

## **INTRODUCTION Feast of Christ the King**

**The Gospel passages from the past two Sundays referred to the kingdom of heaven – the account of the ten bridesmaids, and the account of the servants entrusted with the talents. Today we are told something about the King someone who will separate good from bad. In that memorable image of the shepherd separating the sheep from the goats. THE KINGDOM has a king and this kingdom is marked out and defined by clear action and inactions. The King will take his seat on his throne of glory, and he will separate people one from another.**

**The gospel passage can be read as a chilling and set of instructions and attitudes. It unsettles us by its very straightforward way of doing things like separating apples from oranges, or X' from Y 'the sheep are find disconcerting is that any separation divided from the goats on the basis of what was done and what was not done. One group is in; the other is out. that takes place at all. The notion of the king judging jars us. A sort of complacent thinking says "it does not really**

**matter what you do in any case because there isn't any difference .It's what is in your heart that counts'. If that were true then I think that there would be no need to separate the two groups.**

**This temptation to reduce our faith to vague and warm spiritual feelings is upheld by the gospel today. Our faith is meant to have an impact with the poor the imprisoned the sick the homeless and so on. If we reduce our faith to something that doesn't impinge on the world around us something that becomes a type of 'spiritual blanket' then we have emptied it of a crucial aspect and more importantly we have neglected to notice Christ.**

**This Gospel passage today ensures that to be a follower of Christ has its effect on those around us. The social dimension of the faith , is brought into relief when our faith impels to feed the hungry , to clothe the naked, and so forth. And what is particularly interesting is how the Lord represents the final Judgement . Excuses like, "When did we see you hungry in prison etc " will to be no avail. To neglect**

**to do it to the least is to neglect to do it to Christ.**

**From time to time those who beg on the streets say that one of the most disconcerting experiences they have is of being invisible to those passing by .We need to be careful when we are passing by. You'd never know who it is in fact that you missed. Let's open our eyes and the eyes of our heart. This may in fact lead to our salvation. AMEN.**