

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2022

19th January

Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?"

(Mt 2:2)

Humble leadership breaks down walls and builds up with love

Readings

- **Jeremiah 23:1-6** - He shall reign as king and deal wisely.
- **Philippians 2:5-11** - Who... did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited.

Reflection

True Leadership

Jeremiah denounces the bad leadership of the kings of Israel who divided and scattered the people, a leadership that destroyed nations and drove their citizens into exile. In contrast, the Lord promises a shepherd-king who will 'execute justice and righteousness in the land' and gather the flock as one.

Only in Christ have we seen the example of a leader truly after God's heart. In him we encounter a loving, humble servant who does not regard equality with God as something to be exploited. He comes to serve, rather than be served, and his followers are called to do the same.

Today, the Middle East is experiencing the loss of its people to exile as 'righteousness and justice' are becoming scarce commodities, not only there but throughout the world. Yet leaders, both in the world and in the Church, have a responsibility to bring together rather than to scatter or divide. The more faithfully Christians emulate the servant leadership of Christ, the more division in both the world and the Church will be overcome. As we work for righteousness, justice and peace for all, we witness humbly to the shepherd-king, and draw others into his presence.

Prayer

Just and righteous God,

we confess before you that we often covet worldly models of leadership.

Help us to seek our Lord Jesus Christ

not in the palaces of the powerful but in the humble manger.

May we emulate him in his meekness and become servants to each other in obedience to you.

We pray in the name of Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns forever in glory.

Amen.

Lá 2

“Cá bhfuil an leanbh seo atá saolaithe, Rí na nGiúdach?”

(Matha 2:2)

Le ceannaireacht atá umhal, bristear síos na ballaí agus tógtar ina ndiaidh le grá

Léamha

- **Irimia 23:1-6** - Rialóidh sé ina rí go críonna.
- **Filipigh 2:5-11** - An té úd a bhí i riocht Dé ó dhúchas, níorbh éadáil leis bheith ar chomhchéim le Dia.

Machnamh

Fíorcheannaireacht

Rinne Irimia cáineadh ar dhroch-cheannaireacht ríthe Iosrael mar gur scar siad agus gur scaip siad na daoine óna chéile mar chuid de cheannaireacht inar scriosadh na náisiúin agus inar díbríodh na saoránaigh chun deoraíochta. Tá codarsnacht shoiléir le déanamh idir an méid sin agus geallúint an Tiarna go seolfadh sé rí-aoire a dhéanfadh ‘breithiúnas agus ceart sa tír’ agus a thionólfadh an tréad mar aon tréad amháin.

Is i gCríost amháin a chonaiceamar sampla an fhíorcheannaire ar dheilbh Dé. Searbhónta grámhar umhal atá againn i gCríost agus ní éadáil leis bheith ar chomhchéim le Dia. Chun freastail a thagann sé, ní thagann sé le go ndéanfaí freastal air, agus iarrtar ar a lucht leanúna an rud céanna a dhéanamh.

Sa Mheánoirthear sa lá atá inniu ann, tá pobail á gcreimeadh de bharr go bhfuil ganntanas ann maidir le ‘breithiúnas agus ceart’, agus ní san áit sin amháin a fhaightear an ganntanas sin ach ar fud an domhain. Ach tá dualgas ar cheannairí, ar domhan agus san eaglais, tá dualgas orthu daoine a thabhairt le chéile seachas iad a scarúint nó a dheighilt óna chéile. Dá dhílse a dhéanann na Críostaithe aithris ar cheannaireacht uiríseal Chríost, is mó an deighilt a mbeidh an domhan agus Eaglais ábalta í a shárú. Agus sinn ag obair i dtreo na fíreántachta, an chirt, agus na síochána ar son cách, déanaimid fianacht umhan don rí-aoire, agus tugaimid daoine eile isteach ina láthair.

Prayer

A Dhia cóir, a Dhia an chirt,

admhaímid leat gur minic a bhímid i dtaobh múnlaí saolta den cheannaireacht.

cabhraigh linn ár dTiarna Íosa Críost a chuardach a bhaint amach,

agus ní i bpáláis na cumhachta a gheofar é ach sa mhainséar go humhal.

Is mian linn aithris ar a umhlaíocht agus is mian linn a bheith inár searbhóntaí dá chéile, dílis go léir duitse.

Guímid in ainm Chríost, an té a rialaíonn le do thaobh agus le taobh an Spioraid Naomh, i nglóire go deo.

Áiméan.