

Lent Fast Day

WEDNESDAY the 17th February is Ash Wednesday and with it begins Lent and the Easter cycle. This is a period of spiritual renewal which helps to prepare us for the celebration of our and the Church's most fundamental article of faith, namely that Jesus was raised from the dead and is the Christ, the Lord foretold in the Old Testament scriptures. Lent is a time of reflection, sacrifice, penance and confession. It is a time to reflect on Christ's great sacrifice for us, to reflect upon and own our sins and inadequacies, to confess our sins and to prepare to celebrate the joy of Easter. For Christ died for us and through his resurrection to eternal life we who believe in him may also enjoy eternal life with the Father.

The observance of the Lenten season is rooted in the early days of the Church and was for long associated with the Sacrament of Baptism and its themes of forgiveness, renewal and membership of the Church. Candidates for Baptism received intense instruction over a long period prior to baptism itself at the Easter vigil. Candidates for Baptism were joined by those already Baptised in fasting and other penitential acts in what became the period of forty days leading to Easter.

The forty day period is reminiscent of Jesus' forty day trial in the desert (Matthew 4:2), Moses' sojourn on Mount Sinai (Exodus 34:28) and Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb (1 Kings 19:8) all of which involved penance and fasting before a glorious manifestation of the love and power of God. Our journey to Easter begins on Ash Wednesday with the placing of the ashes derived from the burned palms of last Easter on the forehead of parishioners, a penitential practice known to the Old Testament Jews. The ashes remind us of our mortality and of our sinful nature and in a very positive sense they remind us to turn away from sin, be faithful to the Gospel, to Christ and his Church in which lies salvation.

Fasting, which has to do with the quantity of food eaten on particular days, is as we have seen embedded in the history of Old Testament Judaism and the life of the early Church. It prepares us for joy to come, it aids self-discipline, it supports one's prayers, it helps cleanse us of sin and focus our thoughts on Christ, and denying ourselves helps us to consider more the needs of others, particularly those less fortunate. Thus charitable giving has always been an important part of the life of the Christian during Lent.

In Lent the Church enjoins us to celebrate the following Friday, this year the 26th February, as a Fast Day. Traditionally this was one of the three days, in each week of a four week period, known as "Ember Days" on which it is the practice of the Church to offer prayers for the needs of all people, for the productivity of the earth and for human labour. In more recent times it has become customary to link this day of fasting to the support of charitable enterprises by the gift of a second offertory on the following Sunday, this year being the 28th February. This collection is made at the discretion of the parish priest and here at Holy Cross contributions were made last year to the work of CAFOD and LOROS. This year in liaison with the Pastoral Council it has been agreed that the Lenten collection be given to the charity, *Aid to the Church in Need*. The Council hopes in this way to highlight the work of different charities to the parish.

May this Lenten season be a time of positive reflection and penance inspired by the joyful expectation of the Easter to come.

The Pastoral Council: Keith Athaide, Andrew Barrett, Anne Chafer, Stephanie Henderson, Anthony Lacey and Pat Nutting.

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year C

14 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 Thomas	Sorgia Corry, RIP	Fr Isidore
8:00am	Fr Duncan	Holy Souls	Fr Isidore
9:30am Family	Fr Fabian	Peter Woods, RIP	Fr Duncan
11:00am Solemn	Fr Peter	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Fabian
12:30pm Old rite	Fr Thomas	Holy Souls	Fr Leon
5:00pm Students	Fr Peter	Mass for students in the Lady Chapel	Fr Fabian
7:00pm	Fr Isidore	Holy Souls	Fr Duncan

OTHER SUNDAY SERVICES	6:00pm Rosary	13 February	Confessions	20 February
9:00am Lauds	6:20pm Compline	Fr Peter	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Duncan
5:45pm Vespers	6:40pm Benediction	Fr Duncan	5:00 - 6:00pm	Fr Peter

WEDNESDAY IS ASH WEDNESDAY. There will be an extra Mass in church, in the older form, at 6pm, and Masses at 12:30pm at the two universities (at the Gate House, University Road, and on the 2nd floor of the Campus Centre, DMU). There will be the blessing and imposition of ashes at all these Masses.

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

Entrance Antiphon:	Lord, be my rock of safety, the stronghold that saves me. For the honour of your name, lead me and guide me.
1st Reading:	Jeremiah 17: 5-8
Psalm Response:	Blessed is the man who makes the Lord his trust. (Ps 1)
2nd Reading:	1 Corinthians 15: 12.16-20
Alleluia:	<u>At 11:00</u> – Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. <u>Otherwise</u> – Rejoice and leap for joy, says the Lord, for behold, your reward is great in heaven.
Gospel:	Luke 6: 17.20-26
Communion Antiphon:	<u>Either</u> – They ate and were filled; the Lord gave them what they wanted: they were not deprived of their desire. <u>Or (but not at 11:00)</u> – God loved the world so much, he gave his only Son, that all who believe in him might not perish, but might have eternal life.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £1110.58; SVP £46.00; Friends of Holy Cross £4.53; Holy Souls £8.65; Grenada Church Restoration £5.78. The McNabb Appeal fund stands at £6650.38.

