass.

After the chapter this August, Canon Michael Wiener was assigned as the Prior of the House of St. Chad and I was assigned to Lanherne Convent in Cornwall as the Chaplain to the Carmelite Nuns in the Diocese of Plymouth. Canon Wiener arrived from California in October.

The new apostolate in Cornwall is assisted by Abbé Patrick Matuszewski, a seminarian in his third year. In addition to the daily Mass for the nuns a Sunday Mass on Sunday afternoon in Plymouth is celebrated at St. Edward the Confessor.



Thank you for your support of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest. Please be assured that you are remembered in Shrewsbury and at Lanherne.

*Canon Scott Smith*

# ST BENEDICT'S ACADEMY

*Autumn 2020*

**“Do not put off till tomorrow the good you can do today. You may not have a tomorrow.”**

*St John Bosco*

**O**ur Catholic Academy in Preston, which meets part-time on Monday, Thursday and Friday, has begun its fourth scholastic year with much joy and enthusiasm. Despite the many evils present in our society now, we can see the extraordinary power of God's grace in the lives of children when formed by a truly Catholic education—an education not only of the mind, but also of the heart and of the moral character.

At Saint Benedict's we are so blessed to see the effects of the traditional liturgy and a constant presence of our Canons and Sisters on the spiritual growth of our children. Coupled with a rigorous and thoroughly Catholic curriculum, our students are given the tools to learn to love the faith and to love learning.

Confident in the help of divine providence, we hope that our little Academy will serve the glory of God and the salvation of souls. Come visit us soon!

*Canon Ryan Post*

*Director of Saint Benedict's Academy*

To enquire, call 07856 720 900



## HOUSE OF DISCERNMENT OF PRESTON



**T**he Feast of Christ the King means the beginning of a new year for our House of discernment in Preston. This year, Our Lord sent us six young men from England, Ireland and Colombia. Canons Cristofoli and Tanner will guide them in discerning their vocation within the Institute, either for the Seminary or the formation as oblates of the Institute. Please pray for them!

EXCERPT OF A  
LETTER OF SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES  
TO A YOUNG LADY  
CONCERNING HER VOCATION

