

## Each of us is called to be an epiphany

**A**T Christmas we rejoiced that shepherds had come from the nearby hills to worship the newly-born Jesus. They were uneducated, poor Jews – a class despised because the task of shepherding prevented them from learning and observing the Jewish Law. And yet God chose them to be the first to welcome Christ as our saviour.

On today's feast of the Epiphany we celebrate God revealing himself to pagan wise men, who had travelled from a distant land. They were magi – highly respected scholars renowned for their knowledge of astrology. Building on that interest, God used a star to guide them from, possibly, modern Iraq or Iran to the babe at Bethlehem. They had to follow that star, make a long journey into the unknown, and then, when they reached the infant Jesus, make an enormous leap of faith. Seeing a normal baby they believed that he was truly God. The wise students of the stars worshipped the creator of heaven and earth.

Today we rejoice that right at the beginning of Christ's life God revealed himself to the pagan world. And the magi believed in him and welcomed him. At the very end of Matthew's Gospel the risen Lord commissioned the disciples to preach the Good News to the whole world. God became man because he wants people of every race and class to share his life and happiness. No one is excluded. That's the wonderful news we celebrate on the feast of the Epiphany.

Like the magi, we are called to make a journey of discovering Christ. God will lead each of us by a different route, depending on our backgrounds and interests. That was true for both the magi and the shepherds. Certainly all of us here have already set out on that journey of learning to know and love Christ. None of us has yet completed that journey, nor will we, till we see God face to face in heaven. In the meantime we, like the magi, must follow whatever star God uses to guide us. It's significant that for the magi to find Christ they required not only the guidance of a star, but also that of the scriptures, provided by Herod's religious advisers. Though human reason can teach us much about God, we need divine revelation to help us discover Christ and the wonder of the salvation he has planned for us.

So, with the magi and shepherds, come, let us adore the babe who is the Son of God.

And especially on the feast of the Epiphany let us rejoice that God has revealed himself to the pagan world and wants all of us to be saved, no matter our background. After all, this feast is not just about God offering salvation to the magi, but to us, who are of pagan, not Jewish stock. A final thought. Each of us is called to be an epiphany – someone revealing what it means to love and follow Christ. Our lives may be the only way most people will get to know what it means to be a Christian.

Fr Isidore O.P.

The Epiphany of the Lord

Year C

3 January 2010

## The Newsletter of HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER

Serving Leicester's Catholics since AD 1247



Sunday Masses	This week	Mass Intentions	Next week
6:00pm Vigil	Fr Fabian	Sr Olivia (recovery)	Fr Duncan
8:00am	Fr Fabian	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Isidore
9:30am Family	Fr Duncan	Chloe, Grandad & Sr Teresa, RIP	Fr Fabian
11:00am Solemn	Fr Peter	Christine Phillips, RIP	Fr Leon
12:30pm Old rite	Fr Thomas	Margaret Murphy	Fr Thomas
5:00pm Students	----	<b>No Mass now until next week</b>	Fr Peter
7:00pm	Fr Isidore	Krzysztof Plona (thanksgiving)	Fr Duncan

OTHER SUNDAY SERVICES	6:00pm Rosary	2 January	Confessions	9 January
9:00am Lauds	6:20pm Compline	Fr Isidore	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Isidore
5:45pm Vespers	6:40pm Benediction	Fr Duncan	5:00 - 6:00pm	Fr Thomas

The Leicester Theological Society's next talk will be given by Eleanor Nesbitt, Professor in Religions and Education at the Institute of Education, University of Warwick, on "Young Peoples' Religious and Spiritual Nature in a Diverse Society" on Friday 8 January. All are welcome. Meetings are held at Christchurch, Clarendon Park Road (near Queens Road) at 7:30pm. Cost is £5 (students no charge).

