

Christians in Malaysia

Some of you may have heard of the attacks on Christian churches in Malaysia. Last Sunday, when I spoke to my brother in Singapore, seven churches had been attacked. As I write this, no one has been hurt or killed yet. I have a good number of relatives still living in Malaysia – I was born there after all, and know first-hand the heavy discrimination faced by non-Muslims in that country. That was part of the reason my parents moved from Malaysia to Singapore so many years ago.

My mother's two sisters still live in Johor, the southernmost state of Malaysia, the one adjacent to Singapore. Out of fear they have removed the crucifix above their front door, and hidden rosaries and other Christian symbols visible in their cars. The doors are locked (which is unusual in the daytime there!), the front windows closed, and the lights left off. My brother, who went to check on them, said, 'It's eerie. Everyone's afraid, the streets are empty. It's like being in the deep south expecting the Ku Klux Klan to burn crosses on your front lawn.' My uncle in Kuala Lumpur, the capital, where most of the attacks have taken place so far, has also taken similar precautions. Last Sunday, very few ventured out to Sunday worship, fearful that a crowded church would be an ideal target for these miscreants. 'Their government,' my brother added, 'is doing nothing to protect people.'

The immediate spark to the attacks was the government banning a Catholic newspaper from using the word 'Allah' to denote God, and the High Court overruling the government. Malay is the national language there, and Christians have used 'Allah' to mean 'God' there for centuries. Indeed, it is used in Arab countries and even in neighbouring Indonesia without any trouble. It is of course also used by the Maltese. Arab Christians have used 'Allah' (literally al-Llah, 'the God') long before Muhammad, the prophet of Islam, was born.

In Malaysia, the government claims the Christian use of this name will confuse Muslims. The idea that a Muslim might wander into a church, and hear 'Allah' being used and be misled is laughable. It is an excuse to intimidate and frighten a minority, non-Muslim group. It may surprise many of you that such things are taking place in Malaysia, a westernised, modern country – but it does not surprise the minorities living in Malaysia.

We need to expect more of people. We need more people to embrace reason and rational dialogue, even as we pursue it ourselves. To the extremists we say, If God is pleased by violence and threats, what kind of God is he? The Christian answer is and remains: God is Love, and those who do not love do not know God. Yet Our Lord warns us, 'the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God' (John 16.2). Pray for the Christians and other minorities of Malaysia. Put pressure on its government to ensure the security of all its citizens. Pray that the plots of the lovers of violence will be foiled and confounded.

Fr Leon Pereira, O.P.

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year C

17 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 Thomas	Irene Olszewska	Fr Isidore
8:00am	Fr Isidore	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Duncan
9:30am Family	Fr Duncan	Alicia, RIP	Fr Fabian
11:00am Solemn	Fr Leon	Elizabeth Fleming, RIP	Fr Peter
12:30pm Old rite	Fr Thomas	Eamonn Hughes, RIP	Fr Thomas
5:00pm Students	Fr Peter	Mass for students in the Lady Chapel	Fr Leon
7:00pm	Fr Leon	Jerzy Heiniger (Anniversary)	Fr Isidore

OTHER SUNDAY SERVICES	6:00pm Rosary	16 January	Confessions	23 January
9:00am Lauds	6:20pm Compline	Fr Fabian	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Peter
5:45pm Vespers	6:40pm Benediction	Fr Duncan	5:00 - 6:00pm	Fr Thomas

The Christmas Crib will remain on display until the end of Christmastide, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, Candlemas, on Tuesday 2 February.

The 12:30pm Mass on Thursday will be a funeral Mass for Maureen Walker. Please pray for the repose of her soul.

Entrance Antiphon:	May all the earth give you worship and praise, and break into song to your name, O God, Most High.
1 st Reading:	Isaiah 62: 1-5
Psalm Response:	Declare the Lord's marvellous works among all the peoples! (Ps 96)
2 nd Reading:	1 Corinthians 12: 4-11
Alleluia:	<u>At 11:00</u> – Praise God, all his angels, praise him, all his host. <u>Otherwise</u> – God has called us through the Gospel, to obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Gospel:	John 2: 1-12
Communion Antiphon:	<u>At 11:00</u> – The Lord said: fill the jars with water and take them to the steward. The steward tasted the water and it had turned into wine, and he said to the bridegroom, you have kept the best wine till now. This was the first of the signs given by Jesus in front of his disciples. <u>Otherwise either</u> – The Lord has prepared a feast for me: given wine in plenty for me to drink. <u>Or</u> – We know and believe in God's love for us.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £969.27; SVP £9.37; Friends of Holy Cross £6.56; Holy Souls £8.68; Crib restoration £10.12. The McNabb Appeal fund still stands at £5171.97.

This week there is a retiring collection for the White Flower Appeal for the protection of unborn children. Next week there will be a retiring collection for the McNabb Appeal for church funds.

200 Club. Last month's winners were: 148, P Glover £150; 33, J Larkin £100; and 191, V Bryan £50. Congratulations!

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

GOSPEL CHOIR – Would you like to sing gospel songs, meet new people and have a lot of fun? Feel free to join us on Tuesday evenings in St. Clement's Hall (next door to the church). Newcomers are always very welcome. For more details call Jeff on 243 1289.



Today's Gospel: "Fill the jars with water. Draw some out now, and take it to the steward."

Light Bearers Ministries UK – Event – A Light In The Heart Of Leicester. Light Bearers Ministries UK, will be holding a hand crafted cards and biscuits stall in Blackfriars Hall on Sunday 31st January after the 9.30am and 11am Masses. Please do come along and join us in Bearing the light of Christ's friendship in the much needy world of today.

