

Feast of Christ the King, 25/11/2012, Holy Trinity

John 18:33-37

When we moved to our first home after living all our married life in rectories there were many things that we wanted to do for ourselves.

One of the things that I did was to dig some new ground and form some kind of garden bed.

So I dug the ground, then I dug in some manure, left it for a while, dug it over again, added some other things and eventually it was ready for planting. (I am sure you enjoyed my lesson in gardening).

I wanted something that would stand tall, flower with a large flower that would attract other parts of nature to our block.

I suppose that I really wanted to make a statement, something like "we are here and we want to share it with other parts of God's creation.

Now let's see God's generosity and abundance at work."

So I planted some seed, sunflower seed in fact, and I tended them, watched them grow and, as I wanted, they grew tall.

Eventually they flowered, lovely big sunflowers that followed the sun around as it made its journey from east to west.

Along came the bees and other insects and eventually the birds to feast on the seeds.

Of course, some of the seed fell to the ground to start the whole process over again.

This was God at work with a little help from me.

Now what has this to do with our celebration today of the Feast of Christ the King and of the baptism that we are to celebrate in a few minutes?

Well, everything is the answer and I nearly said your work it out, but NO we will work it out together.

First, there is God's great abundance and generosity in nature that allows people like me to grow things in the garden.

Then the Kingship of Christ comes through servanthood and the suffering of the way of the cross and God's super generosity in the resurrection.

Then in God the Father's love in abundance, the Father gives us Jesus Christ, the suffering servant, the risen, living, Christ the King.

It is this Jesus whom we take into our hearts and lives that he may reign over our lives as we stand tall and follow the Son.

This is the same God who shares the abundance of the sunflower seeds with the insects and birds and our enjoyment in the beauty of it all.

In relation to the baptism this morning we witness God's love and abundant generosity in the birth from the mother's womb to the new life that will be experienced in the baptism with water and the Holy Spirit at the font.

It is our hope that Charlotte Jennifer will, like the sunflower, grow tall and flower in abundance in life with Christ the King in her heart and life.

As I tilled the soil, fed it and sowed the seed, so you, Adam and Vicki, Charlotte's godparents, other relations, friends and the members of this congregation will do the same for Charlotte and show the abundance of God's love and generosity in your life and in the life of Charlotte with Christ the King at the centre of your life as a family.