

Dear Padre,

*In the Our Father, we pray, “thy kingdom come.”
Will God’s kingdom come only at the end of the world?*

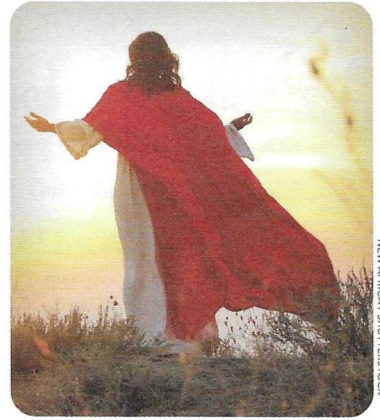
God’s kingdom will come in its fullness only at Jesus’ Second Coming, but the kingdom came into the world with Jesus’ first coming as a man. That means we are in God’s kingdom right now, but not in its fullness.

In the Scriptures, we read that John sends his disciples to ask Jesus if he is the messiah or if they need to wait for another. Jesus responds, “The blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the good news proclaimed to them” (Luke 7:22). These are all signs of the kingdom of God.

In the meantime, we don’t have to just wait for God’s kingdom to come in its fullness. We can make God’s kingdom more of a reality on earth by visiting the sick, caring for the poor, and being kind to others. Loving your spouse is a sign of the kingdom of God. God’s kingdom is among us, not completely but partially, and we can make it more of a reality in the good that we do for each other.

Jesus’ Second Coming will be at the end of time, an event Jesus himself did not know the time of: “But of that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father” (Mark 13:32). ●

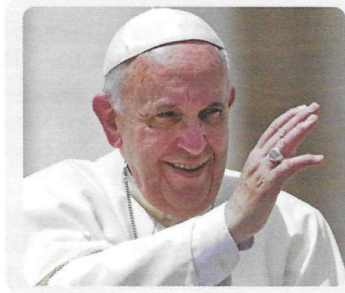
Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSsR
DearPadre.org



Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to **DearPadre.org** to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
February 5 <i>St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr</i> 1 Kgs 8:1–7, 9–13 Mk 6:53–56	February 6 <i>St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs</i> 1 Kgs 8:22–23, 27–30 Mk 7:1–13	February 7 <i>Weekday</i> 1 Kgs 10:1–10 Mk 7:14–23	February 8 <i>Weekday</i> 1 Kgs 11:4–13 Mk 7:24–30	February 9 <i>Weekday</i> 1 Kgs 11:29–32; 12:19 Mk 7:31–37	February 10 <i>St. Scholastica, Virgin</i> 1 Kgs 12:26–32; 13:33–34 Mk 8:1–10	February 11 <i>Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Lv 13:1–2, 44–46 1 Cor 10:31– 11:1 Mk 1:40–45



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Jesus shows a particular predilection for those who are wounded in body and in spirit: the poor, the sinners, the possessed, the sick, the marginalized. Thus, He reveals Himself as a doctor both of souls and of bodies, the Good Samaritan of man. He is the true Savior: Jesus saves, Jesus cures, Jesus heals.

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