



# CALENDAR

DATE	FEAST	LOCATION
Mon, 1 July	Feast of the Precious Blood	Garran. 7AM (Low)
Tue, 2 July	Visitation of Our Lady	Garran. 7AM (Low)
Wed, 3 July	St Iranaeus	Garran. 7AM (Low)
Thu, 4 July	Votive Mass of Jesus Christ the High Priest	Garran. 7AM (Low)
Fri, 5 July	Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart (First Friday)	Garran. 7AM (Low); 6:30PM (Sung) followed by the Holy Hour until 8:15pm..
Sat, 6 July	Votive Mass of the Immaculate Heart (First Saturday)	Garran. 8AM (Rosary); 9AM (Low)
Sun, 7 July	7th Sunday after Pentecost	Garran— 8AM (Low) 9:30AM (Rosary) 10AM (Sung)

## HISTORY OF THE DEVOTION TO CHRIST THE PRIEST

The devotion to Christ the Priest has a rich and profound history within the Catholic Church, emphasizing Jesus Christ's role as the ultimate High Priest who mediates between God and humanity. This devotion focuses on the sacrificial nature of Christ's priesthood, His role in the Eucharist, and His continuing presence in the ordained priesthood of the Church. Here's an overview of the development and significance of this devotion:

**Biblical Basis:** The concept of Christ as the High Priest is deeply rooted in the New Testament, particularly in the Epistle to the Hebrews. This letter presents Jesus as the eternal High Priest who offers Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of humanity (**Hebrews 4:14-5:10; 7:26-28**).

Jesus' priestly role is also evident in the Last Supper, where He institutes the Eucharist, symbolizing His body and blood given for the salvation of many (**Luke 22:19-20**).

**The Early Church Fathers**, including **St. Augustine** and **St. John Chrysostom**, wrote extensively about Christ's priesthood. They emphasized His unique role in offering the perfect sacrifice on the cross and His ongoing intercession for humanity.

**Liturgical Focus:** During the medieval period, the liturgical life of the Church increasingly highlighted Christ's priestly role, particularly through the celebration of the Eucharist. The Mass was understood as a re-presentation of Christ's sacrifice on Calvary. The Feast of Corpus Christi, established in the 13th century, celebrated the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, further underscoring His priestly office.

**Scholastic Theology:** Theologians like St. Thomas Aquinas elaborated on the theological underpinnings of Christ's priesthood. Aquinas' writings on the Eucharist and the sacrificial nature of the Mass contributed significantly to the understanding of Christ as the High Priest.

• **Devotional Practices:** In 1652, **St John Eudes** in France wrote a Mass and Divine Office in honour of "The Priesthood of Christ and of all priests and levites", <<L'office du Bienheureux en l'honneur du Sacerdoce de Jésus-Christ et des saints Prêtres et Lévités>>.

• The feast of Jesus the High priest was celebrated in the Eudists, and in several French dioceses, including Rouen. The first date for the celebration was on November 15 1653, in the major seminary of Coutances. The date for the feast was later changed to November 13. The Priests of St Sulpice chose to celebrate the feast on August 30, then July 17 or another day during the scholastic year approved by the Bishop.

• When the **Benedictines of the Blessed Sacrament** followed the Sulpicians in adopting the Feast, they moved the celebration to Thursday following the Octave of Corpus Christi. The Feast was celebrated in several dioceses of France until the middle of the 19th Century.

**19th and 20th Century:** In response to the challenges of modernity and the Enlightenment, the Church sought to deepen the understanding and appreciation of Christ's priestly role. Devotions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which focus on His love and sacrifice, gained prominence.

Pope Pius XI, in his encyclical "Ad Catholici Sacerdotii" (1935), emphasized the importance of the priesthood and the need for the faithful to support and pray for priests. "We wish to perpetuate the memory and the glory of that Priesthood, of which that of all priests of Christ is but a participation and continuation... We have thought it opportune, after consulting the Sacred Congregation of Rites, to prepare a special votive Mass, for Thursdays, according to liturgical rules: to honour "Jesus Christ, Supreme and Eternal Priest."

**The formal establishment of the Feast of Christ the Priest** is relatively recent. It was instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1935 to be celebrated on the Thursday after Pentecost. This feast highlights the unique and eternal priesthood of Jesus Christ and the participation of ordained priests in His ministry.

**Trivvia Night**

**DATE: 20TH JULY 2024 (SAT)**

**TIME: 6:30PM**

**VENUE: STS PETER AND PAUL SCHOOL HALL**

**PRIZES FOOD DRINKS**

**\$15/ person**

**\$40/ family**

*Sign up sheet is located at the foyer*

*For any enquiry, please contact Fr Leung*