

Christus Imperat

Quarterly newsletter

of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest

Dear friends of the Institute of Christ the King,

O Felix Culpa!

As heaven's joy was announced to us during the *Exultet* of Easter Vigil, we heard these beautiful words sung by the Deacon: "O happy fault that merited such and so great a Redeemer!" We can only let our hearts be inflamed with the fire of such divine love and mercy coming from our Redeemer, who did not hesitate to take "the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men, and in habit found as a man. He humbled himself, becoming obedient unto death, even to the death of the cross." (*Phil 2:7-8*). What divine humility!

No one practiced this virtue, shown by Our Lord during his Passion, better than Our Lady. The month of May is especially dedicated to her devotion. At a time when our world is going through great difficulties, let us not forget that Our Lady was present with Jesus at the foot of the Cross, praying with her Son for the Redemption of mankind. This past Lent, the world was consecrated to her. May we renew in our hearts every day this solemn act.

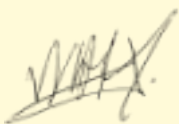
"Holy Mother, amid the misery of our sinfulness, amid our struggles and weaknesses, amid the mystery of iniquity that is evil and war, you remind us that God never abandons us, but continues to look upon us with love, ever ready to forgive us and raise us up to new life. He has given you to us and made your Immaculate Heart a refuge for the Church and for all humanity. By God's gracious will, you are ever with us; even in the most troubled moments of our history, you are there to guide us with tender love." (*Consecration, 25th March 2022*)

Because she is our Mother in heaven, she will never disappoint her devoted children, truly repentant and never forgetting that she participated in the Sacrifice of her beloved Son as she offered her prayers and sufferings as co-redemptrix for our conversion.

"Wherefore, beloved brethren, you who are now present at the admirable brightness of this holy light, I beseech you to invoke with me the mercy of Almighty God." (*Easter Vigil, Exultet*)

Happy Eastertide!

God bless you,




Msgr Gilles Wach

Prior General of the Institute of Christ the King



EXULTET JAM ANGELICA TURBA CAELORUM

Explanations upon the consecration of the Paschal Candle during Easter Vigil

by Dom Prosper Guéranger (Excerpts from the Liturgical Year)



“**T**he sun is setting, and our earth will soon be mantled in darkness. The Church has provided a torch, which is to spread its light upon us during the whole of this long Vigil. It is of an unusual size. It stands alone, and is of a pillar-like form. It is the symbol of Christ. Before being lighted, its scriptural type is the pillar of a cloud, which hid the Israelites when they went out from Egypt; under this form, it is the figure of our Lord, when lying lifeless in the tomb. When lighted, we must see in it both the pillar of fire, which guided the people of God, and the glory of our Jesus risen from his grave.

Our holy Mother the Church, would have us enthusiastically love this glorious symbol, and speaks its praises to us in all the magnificence of her inspired eloquence. [...]

The Deacon proclaims the Easter Solemnity to the people, whilst chanting the praises of this sacred object: and whilst celebrating the glory of Him, whose emblem it is, he becomes the herald of the Resurrection. [...] The Deacon, as the interpreters of the Liturgy tell us, represents Magdalene and the holy women, on whom our Lord conferred the honour of being the first to know his Resurrection, and to whom he gave the mission of preaching to the very Apostles, that he had risen from the dead, and would meet them in Galilee. [...]

The Deacon, taking the five grains of incense, fixes them in the candle in the form of a Cross. They represent the five wounds received by our Lord upon the Cross; as also, the perfumes which Magdalene and her companions had prepared for embalming his Body in the tomb. [...]

Then the Deacon lights the paschal candle. This signifies the instant of our Lord's Resurrection, when the divine power restored his Body to life, by uniting with it the Soul which death had separated. The glorious symbol of Christ, our Light, is now perfect; and holy Church exults in the thought of soon beholding her heavenly Spouse triumph over death.”





NEW BRIGHTON



After celebrating the birth of our Divine Saviour for the first time in the newly restored interior of Ss. Peter & Paul and St. Philomena, the past few months have been filled with many blessings from our Holy Infant King. The most impressive of all has been the number of new faces we see week after week, asking us for the sacraments, blessings, catechism, and spiritual direction, all to grow closer to our Blessed Lord and cooperate with His grace.

We were hard at work during Lent, getting the church all in order after the restoration works, installing new chandeliers and lighting to illuminate the beautiful interior, and finishing some of the many projects to prepare for Holy Week. During that time also, we celebrated some very important feast days for both the Institute of Christ the King and the Universal Church. Having consecrated the Institute to St. Joseph on 19th March, we then united our prayers with the Holy Father and Catholics throughout the world on the Feast of the Annunciation as we consecrated Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, praying for the people of Russia and Ukraine.

The climax of everything however has undoubtedly been the splendour of the Holy Week liturgies and the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ this Easter when souls both young and old experienced the beauty and mystery of the Sacred Triduum.





PRESTON

In Preston, the mission of forming your future priests continues apace, as the fifth year of the candidate house now draws to a close. On 11 July, this year, our five young men will complete their first year of formation here before moving on to greater things. God's bounty shows itself in the promise of future blessings as well. Already, many young men have applied for next year and others schedule visits at Saint Augustine's house to discern their calling.