14<sup>th</sup> December 1606

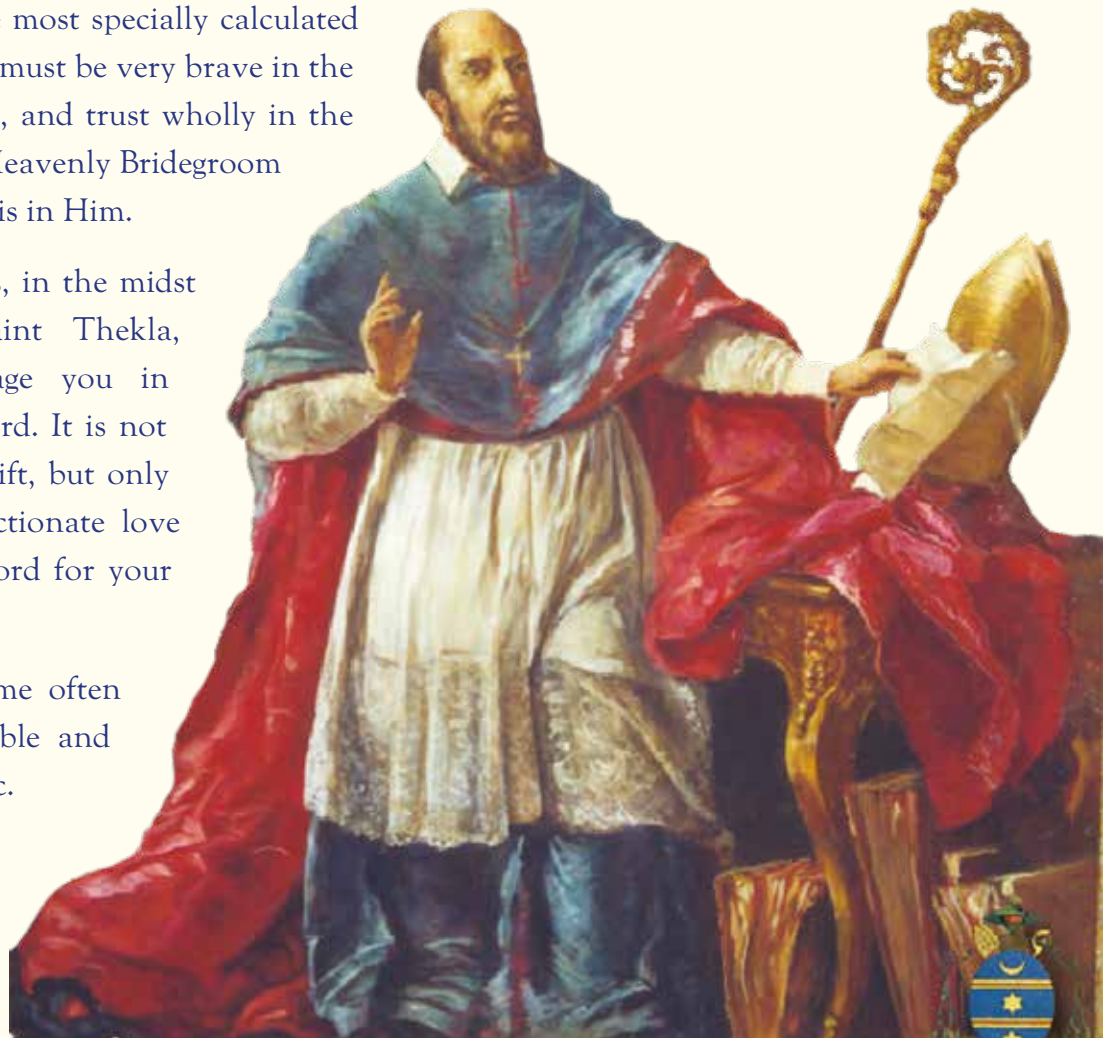
I AM very glad to hear that you are growing in the love of our Lord, as M. de N. tells me is the case, though he only spoke generally, mentioning no details save that you wish to become a Religious. The wish is a good one, doubtless, but you must not let it disturb you, as for the present it cannot be carried out. If our Saviour wills that it should be fulfilled, He will bring it about by means of His own, which as yet we know not.

But meanwhile, do the work which concerns you at the present moment; that is to say, go on quietly with your spiritual exercises; give yourself up many times each day, both heart and mind, into God's Hands, commending your work heartily to Him; consider what daily opportunities you have of serving His Divine Majesty, whether by your own advance in holiness, or by promoting that of your neighbour, and make a faithful use of all such. You will profit greatly, my daughter, by this practice, in the Love of God.

I know that you grieve sorely at being forsaken by your father; but you must say with your heart, as well as with your lips, "When my father and my mother forsake me, the Lord taketh me up."<sup>1</sup> Doubtless it is a cross, my child, to be thus forsaken of men, but it is a very holy cross, and one most specially calculated to win the Love of God. You must be very brave in the strength of this blessed Love, and trust wholly in the assurance we have that our Heavenly Bridegroom never fails those whose hope is in Him.

I send you a little cross, in the midst of which the martyr, Saint Thekla, is represented, to encourage you in suffering willingly for our Lord. It is not a return for your beautiful gift, but only in remembrance of the affectionate love which I bear through our Lord for your soul.

I pray you commend me often to Him, as your most humble and faithful in our Holy Cross, etc.



# LITURGY CORNER:

## THE MANIPULE

by Father Joseph Gribbin

One of the vestments used during the Holy Mass is the maniple. It is worn on the left arm of the priest, also by the deacon and subdeacon, at Solemn High Mass, and, of course, by the bishops. Where did the maniple come from ?



