

Christ Church Freemantle  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November – Christ the King  
St Cecilia



Today is celebrated in the Church of England as Christ the King, but 22<sup>nd</sup> November is also the feast day of St Cecilia. Cecilia was one of the most revered martyrs of the Roman Church, but the only thing we know for certain is that at some point in the second or third century, a woman called Cecilia allowed the Church to meet in her house in Trastevere in the city of Rome and that subsequently the church erected on that site bore her name. She was remembered as a brave woman who risked giving hospitality to the Christian Church

when to do so was to court censure and possibly death. According to tradition, she converted her pagan husband and his brother to the faith, both of whom were martyred before her. She is honoured as the patron saint of musicians.

It is probably quite apt that we remember St Cecilia at a time of great insecurity for all those in the creative arts. Covid-19 restrictions have meant musicians being out of work or with limited opportunities for many months now. In our churches, we haven't been able to sing together as a congregation for much of this year and we are now having to try to plan Advent and Christmas through a very strange time. We think of those losing their jobs or struggling with uncertainty and confusion, and we pray for all who must make difficult decisions. Maybe Cecilia's bravery should remind us to not lean too much upon our own understanding but to trust in God and his everlasting love for us. Whether or not we are able to sing God's praises out loud, we can always sing His praises in our hearts and minds.

*What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also. 1 Corinthians 14:15*

*Liz Coe*