

Ron Rolheiser

A reading from the second book of Samuel 5:1-3

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron.
‘Look’ they said ‘we are your own flesh and blood.
In days past when Saul was our king,
it was you who led Israel in all their exploits;
and the Lord said to you,
“You are the man who shall be
shepherd of my people Israel,
you shall be the leader of Israel.”’
So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron,
and King David made a pact with them at Hebron
in the presence of the Lord,
and they anointed David king of Israel.

Responsorial Psalm 121:1-5. *R. see v.2*

(R.) Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say:

‘Let us go to God’s house.’

And now our feet are standing

within your gates, O Jerusalem. (R.)

*2. Jerusalem is built as a city
strongly compact.*

*It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord. (R.)*

3. For Israel’s law it is,

there to praise the Lord’s name.

*There were set the thrones of judgement
of the house of David. (R.)*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians 1:12-20

We give thanks to the Father
who has made it possible for you
to join the saints and with them to inherit the light.
Because that is what he has done:
he has taken us out of the power of darkness
and created a place for us in the kingdom of the Son
that he loves, and in him,
we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins.
*He is the image of the unseen God
and the first-born of all creation,
for in him were created
all things in heaven and on earth:
everything visible and everything invisible,
Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignties, Powers –
all things were created through him and for him.
Before anything was created, he existed,
and he holds all things in unity.
Now the Church is his body,
he is its head.
As he is the Beginning,
he was first to be born from the dead,
so that he should be first in every way;
because God wanted all perfection
to be found in him
and all things to be reconciled through him and for him,*

The Liturgy of the Word

*everything in heaven and everything on earth,
when he made peace
by his death on the cross.*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed is he who inherits
the kingdom of David our Father;
blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according Luke 23:35-43

The people stayed there before the cross watching Jesus.
As for the leaders, they jeered at him.
‘He saved others,’ they said, ‘let him save himself
if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.’
The soldiers mocked him too,
and when they approached to offer him vinegar
they said, ‘If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.’
Above him there was an inscription:

‘This is the King of the Jews.’

One of the criminals hanging there abused him.

‘Are you not the Christ?’ he said.

‘Save yourself and us as well.’

But the other spoke up and rebuked him.

‘Have you no fear of God at all?’ he said.

‘You got the same sentence as he did,

but in our case we deserved it:

we are paying for what we did.

But this man has done nothing wrong.

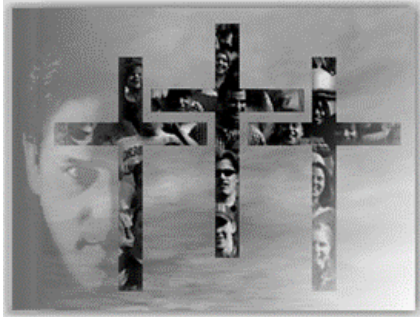
Jesus,’ he said, ‘remember me

when you come into your kingdom.’

‘Indeed, I promise you,’ he replied,

‘today you will be with me in paradise.’

Even in extremis, Jesus and one of the other victims of crucifixion are able to reach out in genuine solidarity to each other. How ironic that it is a condemned thief who testifies to Jesus as Christ the King and how appropriate that we finish the liturgical year with Jesus giving a repentant sinner the assurance of redemption. In this story the powerless are gracious and the powerful are crude and uncaring. When our God is such a compassionate God, it is scandalous that we so frequently lack compassion. -Dr Jenny Close



SACRED HEART PARISH

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PARISH SCHOOLS: **St Mary’s Primary School**

Principal: Mrs Noeleen O’Neill

Carroll College Principal: Mrs Jacqueline Heffernan

THIRTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(Year C) 24/11/2019

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil 6pm Moruya;

Sunday at ‘The Pines’, Tuross 8am; Moruya 10am

Weekday Masses: Monday Communion Service 9.15am;

Weekday Masses: Tues 5.30pm, Wed, Thurs & Fri 9.15am.

Wednesdays 2pm Banksia Village.

1st Thursday of the month,

10.30am at IRT, Moruya.

