



**This Sunday's Gospel Reading**  
**Solemnity of Christ the King, Year C**  
**(Luke 23: 35-43)**

**And the people stood by, watching; but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him vinegar, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."**

**One of the criminals who were hanged [alongside Jesus] railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we deserve it; for we are receiving the due punishment for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."**

**This is the Gospel of the Lord**



# Prayer One

## The Sign of the Cross

**Let us remember that everything we do is  
in the name of the Father, and of  
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

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***Reflection: This Sunday in England &  
Wales was National Youth Sunday. On  
this day we celebrate young people and  
the part that they play in the Church  
community.***



**Young people are an important part of the Church.  
After all, you will remain part of the Church for longer  
than any of us.**



**The sad thing is though, that young people often feel alienated and turned off by the Church. They often don't understand what God is saying to them about their lives and so they walk away looking for life-giving things in other places.**

**National Youth Sunday hopefully reminds young people that they are an important and valuable part of the Church. The Church loves them and the Church needs them.**

***Your challenge this week is to think about what the idea of church means to you. If it doesn't mean a lot to you then what can you do to reconnect?***



# Final Prayer

Loving Father,

**You are the God of the young and the old. You made us all, and you stay with us from the day we are born.**

**We pray especially this week for those who are young. As we focus on youth, help them all to feel connected to you and at home in your Church. Give them, life, love, happiness and joy. Help them to become everything that you want them to be.**

