

## Guilt is not an emotion in which to wallow!

PEOPLE talk about Catholic guilt, and it's very often assumed that this is a bad thing. A lot of the self-help books want us to think positively and feel positively about ourselves: negative feelings like guilt are supposed to hold us back.

And of course, guilt can be excessive and unhelpful. We can feel guilty for things that are not our fault, or very guilty about things which are really not that serious. People can be scrupulous and begin to see sin in what is actually innocent.

But in fact a sense of guilt is very important. Feeling guilty is a perfectly healthy reaction to realising we have acted shabbily. For some of the sins we commit, it is a good thing to feel not just guilty but ashamed: when we turn our backs on love and act in a way genuinely contrary to love, we ought to be ashamed of ourselves. We have let ourselves down, and most likely injured other people and ourselves in the process.

Sometimes, though, even when it's justified and proportionate to what we've done, guilt can get in the way. Our guilt at sin can lead us to thinking that we are sinful people, that there is nothing redeemable about us. I think for most of us (whether we have a Catholic sense of guilt or not!), it's easier to believe that we are worthless than to believe that God loves us, and makes us capable of great good.

Peter tells Jesus to depart from him, because he is a sinful man. No doubt, Peter's own recognition of his guilt, produced in him by this sudden encounter with divine power, is not false. No doubt, Peter had made his share of mistakes. He wasn't worthy that God should come to him offering friendship.

And similarly, none of us is worthy of God's drawing near to us either. We may want to say, as Peter does, "Depart from me, Lord." But as Paul tells the Romans, "God shows his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

So guilt is not an emotion in which to wallow! It's a prompt to seek forgiveness, and when we seek, we will find. It is a remarkable fact that when Jesus chose his disciples he didn't seek out the morally perfect, and he still doesn't. He draws near to us even when we are unworthy, *because* we are unworthy, because we need his forgiveness and love.

We may be haunted by things we have done in the past, the more or less serious ways in which we have failed in love. It may be very difficult to forgive ourselves for what we do sometimes. We may feel that the mess we have made makes us unlovely and unlovable. Our reaction to the love of God may be simply to be aware of our unworthiness.

Jesus' response to Peter, though, is spoken to us too: "Do not be afraid." God has created us for happiness and for holiness. We may be focussed on our own self-destruction, but God draws near to us even in our sin.

The true Catholic teaching about guilt is very hopeful, then. Guilt is not an emotion to be feared, because it has a remedy. Though we may be guilty, may be very aware of our short-comings and failings, may be realistically aware of our own unworthiness for God, He still draws near, though no merit of our own, loving us, and forgiving us when we ask and bringing us back to Him.

Fr Peter OP

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year C

7 February 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	Irene Olszewska, RIP	Fr Thomas
8:00am	Fr Isidore	Evelyn Dixon, RIP	Fr Duncan
9:30am Family	Fr Duncan	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Fabian
11:00am Solemn	Fr Peter	Patsy Lenihan	Fr Peter
12:30pm Old rite	Fr Thomas	Holy Souls	Fr Thomas
5:00pm Students	Fr Peter	<b>Mass for students in the Lady Chapel</b>	Fr Peter
7:00pm	Fr Duncan	Pat Cooke, RIP	Fr Isidore

OTHER SUNDAY SERVICES	6 February	Confessions	13 February
6:00pm Rosary	Fr Fabian	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Peter
9:00am Lauds	Fr Peter	5:00 - 6:00pm	Fr Duncan
5:45pm Vespers			

The 10am Mass on Friday will be a funeral Mass for Kathleen Shevas. Please pray for the repose of her soul.

**Our 200 Club currently has vacancies!** There is room for new members. Membership is £5 a month, with prizes of £150, £100 and £50 per month. All proceeds to the Church Restoration Fund. Membership forms are available from the 200 Club desk by the Wellington Street door, or ask any of the friars.

<b>Entrance Antiphon:</b>	Come, let us worship the Lord. Let us bow down in the presence of our maker, for he is the Lord our God.
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b>	Isaiah 6: 1-8
<b>Psalm Response:</b>	<b>Before the angels, I sing your praise, O Lord. (Ps 138)</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b>	1 Corinthians 15: 1-11
<b>Alleluia:</b>	<b>At 11:00</b> – O praise the Lord, all you nations, acclaim him all you peoples! <b>Otherwise</b> – Follow me, says the Lord, and I will make you fishers of men.
<b>Gospel:</b>	Luke 5: 1-11
<b>Communion Antiphon:</b>	<b>At 11:00</b> – I will come to the altar of God, the God of my joy. <b>Otherwise either</b> – Give praise to the Lord for his kindness, for his wonderful deeds towards men. He has filled the hungry with good things, he has satisfied the thirsty. <b>Or</b> – Happy are the sorrowing; they shall be consoled. Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right; they shall be satisfied.

