

## Homily Preparation

One way that a priest might like to prepare his homily for the Feast of Christ the King would be to meet with young people to reflect on the readings together. The purpose of the homily is to nurture people in the Christian living through a reflection on the texts of the liturgy. What is being celebrated is brought together with the needs of the local community.

The intention of this process is not to do the priest's homily — he will still need to go away and write it — but to allow young people's insights to feed into his own reflection. This process might also be helpful when preparing some of the reflections for another time of prayer outside Mass.

When the group meets it would be a good idea to listen to the word in the context of prayer — perhaps using a method of Lectio Divina, e.g. the passage read a couple of times with pauses for silent reflection in between.

The following are some questions which might help begin the discussion.

- What does the Gospel tell us about Jesus?
- What does the Gospel tell us about what it means to a King or a political leader?
- Are there examples of people feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger — the corporal works of mercy — in our community?
  - Is there more we could do?
  - What might be the small steps of mercy people might do to 'reclaim the future'?

## Prayer of the Faithful

The Prayer of the Faithful ('bidding prayers') can be written by and presented by young people. A good way to do this is to give general themes for prayer to individuals or small groups – it means you'll avoid repetition as they write the prayers. You'll need to choose a response that is said by the congregation after each prayer.

Suggested themes for the prayers:

- For young people on this National Youth Sunday
- That the Church will work together as a community of faith
- That we will answer God's call to live sustainably

# WE CAN RECLAIM THE FUTURE!



- For people living in poverty
- That we may have hope as we seek to reclaim the future

Generally speaking, the celebrant will introduce these prayers. After the final intercession, it is customary to invite the congregation to pray silently for their own needs. The celebrant will then conclude with a closing prayer.