*Green Manipule from the brand new High Mass set at the Dome of Home, New Brighton.*

It is highly likely that the origins of the maniple appear in Old Rome. Those who were invited for a meal brought a serviette (a 'mappula'), held in their right hand, in which to wipe their mouths. After the meal was over, it was placed over the left arm, or in the fingers of the left hand, and returned home. Eventually the 'mappula' became a sign of status in society, and was even carried outside meal times. In the Fourth Century A.D., the consuls in Rome used the 'mappula' as a sign to indicate that the games or official meetings were open. In the period after Constantine (d. 337), the 'mappula' was used by some of the clergy.

In the Seventh Century, and before then, the 'mappula' appeared as part of the liturgical garments outside Rome. Even in the Ninth Century, when the use of the 'mappula' was almost universal, it was even used in certain monasteries by lay monks in choir during Mass, and by acolytes in Rome. From about the Eleventh Century the maniple was

regarded as a sign which indicated clerics in major orders, and eventually it was worn on the left arm.

From the eleventh century the 'mappula' became known as 'manipulus', 'maniple'. There are different explanations for this, but the maniple became associated with psalm 125, verse 6-7: 'Going they went and wept, casting their seeds. But coming they shall come with joyfulness, carrying their sheaves (manipulos)'. Bishop William Durandus (d. 1296), follows this explanation, which speaks of 'manipulos', in the sense of 'Cornsheaves', carried joyfully by the sowers, after they sowed the seeds in tears. This is also evident from the ordination of the subdeacons - 'receive the maniple, which represents the fruit of the good works' - and also in the prayer the priest uses when putting the maniple on : 'May I carry the maniple of tears and sorrow, in order that I receive the reward for my work with joy'.



Dear friends and benefactors,

The Canons of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest in the United Kingdom would like to announce with great joy that our Institute has now opened a new mission in England: at the gracious invitation of the Right Rev. Mark O’Toole, Bishop of Plymouth Diocese, Canon Smith and a seminarian are now serving the Community of Sisters at Lanherne, and celebrate the Extraordinary Form of the Mass both at St Maugwan (daily) and Plymouth (St. Edward’s Church on Sundays). We are most grateful to Bishop O’Toole for his trust in the Institute to respond to this mission in Devon and Cornwall, where our Canons have received a warm welcome and support and are delighted to work in excellent collaboration with the local clergy.

This is a blessing for our community since we know that the Sisters of Lanherne are praying hard and daily for us and the apostolates of our dear Institute in Great Britain. Canon Wiener has now arrived from the USA (Oakland) to serve at Shrewsbury Cathedral with Father Gribbin; we are happy to welcome him to this other beautiful part of the country.

As you would easily imagine, this growth of the Institute implies an increase of expenses and financial commitments, in particular in order to support the hard work of your Canons and their houses in the country: we also need to complete the current restoration projects of our churches in Preston and New Brighton. In New Brighton, the final phase of restoration is about to end, and we would like to concentrate all our efforts on St Walburge’s Church and provide means of subsistence and insurance to our increasing number of priests.

Thank you so much for all your continued support in the past, and your help to enable us to serve the Church in England!

Please be assured of our faithful prayers and of those of the Sisters Adorers of Jesus Sovereign Priest,  
In Corde Jesu,

Canon Amaury Montjean  
Pro-Provincial of England



Canon Montjean



Canon Wiener



Canon Cristofoli



Canon Smith



Canon Poucin  
de Wouilt



Father Gribbin



Canon Tanner



Canon Post

God bless you!



THE CHRISTIAN  
HERITAGE CENTRE  
at Stonyhurst

12<sup>th</sup> April - 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**Silent Clergy Retreat**  
« Mary Mother of Priests »

Preached by your Canons at the  
Christian Heritage Centre of  
Stonyhurst, BB7 9PZ

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