**MONEY MATTERS:** Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £1047.76; SVP £11.11; Friends of Holy Cross £14.28; Holy Souls £12.78; Crib restoration £6.48. The McNabb Appeal fund now stands at £6650.38. Last week's collection for sick and retired priests of the diocese came to £449.80.

There will be a retiring collection next week for the Diocesan quota.

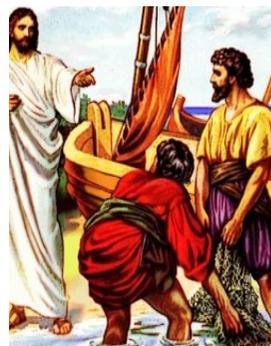
**200 Club.** Last month's winners were: 185, M Keating £150; 2, A Vivian £100; and 102, A Collins £50. Congratulations!

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

**Three events to take place at Holy Cross Centre:**

- Saturday March 13 – Evening of Music and Reflection for Lent
- Saturday April 24 – Karaoke
- Saturday May 15 – Absolute Beginners' Cha-cha

These events begin at 7pm. Please note the dates and look out for further information nearer the time. Jeff Henry is arranging these events and he is particularly keen that many groups/individuals take part, so do let him know (after the 9:30 Mass) if you wish to play/read/sing at the Lent evening, and bring your singing voice to the karaoke!



Today's Gospel: "Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch."

**Legio Mariae.** There will be a day retreat at Rearsby Convent on Saturday 27 February from 10am given by Fr Simon Robson, OP. If interested, please contact Teresa Knott on 224 8350.

**MARRIAGE between people of different religions** seems to be a problem for some young people and will become more and more of a problem in future. There will be a talk by Rev Claire Downing on this on Tuesday at 7:30pm in St Philip's Centre, a house just south of St Philip's Church in Evington: 2a Stoughton Drive. Fr Duncan will be there.

**The Leicester Theological Society's next talk** will be given by Dan McEwan, President of the Society, and a retired teacher who studied Theology in Louvain and Oxford, and Cultural Studies in Birmingham. He will speak on "Women Bishops, Gay Bishops and Cultural Anxiety" on Friday 12 February. All are welcome. Meetings are held at Christchurch, Clarendon Park Road (near Queens Road) at 7:30pm. Cost is £5 (students no charge).

**Light Bearers Ministries UK** would like to say a big thank you to all our parishioners for supporting our appeals and events. We have recently sent 18 bin liners filled with much needed children's clothing and medicine to Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, in Africa. Thanks to the generosity of parishioners who attended our event last Sunday, we will be sending much needed Bible gifts to a prison ministry in Greece. Thank you again for your generosity and prayerful support.

**Churches Together in Leicester City Centre** present a Lent course with a difference. They invite you to come and reflect on what the Bible says on issues raised through the film *Chocolat*. The film will be screened at Phoenix Square on 18 February at 8pm, and then there will be a five-week Lent Course up to 25 March. See noticeboard for details.

Year II	The week ahead...	Psalter Week 1
Monday:	COMMEMORATION OF OUR DECEASED PARENTS	
Tuesday:	Feria	
Wednesday:	St Scholastica, virgin	
Thursday:	Our Lady of Lourdes. <i>World Day of Prayer for sick people. Prayers are encouraged for the healing of sick people, and the support of those who care for them.</i>	
Friday:	Bl Reginald of Orléans, friar, priest	
Saturday:	Bl Jordan of Saxony, friar, priest. <i>Prayers for Dominican vocations are encouraged today.</i>	
WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. This week, Mass in the older form will be celebrated on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 8:30am, and on either Wednesday or Friday as announced. All welcome, especially servers. If you would like to learn to serve this Mass, please contact Fr Thomas.		
<b>Next Sunday – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday per annum. Readings:</b>		
Jeremiah 17: 5-8	1 Corinthians 15: 12.16-20	Luke 6: 17.20-26

**Christ is the Morning Star** – a sequence of devotional music for Lent and Passiontide. The Leicestershire Chorale will perform this concert in the church on Saturday 27 March at 8pm, conducted by Tom Williams, with David Cowen on the organ. Last time the Chorale performed in the church Tom Williams commented on its remarkably good acoustics. More details in due course.

**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.

Forthcoming events for your diary	
Sat 13 Mar	Evening of Music and Reflection for Lent, 7pm
Sat 27 Mar	Leicestershire Chorale - Devotional Music, church at 8pm
Sat 24 Apr	Karaoke evening, 7pm
Sat 15 May	Absolute beginners' Cha-cha, 7pm

**Noticeboards** are situated in the New Walk and Wellington Street entrances and at the back of the church in the Narthex. If you don't see what you are looking for, please check the other boards.

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 XMAS &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> holycrosschoirleicester.co.uk
<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