-Rosary after Mass

Reconciliation: Saturday 10—10.30am

Baptisms, Anointings, Weddings & Funerals by appointment.

For the sick: Fr Kevin Murphy, Lee & Jerome Maat, Gail Moss,
Kay Morton, Lauri-Anne Foran, John Bolton, Norman Collins,
Graham Beer and Nick de Grave

Solemn Feast of Christ the King

Today’s Feast is indeed a grand one, with a grand title!
But we have to be careful to tune out of anything that
comes from the practices of our royal families, and
make sure that our celebration of the One who rules the
Kingdom of God is in His terms, not ours.
To get the point of the kingship of Christ, we must take
into our hearts the texts of Sacred Scripture that deal
with this matter. The biblical teaching is quite counter-
cultural: it is precisely in the rejection of this world’s val-
ues, ways and procedures that the kingdom of God is
experienced by some as attractive and abhorrent by
others. That is what Jesus was like.
This ‘some’ vs ‘others’ division is reflected in the rela-
tionship Jesus has with his two fellow victims of crucifix-
ions: to abuse Jesus or to appeal to him. The choice of
the former option by some remains the ironic appeal to
others of Jesus who have experienced abuse and the
myriad other ways of harsh and unjust treatment.

FROM RICHARD LEONARD Stephen Spielberg’s film *A.I.* opens in
the near future when couples are permitted only one child. Fam-
ilies also have robots, but the makers of these robots have not yet
been able to get them to ape human feelings. Professor Hobby
develops David, a robotic boy who ‘is able to love’. Hobby’s ques-
tion is, ‘Will human beings love him back?’ Henry and Monica’s
only son is in danger of death. They are selected as David’s first
foster parents. They grow to love him until their son recovers and
comes home. David is then abandoned, but he spends the rest of
the film trying to regain the love he has known.

David is caught between being robotic and human because he
develops a memory, at least he remembers what is like to be
loved by Monica. Spielberg seems to argue strongly in this film
that memory is ensoulment. It makes us who we are. It gives
us our spirit, our human compass. The film’s insight is im-
portant. It might be set in the future, but it is a commentary on
the present debates about DNA recreation and cloning. Spiel-
berg is right in as much as *A.I.* argues that we can never have a
clone or copy of someone because each person is made up of
his or her memories.

Memory is powerful. It is often one of the last faculties to go in
the human brain. It can be so strong that decades after an
event people can recall an experience as though it were yes-
terday. This recollection can bring back strong feelings, which
makes us laugh at the pleasure or weep over an unhealed hurt.
As insightful as Spielberg’s theology of the human person in
A.I. may be, it is inadequate for Christians. We all know people
who have limited or no memory and some, tragically, who
since birth are unable to communicate whatever they can re-
member. For Stephen Spielberg these people could be less hu-
man than we are. But for Christians it doesn’t matter if we re-
member or not, our soul or spirit is that which is alive to God’s
memory. We are privileged to know that God remembers us.
In today’s Gospel the good thief simply asks Jesus to
‘remember me’. And Jesus tells him that being remembered by
God is paradise. It’s a wonderful way to understand the King-
ship of Christ. We know that Christ our King is not about earth-
ly power, land, buildings, riches or might. We know Jesus’ King-
ship is not about lording it over us, or making us frightened of
his compassionate judgment. The power of Christ the King is
seen in his memory, holding every person in this world close;
calling each one of us by name.

What a feast day! The final day of the church’s year is when we
remember the saving memory of God! So in this Eucharist let’s
join our voice with all those who long for paradise and say,
‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.’

AND From Fr Michael Tate:

The Power of Remembering Memory is an awesomely power-
ful phenomenon. A passing comment or even aroma can lead
to the vivid recall of some event, some person, and we can still
feel the joy or sorrow, the happiness or trauma.
But it can decline. One of the sadnesses about a person suffer-
ing from Alzheimer’s Disease is that one cannot be sure that
one’s dearly loved father or mother really remembers you, and
you desperately want to be ‘brought to mind’.