<b>Entrance Antiphon:</b>	The Lord and ruler is coming; kingship is his, and government and power.
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b>	Isaiah 60: 1-6
<b>Psalm Response:</b>	Lord, all nations on earth will adore you. (Ps 72)
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b>	Ephesians 3: 2-3a. 5-6
<b>Sequence (at 11:00):</b>	Laetabundus exultet fidelis chorus - The choirs of the faithful must rejoice. <i>The full text and translation is given in Emmanuel, p 115.</i>
<b>Alleluia:</b>	We have seen his star in the east, and have come to worship the Lord.
<b>Gospel:</b>	Matthew 2: 1-12
<b>Communion Antiphon:</b>	We have seen his star in the east, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.



The Dominican Community wish all our parishioners a happy and holy Christmastide and New Year



**MONEY MATTERS:** Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £925.37; SVP £11.50; Friends of Holy Cross £7.30; Holy Souls £11.90; Crib restoration £24.32. The McNabb Appeal fund now stands at £5171.97.

The collection on Christmas Day was your Christmas gift to the Dominican Friars at Holy Cross. Thank you for your kindness and support.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

New translation into English of the Roman Missal. The latest edition of the *Missale Romanum* was published in 2002. The English translations we use in the Mass at the moment are those produced by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) in the 1970s. ICEL has revised the translations to include new texts in the *Missale Romanum* and to conform to current requirements for translations. The new translation is likely to be brought into use before the end of 2010, and the diocese is organising a series of study days, one of which will be held in Leicester at St Patrick's Parish Hall, Beaumont Leys Lane, on Saturday 30 January, from 10am to 3:30pm. If you wish to go, please contact Janet Hornsby at the Diocesan Centre, Mackworth on 01332 293833 ext 820, or [janet.hornsby@nottingham-des.org.uk](mailto:janet.hornsby@nottingham-des.org.uk). More details are on the noticeboard.



“They offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh...”

“**Ring the changes at Holy Cross**”. This is the headline of the latest issue of *The Black Friars*, Newsletter of the English Dominican Province. Get up to date with all the news by taking a copy as you leave the church.

**Red Cross Appeal for Refugees & Asylum Seekers.** The full list of items needed to support these destitute and vulnerable people is:

- ◆ Dried items: rice, pasta, cous-cous, maize mealie-meal, sugar, salt, porridge, cooking oil, flour (self-raising), spices, palenta, mashed potato (Smash), tea, coffee, powdered milk, water, fruit juice, semolina;
- ◆ Tins: fish, meat, pulses, baked beans, soup, fruit, rice pudding, sauces, vegetables;
- ◆ Pre-prepared food: cereal bars, chocolate, biscuits, nuts, crisps, pot noodles;
- ◆ Baby items: nappies (sizes 2-4), baby wipes, food, milk, lotion, talc, clothing, equipment;
- ◆ Toiletries: sanitary towels, shaving equipment, toothpaste, tooth brush, soap, moisturiser, shampoo, conditioner, toilet paper;
- ◆ Others: Tin openers, pans, cutlery, towels and sleeping bags.

Please leave these items at any Mass. Thank you.

**Vocation Discernment Afternoon.** Young Women – wondering about God's call for you? You are welcome to join others in finding out what religious life is. On the last Saturday of each month 2.30pm - 5pm, at St Clare's Convent, Clay Cross. Contact [fmsisters@googlemail.com](mailto:fmsisters@googlemail.com). See noticeboard for details.

Year II	The week ahead...	Psalter Week 2
Monday:	St Zedislava of Lemberk wife and mother, countess, lay Dominican	
Tuesday:	Feria	
Wednesday:	Feria, <i>but there will be an extra, sung, Mass of the Epiphany in the older form at 7:30pm.</i>	
Thursday:	St Raymond of Peñafort, friar, priest	
Friday:	Feria	
Saturday:	Feria	
WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. This week, Mass in the older form will be celebrated on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 8:30am, on Wednesday at 7:30pm and on Saturday at 8:15am. All welcome, especially servers. If you would like to learn to serve this Mass, please contact Fr Thomas.		
<b>Next Sunday – The Baptism of the Lord. Readings:</b>		
Isaiah 42: 1-4. 6-7	Acts 10: 34-38	Luke 3: 15-16. 21-22

