

Life to the Full:

Living faith within our families

Monthly newsletter for parents: **November 2018**



The story of “The King of Hearts”

Once upon a time there was a village. It was the most beautiful village in the whole world, and everyone who lived there was filled with joy and life. It was the happiest place on earth, and the ruler of this village was the King of Hearts.

But one day a stranger arrived and said, “In other villages I’ve been to, people are much happier. You need a new king!” Everyone in the village believed him - all except one little girl who shouted, “Long live the King of Hearts!” But the people told her to be quiet. They arrested the King of Hearts, threw him in prison and advertised for a new king.

For a year, the King of Clubs reigned over the village, with food and drink and non-stop celebrations. But the villagers eventually became sick,

exhausted and bored of partying.

Then the King of Diamonds turned up and gave everyone a sack of gold. But after a year, the villagers had squandered all their money and had become jealous of each other’s possessions.

Finally, the King of Spades arrived and told the villagers to ‘Trust No One’. The villagers were so afraid that for a year they hid away in their houses and refused to come out.

All except the little girl. She visited the King of Hearts every day.

One day, in spite of their fear, the villagers followed the little girl to see where she was going and why she was so happy. At the prison door the little girl turned around, saw the villagers and said, “The King of Hearts

will be happy to see you all!”

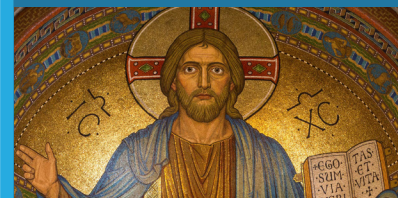
“No, he won’t,” said the villagers, “We locked him away and followed other kings. How can he ever forgive us?” They fell to their knees, asking for forgiveness and begging for mercy.

At that moment the prison door burst open. The King of Hearts embraced the villagers one by one, and instantly all traces of spades, clubs and diamonds were wiped away. The little girl took the King of Hearts’ hand and led him back to his home.

And the village? The village became more beautiful than it had ever been before.

Prayer

Dear Jesus,
I invite you to be King of my heart.
Help me to follow your ways and
live well in your Kingdom.
Amen



Christ the King

Our hearts are like a little kingdom; and we have to choose who the king should be. If we choose a bad king, like the bad kings in the story, we will have jealousy, greed and fear in our hearts. But, like the little girl, if we choose a good king we can be happy and peaceful.

Just like the King of Hearts, Jesus was arrested by people that once called him their King. His subjects forgot about him and didn’t want him to be King of their hearts anymore.

Pilate summoned Jesus and asked

him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”
Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world.”
John 18: 33, 36

The Kingdom Jesus is talking about is the Kingdom of heaven. And no matter who we are or what we’ve done, Jesus offers us forgiveness, love, welcome and an invitation to a personal relationship with him. All we have to do is ask Jesus to be the King of our hearts.

Just like the villagers in the story, it is easy for us to become distracted by

pleasure, wealth and worries. The end of November (Sunday 25th) marks the feast of Christ the King and the end of the Liturgical year. It is a time of celebration, and a good time for us all to reflect on what or who rules our hearts, so we can start the new season refreshed.