

Homily on Feast of Christ the King by Canon Lamb at St. Ambrose's Church, Kidderminster.

“A Kingdom not of this world”; therefore, a Kingdom not of land or armies, not of power or prestige, not of conquest or fear. Rather, a Kingdom concerned solely with the human heart, and with TRUTH above all other things.

This world, OUR world, seems given over to untruth, And to half-truth. This was made clear to me as I have been reading the three volumes of the PRISON DIARIES of CARDINAL G. PELL, an Australian Archbishop falsely accused and convicted of the abuse of two altar servers in his Cathedral after High Mass. He was detained in prison for well over a year, much of his time spent in solitary confinement. In the course of his trial the TRUTH was sacrificed, and perjury was taken for granted as a means to an end. YES, his conviction appeared to serve the law but definitely Not the TRUTH. The Australian LCJ, in dismissing all the charges, spoke of the system of justice itself being on trial, and found wanting at almost every level.

We see truth being sacrificed in marketing and advertising – all in the interests of deceiving the consumer. In some countries there are even agencies of what is called “disinformation”. Even the title of proposed legislation in this Country does not speak truly – IT IS NOT ASSISTED DYING – IT IS ASSISTED SUICIDE, an uncomfortable truth not being faced or ignored by the proponents of the current Bill.

What, or who, do we believe? And what sort of world has been created where, now, so many even from the earliest age, suffer an identity crisis, who don't know who they are, in terms of gender? In trying to establish a true relationship between mind and reality, there are people who have completely lost sight of God, and are obsessed with self- fulfilment.

Our Lord was prepared to give himself away totally in order to bear witness to the TRUTH that we are not born for this world but to take our places in a Kingdom not of this world. This will only be accomplished IN and THROUGH Christ our Lord, who defines Himself as the WAY, the TRUTH and the LIFE. His words to us “If you continue in my word, you are truly disciples of mine. ...you will know the truth and the truth will make you free.”

The Archbishop's letter last week touched on the WORD of God being too, the WORD of LIFE, which we must allow to shape our lives, which gives meaning to everything we do.

SARAH and CHRIS, who are to be welcomed today into Full Communion with us are, like us, to bear witness to the TRUTH. Like us, they are to listen to Our Lord's voice, presented to us week by week and day by day in the Holy Scriptures.

The voice of TRUTH speaks in our troubled world, of compassion and forgiveness, rather than of violence and power. It speaks of justice rather than of greed. It speaks of service, and not of power and prestige. When all of us can begin to speak of the TRUTH as Our Lord did, even before a hostile listener, and when we become even more powerful in our witness because we live from the Truth which we profess, then we shall know that we are not far from the Kingdom of God, a glimpse of which will thereby be given to the world.