**What do we know about the liturgy of the church in Rome to around 600?** How we respond to this question affects our interpretation of the development of Western liturgy in this period and enables us to evaluate the Roman tradition with that of other major sees. Surprisingly there has been very little recent scholarship on some of the key topics and a conference at Blackfriars, Oxford, on Saturday 27 February, will present fresh research from leading scholars. Details from <http://www.bfriars.ox.ac.uk/> and go to 'Upcoming events'.

**Refugee Action** is an independent, national charity working to enable refugees to build new lives in the UK. They can now make referrals for food, clothing, household items and baby equipment to Open Hands Trust on Highfield Street. This organization offers tea, toast and friendship to anyone in need, as well as a free cafe and crafty time for women and some free evening meals. If you know of anyone who would benefit from these services, please contact Open Hands at 53 Upper Tichborne St (tel 255 8672). There are more details on the noticeboard in the Narthex at the back of the church.

**Churches together in Leicestershire** are recommending us to contribute to the Shelter Housing Aid and Research Project (SHARP). SHARP provides help to those who find themselves in often desperate housing need. Donations, payable to SHARP, should be sent to them at 13 Welford Road, LE2 7AD. See noticeboard for more details.

*Please join us in the Parish Hall after the 9:30am and 11:00am Sunday Masses for tea, coffee, fruit-juice etc. There is the opportunity for a chat with members of the Dominican Community and with parishioners. We particularly welcome newly-arrived students and other visitors to our Parish.*

REGULAR SERVICE TIMES
<b>MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS</b> 8.00 Lauds 10.00 Mass 12.30 Mass 17.45 Vespers Old Rite Masses as announced. Church is open from 8.00 - 18.00
<b>WEDNESDAYS</b> 10.30 Exposition until 12.30 11.45 Divine Mercy Chaplet, Rosary & Benediction
<b>SATURDAYS</b> 9.00 Lauds 10.00 Mass 10.30 Novena to Our Lady 10.30 Confessions until 11.30 12.30 Mass 17.00 Confessions until 18.00 17.45 Vespers 18.00 Vigil Mass for Sunday Old Rite Masses as announced.
<b>HOLIDAYS</b> 18.00 (previous day) Vigil Mass 8.00 Lauds 10.00 Mass 12.30 Mass 17.45 Vespers 19.00 Mass
<b>BANK HOLIDAYS (&amp; MON TO FRI AROUND XTMAS &amp; NEW YEAR)</b> 8.00 Lauds 12.30 Mass, after which the church is closed
<b>SUNDAYS</b> 8.00 Mass 9.00 Lauds 9.30 Mass (Family) 11.00 Mass (Solemn: Latin on 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Sundays) 12.30 Mass (Old rite in Latin) 17.00 Mass (for Students, term time only) 17.45 Vespers 18.00 Rosary 18.20 Sung Latin Compline 18.40 Benediction 19.00 Mass
<b>Leicester Royal Infirmary Catholic Chaplaincy:</b> For urgent visits, ask ward staff to bleep the Roman Catholic Chaplain. For non-urgent visits leave message at the Priory or the LRI Chaplains' Office. Messages may not be picked up until the end of the day.
<b>Website for past Newsletters:</b> <a href="http://holycrosschoirleicester.co.uk">holycrosschoirleicester.co.uk</a>
<b>CONTACT DETAILS</b> Holy Cross Priory 45 Wellington Street, LE1 6HW Priory phone: (0116) 255 3856 Fax/recorded times of services: 255 5552 Parish Priest: Fr Leon Pereira: 252 1501 <a href="mailto:leon.pereira@english.op.org">leon.pereira@english.op.org</a> For home visits: 255 3856