National Marriage Week 2010: Bishop Malcolm will be presiding at the annual Mass of Celebration during National Marriage Week in St. Barnabas Cathedral, Nottingham, on Sunday 14th February at 3pm. A welcome is extended to all who have ever received the sacrament but a special welcome is extended to those celebrating anniversaries of ten years, and Silver, Ruby, Golden and Diamond anniversaries, as well as to engaged couples and those experiencing difficulties in their marriage. Light refreshments will be served after the Mass. Representatives of Catholic organisations concerned with marriage and family life in the diocese will be in attendance. For further information please contact Sue Sanderson susan.sanderson@nrcdt.org.uk or Fr John Sherrington, family.nottingham@googlemail.com. **All married people are encouraged to celebrate at the Cathedral on this day.**

If you come to the 9:30 or 11:00 Masses you will be familiar with the trolleys used for the hymn books and Mass books. At the end of Mass, please put the books back in neat piles, and not leave them tottering so that they fall on the floor as soon as the trolley is moved. Thank you!

Christ the King Primary School, Glenfield Road, wishes to appoint a practising Catholic who is an inspirational, motivated and enthusiastic individual and would join their creative and supportive Senior Leadership Team as **Deputy Headteacher** from September. Please contact the school office on 285 7261 for further details. Closing date for applications is Monday 1st February.

DIRECTOR OF DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE. The Diocese will be appointing a new Director of its very well respected Diocesan Education Service based at Mackworth, Derby. The Director is responsible for running the Diocesan Education Service, which supports the 86 Diocesan VA schools, including the statutory and canonical responsibilities for them. The Trustees of the Diocese have determined that there is a Genuine Occupational Requirement that the person appointed be a practising and committed Catholic. It is desirable (but not required) that applicants will have experience of a leadership role in a school. The salary range offered is £60 to £75 thousand (plus TPA if entitled or Diocesan Pension Scheme). For further details please email finance.officenrcdt.org.uk or telephone 0115 953 9800 giving an address to which a pack may be sent.

Year II	The week ahead...	Psalter Week 2
Monday:	St Margaret of Hungary, virgin, nun	
Tuesday:	Feria	
Wednesday:	Blessed Cyprian Tansi	
Thursday:	St Agnes, virgin, martyr	
Friday:	Feria	
Saturday:	Feria	
WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. This week, Mass in the older form will be celebrated on Monday and Friday at 8:30am, and on Saturday at 8:15am. All welcome, especially servers. If you would like to learn to serve this Mass, please contact Fr Thomas.		
Next Sunday – 3 rd Sunday <i>per annum</i> . Sunday within the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity. Readings:		
Nehemiah 8: 2-6. 8-10	1 Corinthians 12: 12-30	Luke 1: 1-4; 4: 14-21

Pilgrimage to Poland: 17-21 October. Fr Eddy Jarosz of St Peter's parish will be leading this pilgrimage, flying from Stansted to Krakow. Programme includes visits to Czestochowa, Auschwitz, city tour of Krakow, Lagiewniki (Basilica of the Divine Mercy) and other places of interest. Cost approx £500 (single supplement £100). Further details from Fr Eddy on 251 9802.

'A Day with Mary' Pilgrimages 2010. There are pilgrimages to Fatima, La Verna and Rome advertised on the noticeboard.

Swine Flu. The restrictions during the flu outbreak are now lifted. It's a good time to remind ourselves what the Church teaches about the following anyway. (1) The **Sign of Peace**, or more correctly, the exhortation to the people to exchange the sign with each other, will be reintroduced. In the modern Mass the exchange of peace is optional, and is left up to the discretion of the priest celebrant. So at some Masses there may be this exchange, and at some not. The sign should be sober and restrained, to one's immediate neighbours, and not disrupt the flow of the Mass especially here just before Communion. (2) At **Communion**, the chalice will once again be offered. The whole Christ is received in the Host alone, but receiving the Precious Blood makes the sign more complete. Thus no one is obliged to receive from the chalice, neither should anyone who declines the chalice lack reverence to the Precious Blood of our Lord and Saviour. Giving the chalice is not compulsory, and may be suspended occasionally subject to the usual conditions (risk of profanation, large crowds, risk of spillage, outbreaks of infectious illnesses).

The **British Red Cross** remains in urgent need of food donations to respond to the emergency needs of destitute asylum seekers in Leicester. To help, please leave your gifts after any Mass – non perishable goods such as tinned and dried foods are mostly wanted. A full list of items may be seen on the noticeboard and in the Newsletter (3 January) on the website given for past Newsletters. Please keep giving generously to support these vulnerable people. Thank you.

REGULAR SERVICE TIMES
MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS
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
WEDNESDAYS
10.30 Exposition until 12.30
11.45 Divine Mercy Chaplet, Rosary & Benediction
SATURDAYS
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.
HOLIDAYS
18.00 (previous day) Vigil Mass
8.00 Lauds
10.00 Mass
12.30 Mass
17.45 Vespers
19.00 Mass
BANK HOLIDAYS (& MON TO FRI AROUND XMAS & NEW YEAR)
8.00 Lauds
12.30 Mass, after which the church is closed
SUNDAYS
8.00 Mass
9.00 Lauds
9.30 Mass (Family)
11.00 Mass (Solemn: Latin on 2 nd , 4 th and 5 th 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
Leicester Royal Infirmary Catholic Chaplaincy: 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.
Website for past Newsletters: holycrosschoirleicester.co.uk
CONTACT DETAILS
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
leon.pereira@english.op.org
For home visits: 255 3856