**In the name of the Father and of the Son...**



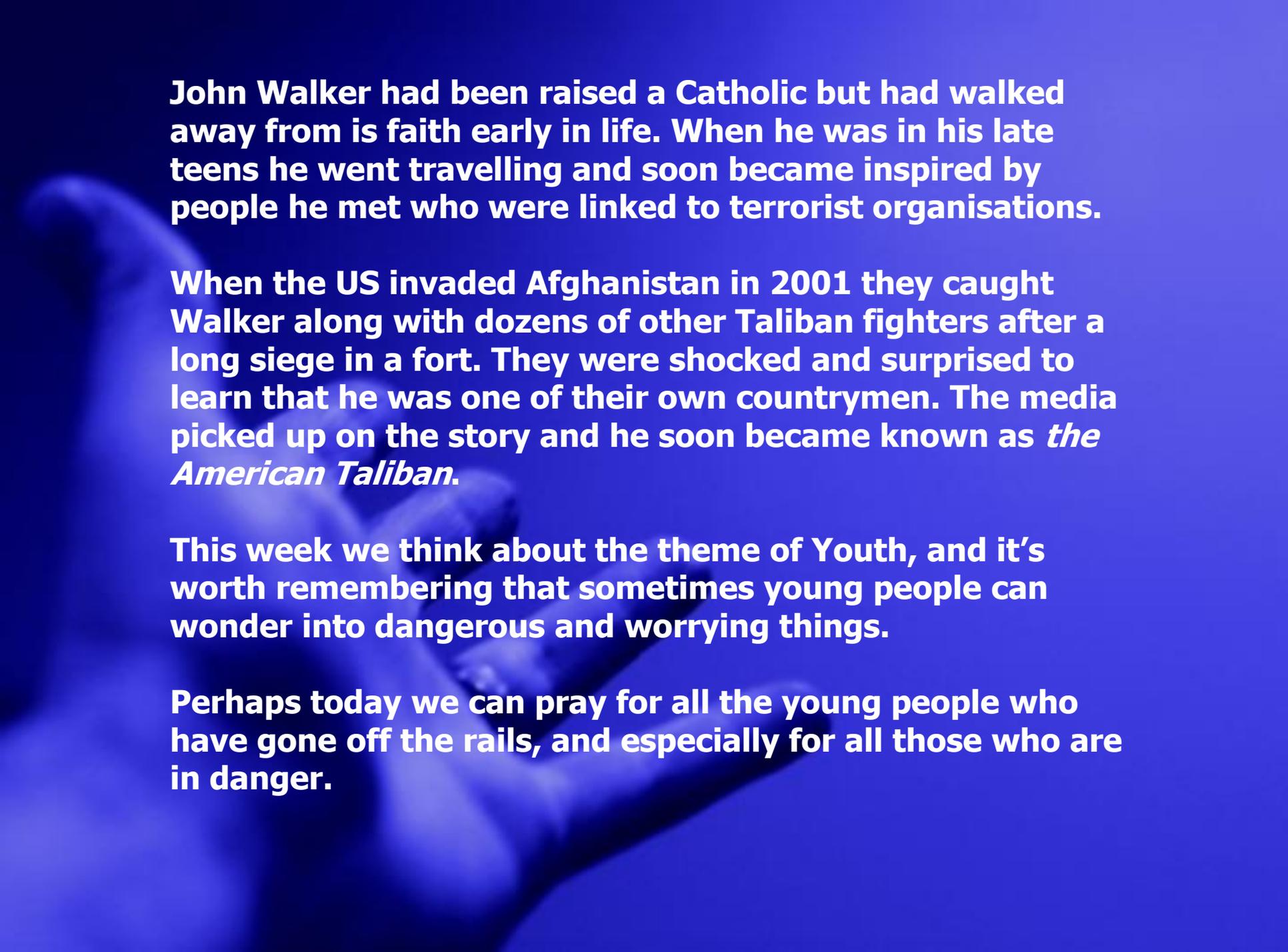
# Prayer Two

## The Sign of the Cross

Let us remember that everything we do is  
In the name of the Father, and of  
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

### *Reflection:*

*Around this time in 2001 and young American man was caught fighting alongside the Taliban in Afghanistan. He was fighting against his fellow countrymen.*



**John Walker had been raised a Catholic but had walked away from his faith early in life. When he was in his late teens he went travelling and soon became inspired by people he met who were linked to terrorist organisations.**

**When the US invaded Afghanistan in 2001 they caught Walker along with dozens of other Taliban fighters after a long siege in a fort. They were shocked and surprised to learn that he was one of their own countrymen. The media picked up on the story and he soon became known as *the American Taliban*.**

**This week we think about the theme of Youth, and it's worth remembering that sometimes young people can wonder into dangerous and worrying things.**

**Perhaps today we can pray for all the young people who have gone off the rails, and especially for all those who are in danger.**

# **Final Prayer**

**Loving Father,**

**We ask you this week to be with all those who are young. We ask for your special protection and care for all of the young people throughout the world who are unsure of themselves, and for all of those who are in dangerous or difficult situations. Be with them all, and bless them in everything that they do.**