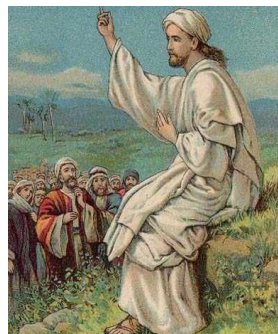
There is a retiring collection this week for the Diocesan Quota.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

LENTEN TALKS. The usual season of Lenten Talks will begin on Friday. Talks are given by one of the friars after the 10am and 12:30pm Masses each Friday in Lent, apart from Good Friday. Please see poster for details.

OUR DEANERY LENTEN PROGRAMME: Lenten Station Masses have been arranged as follows:

- ◆ Wednesday 24 February at St. John Bosco's at 7pm.
- ◆ Wednesday 3 March at St. Thomas More's at 7pm.
- ◆ **Wednesday 10 March HERE at Holy Cross with Bishop Malcolm at 7pm.**
- ◆ Wednesday 17 March at St. Patrick's at 11am.
- ◆ Wednesday 31 March, Mass of the Holy Oils at the Cathedral at 11.30am.



Today's Gospel: "Blessed are the poor, for theirs is the Kingdom of God"

Aquinas Study Weekend for Young Adults. Sr Valery Walker OP is organising a Study Weekend for young adults from Friday evening 12 March to midday on Sunday 14 March. This will be a reflective study on the subject of Calvary and the Mass, with special reference to the work of St Thomas Aquinas. Talks will be given by Fr Thomas and there will be discussion led by Sr Valery. The weekend will be held at St Dominic's Convent, Stone. For details, and to book, please see Fr Thomas or email Sr Valery on valeryOP39@googlemail.com.

Thank you! Last weekend's donations for the Red Cross were delivered this week as usual, and the lady who received the goods asked the SVP to thank people at Holy Cross "as it is their bits and bobs which keep us going".

Vacancy: 2 x Assistant Headteachers. Christ the King Primary School, Glenfield Road, wishes to appoint two inspirational, motivated and enthusiastic individuals to join its creative and supportive Senior Leadership Team as Assistant Headteachers from September 2010. Please contact the school office on 285 7261 for further details. Closing date for applications is Midday on Friday 5th March. Tours of the school are welcomed.

Young people's pilgrimage to Lourdes (for those not in Catholic schools). As part of the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, young people travel out with their Catholic schools and the youth service, to spend time serving members of the whole diocesan family. If you are in, or have just left, school years 11, 12 and 13, and are not in a Catholic school and want to come, the youth service runs a group just for you. We travel out with all the schools 18 - 25th July. For more details and forms, contact fr.joe@ndcys.com or tom@ndcys.com or 01773 852044. Or look on the youth service website www.ndcys.com.

British Sign Language. The Bishop Street Methodist Church are holding five sessions during Lent for us to learn some basic signing for welcome and worship. See noticeboard.

Year II	The week ahead...	Psalter Week 2/4
Monday:	Feria	
Tuesday:	Feria	
LENT: During Lent we are asked to pray for these intentions: Candidates for the Sacraments; Women; The Needy and Hungry of the World; Penitents and Wanderers.		
Wednesday:	ASH WEDNESDAY. See front page for details of extra Masses.	
Thursday:	Bl Fra Angelico	
Friday:	Friday after Ash Wednesday	
Saturday:	Saturday after Ash Wednesday	
WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. This week, Mass in the older form will be celebrated on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 8:30am, and on Ash Wednesday at 6pm. All welcome, especially servers. If you would like to learn to serve this Mass, please contact Fr Thomas.		
Next Sunday – 1st Sunday of Lent. Readings:		
Deuteronomy 26: 4-10	Romans 10: 8-13	Luke 4: 1-13

An Evening of Music and Reflection for Lent – Saturday March 13th, 7pm in the Centre. A social evening featuring music, readings and reflection from a wide range of groups and individuals, including Fr Fabian. All welcome. Tickets: £3 in advance (£2 concession) or £5 on the door, to include soup and roll. Bar open. See the ticket sellers for your Mass or call Jeff on 243 1289.

Divine Mercy Day of Prayer at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 6 March. See noticeboard.

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 (7 February) on the website given for past Newsletters. Please keep giving generously to support these vulnerable people. Thank you.

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.

Forthcoming events for your diary	
Wed 10 Mar	Station Mass with Bishop Malcolm, 7pm
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

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