The mission of edifying the house of God continues spiritually and materially — we are grateful to divine providence for the progress in restoring the shrine church of Saint Walburge. Presently, phase one work on the new roof is approaching a successful conclusion this summer. The intercession of Saint Joseph has never failed us in the past and we are confident of being able, by the grace of God, to continue this restoration in the future.



We now look forward to the renewal of our annual Corpus Christi procession with Preston Deanery. After two years of live-streamed ceremonies, we are overjoyed to unite again with our local diocesan clergy in offering public honour and worship to our Eucharistic King. Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar!



HOLY WEEK WITH THE SISTER ADORERS

In this most important time of the liturgical year, we were pleased to be able to fulfil our vocation: adoring Our Lord, helping the canons prepare our churches and practising the chant for the special Offices of Holy Week.

We asked the Holy Trinity for many graces for all of you and for our unhappy world. May our Risen Lord grant all of us His abundant joy and peace! Many thanks for your generous support and for your prayers.





SHREWSBURY

After most of the Covid related restrictions have been lifted, a growing number of faithful continues to gather at St. Winefride's church in Shrewsbury to celebrate the sacred mysteries of the Mass each Sunday at 12.30 pm and on weekdays. Especially, the silent Adoration and Benediction twice a week before the evening Masses is a welcome occasion for personal prayer and meditation.

The liturgy of Holy Week has been celebrated this year again in its entirety. To accompany Our Lord during His entering into the holy city of Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and during His Passion, many came from far and near and benefited from the specific graces offered through the Church during this time. Also through the generous practical help and numerous contributions of flowers, linens, candleholders and many other things, the liturgy reflected again the dignity and gravity of the mysteries of our faith.



On the feast of St. Joseph in March, Canon Wiener was able to offer a spiritual talk: "Ut palma florebit" - about the meaning of justification, sanctity and the goal of perfection in our spiritual life.

The Institute continues to be exceedingly grateful for the hospitality of the Cathedral parish and all faithful at St. Winefride's.

"UT PALMA FLOREBIT": ST FRANCIS DE SALES ON ST JOSEPH

"We cannot doubt at all that this glorious saint has great influence in heaven... He will obtain for us, if we have confidence in him, a holy growth in all kinds of virtues, but especially in those that we have found that he possessed in a higher degree than any others, which are most holy purity of body and mind, the most lovable virtue of humility, constancy, courage and perseverance: virtues which will make us victorious in this life over our enemies and which will make us merit the grace to go and enjoy in eternal life the rewards prepared for those who shall imitate the example given them by St Joseph while he was in this life, a reward that will be nothing less than eternal happiness, in which we shall enjoy the luminous vision of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."



LANHERNE AND PLYMOUTH

So much grace in such a small space. The Celebrations of Holy Week with the Sisters of Lanherne went very well. We were happy to welcome a visiting cantor for the week and for Good Friday and Holy Saturday a few additional members from the Schola Gregoriana Malvernensis. They sang the *Crux Fidelis* of Juan IV of Portugal on Good Friday as the faithful venerated the Cross and the *Kyrie* and *Sanctus* from the *Messa a Tre Voci* by Antonio Lotti at the Vigil Mass.

The chapel of St Joseph and St Anne (the title of the Convent Chapel) as well as St Joseph Hall will soon begin their restoration for the glory of God and for the use of the faithful. The grounds continue to be improved and have shown their fruitfulness already in the production of cider and apple juice available at the Convent.





TORQUAY

The apostolate opened in September 2021. Canon Tanner was appointed by the Bishop of Plymouth as Rector of Holy Angels Church, which is now a Shrine for Eucharistic Adoration.

We have Mass every day, Adoration and the opportunity for confession most weekday evenings and a Sung Mass on Sundays and feast days. We are we blessed with an enthusiastic team of altar servers, cleaners, flower arrangers and choir members.

A real community has formed at the shrine, with families coming together after Sunday Mass for refreshments and to socialize. This is followed by faith formation for adults and catechism for children.

For Holy Week we were equally blessed. On Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday we had the joy of a Solemn High Mass. We were joined by Abbé Aaron Zielinski, a second-year seminarian from Gricigliano, who will remain with us until June.



EASTER OFFERING

Dear friends and benefactors,

This issue of our Christus Imperat newsletter presents the celebration of the Triduum in the various apostolates of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest in England. Your canons and seminarians are always happy to live the sacred rites and prayers of the major events of our salvation through the Passion and Resurrection of Christ, but the mission of the Institute cannot continue without your prayers for our priests and for the men who are in formation to the priestly life at our seminary. The support we receive from your sacrifices and prayers offered with your family are almost tangible and a source of deep consolation.

The world does not understand the priests of Jesus Christ and sometimes even hates them, because they deliver a message of conversion against the pride of the devil. As we commemorate the apparition of Our Lady of Fatima, we should remember the importance of the priestly intercession to rescue souls from danger and peril.

With confidence, I would also like to ask for your continued financial help to assist the Canons of the Institute in England. With your faithful and generous support, your priests will be able to continue their mission and dedication to the very Will of God.

Thank you very much in advance for your help and your prayers!

May Our Lady of Fatima bless and protect you and your families!

Canon Amaury Montjean

Pro-Provincial in England



God bless you!



Canon Wiener
Shrewsbury



Canon Montjean
New Brighton



Canon Tanner
Torquay



Canon Cristofoli
Preston



Canon Smith
Lanherne



Canon Poucin de Wouilt
New Brighton



Canon Weaver
New Brighton



Canon Ducret
Preston



Canon Post
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