**In the name of the Father and of the Son...**

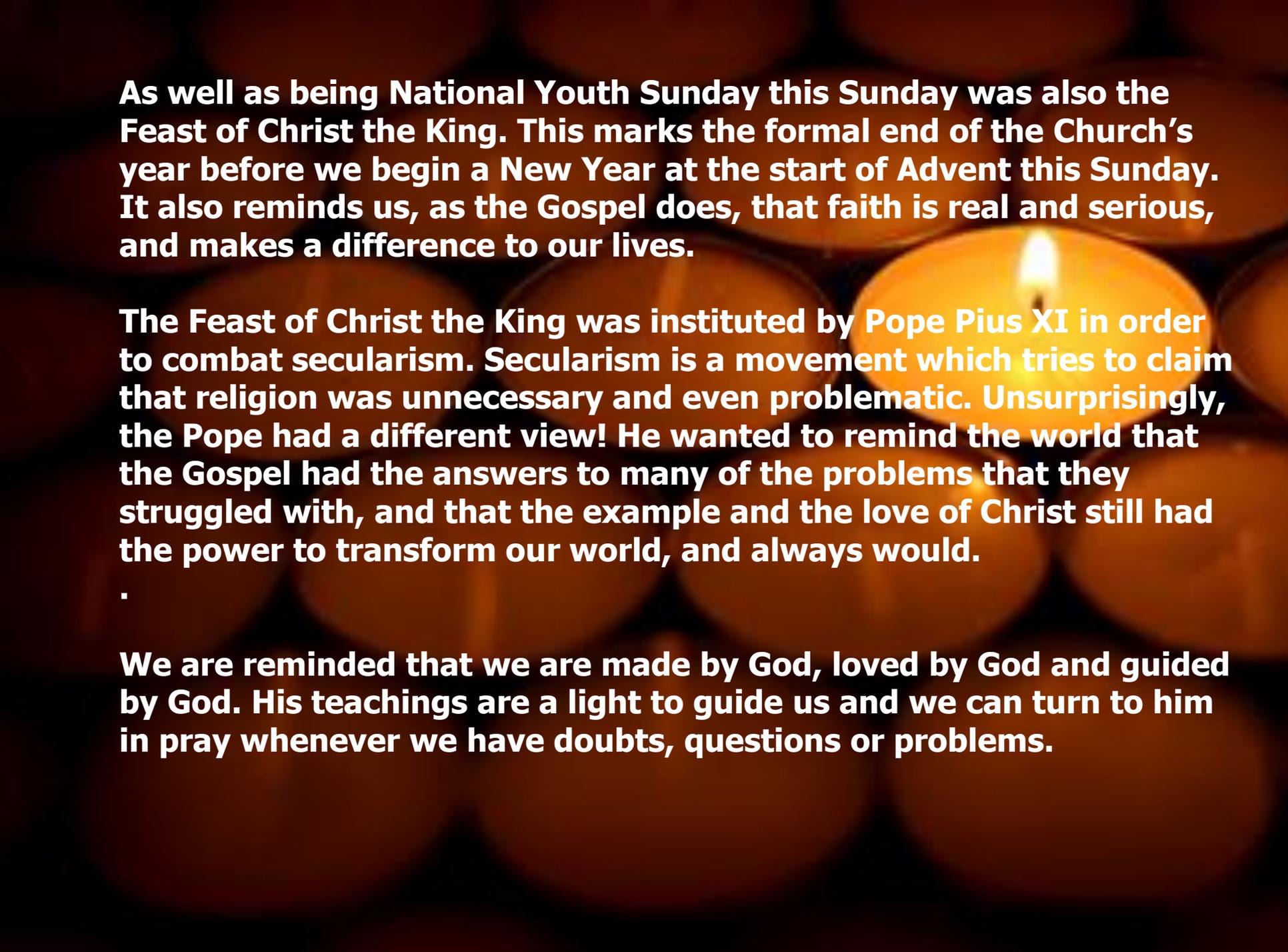
# Prayer Three

## The Sign of the Cross

Let us remember that everything we do is  
In the name of the Father, and of  
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

