

## The Kingdom of Christ

Jesus was arrested at night by the guards of the chief priests and Pharisees (cf. John 18:3). He was brought before the Sanhedrin, where the chief priests accused him of many things (Mark 15:3). The Sanhedrin also accused Jesus of blasphemy (cf. Matthew 26:65), as two false witnesses came forward saying, “This man said, ‘I can destroy the temple of God and within three days rebuild it.’” (Matthew 26:61)

The next morning, the Sanhedrin sent Jesus to trial before Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea. They charged Jesus before Pilate as follows: “We found this man misleading our people; he opposes the payment of taxes to Caesar and maintains that he is the Messiah, a king” (Luke 23:2).

The Sanhedrin knew it would be useless if they charged Jesus for blasphemy before Pilate, because Pilate couldn’t care less for their Jewish religion; therefore, they charged Jesus before Pilate for treason. Claiming to be king in the Roman Empire was considered a crime of treason because it was considered as usurping (or taking over) a function of the state.

Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants [would] be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here” (John 18:33, 36).



There are at least two interpretations of the kingdom that Jesus spoke of. One of them is that Jesus was referring to His kingdom in heaven, which is not of this world. Another interpretation is that Jesus was referring to His kingdom of believers – in whose hearts Jesus reigns. This kingdom of believers is also not of this world in the sense that its subjects do not follow the ways of the world. Jesus said, “They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world” (John 17:16).

Jesus’ kingdom of believers is a community of believers who listen to the word of God daily and live their lives according to the way of Jesus Christ. On one hand, they live according to the beatitudes: they are poor in spirit and meek, they hunger and thirst for righteousness, they are merciful and clean of heart, they are peacemakers, they are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, they are insulted and accused falsely of every kind of evil for Christ’s sake (cf. Matthew 5:3-11). On the other hand, they are neither fornicators nor idolaters nor adulterers nor sodomites nor thieves nor greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor robbers (cf. 1Cor 6:9-10).

The manner in which we live our lives testifies to whether we belong to the kingdom of Christ or not. And yet, the kingdom of Christ on Earth is considered is not yet fully realized. The full realization of Christ’s kingdom, where all evil and suffering are eradicated, is still anticipated and will occur at the return of Jesus Christ. As St. John the Apostle said, “Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is” (1John 3:1-2). This is an event that those who belong to Jesus’ kingdom of believers truly hopes for and awaits.

Prayer List: Lydia Chen, Lu Shumi, David Wang, Chen Jianxin, Liang Chenjing, Pan Bohao and Xu Taicheng.

2024年十一月二十四日 November 24, 2024

每周公告 Weekly Bulletin

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THE HOLY NAME of Jesus CHINESE CATHOLIC MISSION

耶穌聖名華人天主堂

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Advent/Christmas Mass schedule is now available. Please pick up a copy at the church foyer. The same schedule is also posted on our church website: [hnojatl.org](http://hnojatl.org).

Attention all Chinese Cursillo members: We will have our monthly ULTREYA today. Please proceed to the conference room immediately after Mass.

December 3 is Giving Tuesday. This year, we hope to raise funds to support the first "Chinese Track" at the 2025 Eucharistic Congress and to help defray the cost of hosting our special guests who will hold seminars and worship activities in our church from June 18 to 24, 2025.



We are accepting donations now - please use the iGiveCatholic envelopes. If you are writing a check, please make your check payable to HNOJ and write CHINESE TRACK in the memo. Thank you for your support!

On December 21, Saturday, Fr. Wu Biao will lead our Advent retreat. The Advent retreat begins at 10:00 am and ends at 4:00 pm. Lunch will be provided at noon. The next day, Sunday, Fr. Wu will preside over the Sunday mass and will do a sharing with everyone after Mass. Fr. Wu is from Shanxi, China, and is currently working on a master's degree at Seton Hall University in New Jersey.



"Helping Mamas" is an organization that helps families, women and babies in need. Our church volunteers will be there on January 11, 2025 from 9am to 11am to help organize all donations. If you are interested in participating, please sign up with Angela Ooi.

Reserve the date: Fr. Bill encourages all parishioners to make plans to participate in the Eucharistic Congress in Atlanta next year on June 20-21, 2025. Our church will host the first-ever Chinese Track in the Eucharistic

Congress. We have invited the Most Reverend John Lee Juo-wang, Bishop Emeritus of the diocese of Tainan, Taiwan and Fr. Francis Ching of the Companions of the Cross based in Toronto, Canada as guest speakers. We have also invited a Chinese band led by Mr. Jianren Zhu from Los Angeles.

Mass Schedule	Confessions	Bible Study
Sundays 10:30 AM (Chinese)	Sundays 9:00-9:30 AM	Wednesdays 10:00 AM (Chinese)
Sundays 2:00 PM (English)	Tuesdays 2:00-3:00 PM	Mondays 6:00 PM (English)
	By Appointment	
Mondays 12:00 PM (English)		<b>Eucharistic Adoration</b>
Tuesdays 12:00 PM (English)	<b>Anointing of the Sick</b>	Sundays 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM
Wednesdays 12:00 PM (Chinese)	First Sundays after 10:30 AM Mass	Tuesdays 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Fridays 12:00 PM (English)		
First Friday 7:00 PM (English)		
First Saturday 10:00 AM (Chinese)		