

The Kingdom Season

Colour: The colour of red is commonly used in church during this month – a colour which reflects both the work of the Holy Spirit and the sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross.

Red Poppies are used extensively at this time as a symbol of remembrance for people who have died or suffered in war or conflict.



Deesis mosaic, Christ Pantocrator, Hagia Sophia, Istanbul

Duration: The four weeks of November are often called the Kingdom Season. It is not really a separate 'season', like Epiphany or Lent, but it feels like one and is often treated as one.

Special features: This season represents the end of our annual liturgical pilgrimage. We have journeyed through Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Trinity and Ordinary Time, now we seek out God's kingdom on earth as well as in heaven. We have travelled through the cycle of incarnation and redemption and now we seek the glory of Christ's kingdom.

Main Characters: The company of heaven! All the Saints' that have led the Christ-life on earth. We also remember the faithful departed (All Souls'). But Christ the King is our primary focus. The final Sunday celebrates Christ the King who has completed God's work through his life, death and resurrection. The acronym INRI which appeared on the cross was a cynical reference by Jesus' Roman torturers to his kingship. The letters spell out in Latin *Iēsus Nazarēnus, Rēx Iūdaeōrum*. Today we wait for the New Kingdom to be revealed in all its fullness.

Mood: The Kingdom Season is a time for forgiveness, reconciliation and healing. The readings are apocalyptic in tone, depicting the end of the world and judgement themes predominate until they conclude with the triumphant Feast of Christ the King who will reign over all things in the peaceable Kingdom of God.

Festivals and Holy Days in the Kingdom Season:

All Saints', All Souls', Remembrance Sunday. During this period various Christian monarchs, priests, teachers of the faith, or mystics are remembered by name. The pinnacle of this season, however, is the celebration of Christ the King, always the Sunday before Advent Sunday.