### *Reflection*

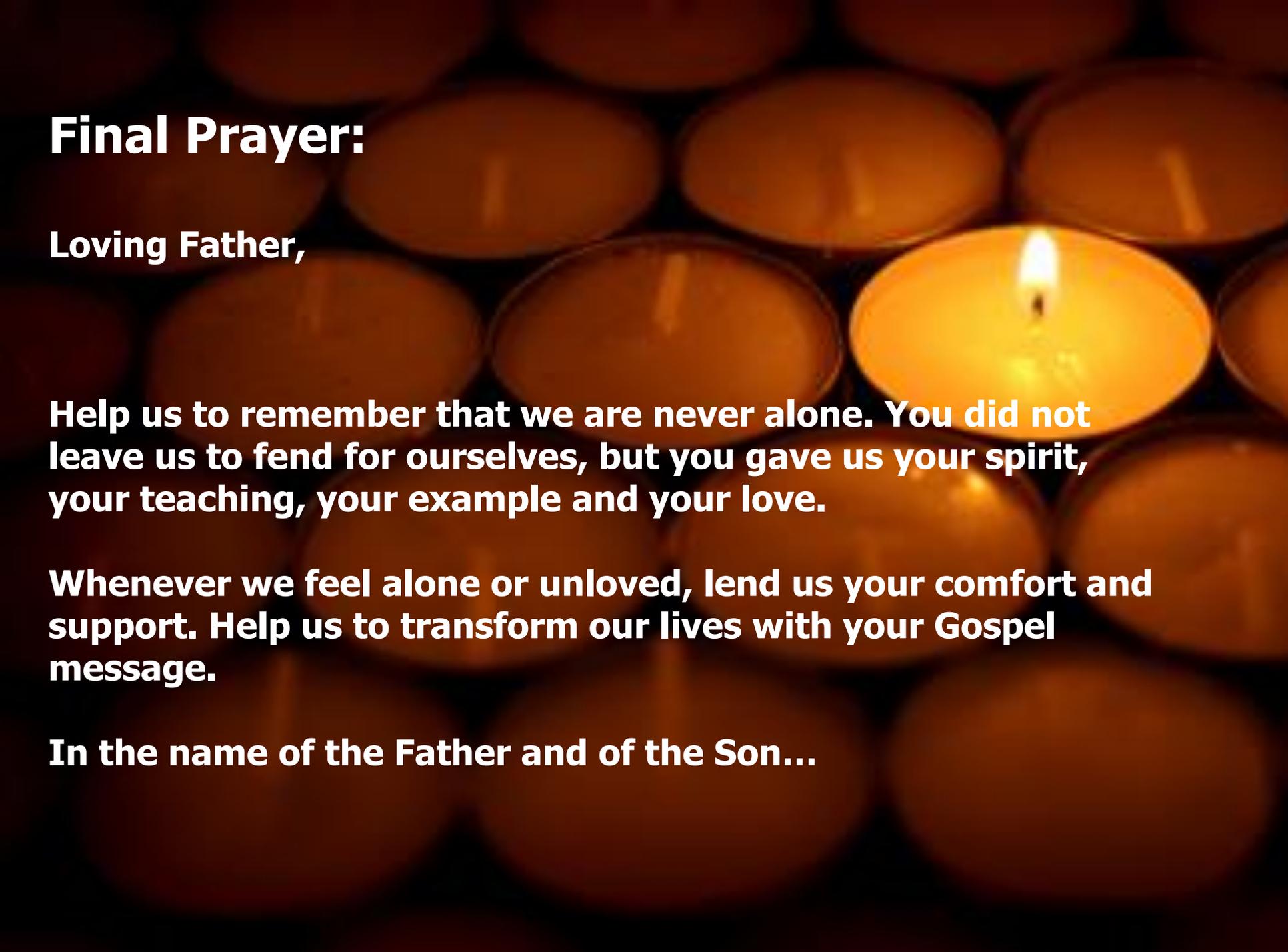
*This week's Gospel reading reminds us that, if we take our faith seriously, then Christ is at the heart of everything that we do.*



**As well as being National Youth Sunday this Sunday was also the Feast of Christ the King. This marks the formal end of the Church's year before we begin a New Year at the start of Advent this Sunday. It also reminds us, as the Gospel does, that faith is real and serious, and makes a difference to our lives.**

**The Feast of Christ the King was instituted by Pope Pius XI in order to combat secularism. Secularism is a movement which tries to claim that religion was unnecessary and even problematic. Unsurprisingly, the Pope had a different view! He wanted to remind the world that the Gospel had the answers to many of the problems that they struggled with, and that the example and the love of Christ still had the power to transform our world, and always would.**

**We are reminded that we are made by God, loved by God and guided by God. His teachings are a light to guide us and we can turn to him in pray whenever we have doubts, questions or problems.**



## **Final Prayer:**

**Loving Father,**

**Help us to remember that we are never alone. You did not leave us to fend for ourselves, but you gave us your spirit, your teaching, your example and your love.**

**Whenever we feel alone or unloved, lend us your comfort and support. Help us to transform our lives with your Gospel message.**

**In the name of the Father and of the Son...**



# Final Thought...

Sometimes, it falls upon a generation to be great. **You can be that great generation.** Let your greatness blossom. - Nelson Mandela

*Next weeks theme: Advent*