

THE TRANSFIGURATION AND ABRAHAM

YOU may, or may not, have noticed that each year on the Second Sunday of Lent, the Gospel reading is about the Transfiguration of Jesus, while the first reading is about Abraham. This year we hear about Abraham offering a sacrifice to God to seal the promises that God has made to him. Next year and the year after, we will read how Abraham was called by God to leave his home and travel to a strange land which God would ultimately give to his descendants; and then how Abraham was told by God to sacrifice his son Isaac even though that would mean he had no descendants to inherit God's promise.

This link between Abraham and the Transfiguration is hardly an accident. These stories must have been deliberately chosen to go with the Gospel stories. What could be the reason for that?

The Transfiguration is the brief but dramatic revelation of the glory of Jesus to the three Apostles on the mountain. He is associated with Moses and Elijah, who represent the Law and the Prophets. In other words, Jesus is the Expected One to whom the Law and the Prophets pointed. The story that began with Abraham finds its goal in Jesus. The One who called Abraham and who promised that he would himself be among us, has now fulfilled his promise. The 'Beloved Son' is Emmanuel, 'God with us'.

All this takes place on a mountain because mountains are places of revelation, above all in the self-revealing of God on Mount Sinai. So by linking Abraham with the Transfiguration, our liturgy clamps together the beginning and the fulfilment of God's dealings with us. Jesus did not appear out of the blue. He did not come to teach us timeless truths. He came to be the focal point of human history, a history of which we are part, which gives our lives a meaning, a sense of purpose and a goal.

Perhaps too the stories of Abraham and the Transfiguration are linked because they are both about the journey of faith. Abraham was called to set out on a journey, though he had no idea where it would lead; he had to trust in God's mysterious promises that his family would one day inherit the 'land flowing with milk and honey'.

The apostles likewise were called from their homely fisherman's life to follow Jesus, and though it was exciting at first it soon became scary and bewildering. Where was it all leading? It is significant that in each Gospel the Transfiguration comes a week after Peter had confessed his faith in Jesus as Messiah, and Jesus had told him that he himself would meet with rejection and death.

We too are journeying in faith, both as individuals and as Church. We may sometimes wonder where it is all going. Is it really leading to fulfilment, or to disaster? Maybe like Peter we want to cling on to the good bits, not lose the 'highs'. But life cannot always be on the heights. As we follow the Beloved Son, our journey of faith will demand of us the faith and the faithfulness of Abraham. But God's mercy and grace are always with us.

Fr Fabian OP

2nd Sunday of Lent

Year C

28 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 Duncan	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Isidore
8:00am	Fr Isidore	Paul Gibbens	Fr Isidore
9:30am Family	Fr Peter	Kathleen Shevas, RIP	Fr Fabian
11:00am Solemn	Fr Leon	Catherine & William Potterton, RIP	Fr Thomas
12:30pm Old rite	Fr Thomas	Holy Souls	Fr Leon
5:00pm Students	Fr Peter	Mass for students in the Lady Chapel	Fr Peter
7:00pm	Fr Thomas	Allister Furey (birthday)	Fr Duncan

OTHER SUNDAY SERVICES	6:00pm Rosary	27 February	Confessions	6 March
9:00am Lauds	6:20pm Compline	Fr Isidore	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Leon
5:45pm Vespers	6:40pm Benediction	Fr Peter	5:00 - 6:00pm	Fr Isidore

DURING LENT: Confessions also on Sundays from 6:40 to 7:00pm (Fr Thomas this week)

SHORT LENTEN TALKS – Through Death to Life. The usual season of Lenten Talks is now under way. Talks are given by one of the friars after the 10am and 12:30pm Masses each Friday in Lent. **This week Fr Isidore will speak on "The Crowning with Thorns".** We hope you can make these part of your Lenten celebrations.

Entrance Antiphon:	<u>Either</u> – Remember your mercies, Lord, your tenderness from ages past. Do not let our enemies triumph over us; O God, deliver Israel from all her distress. <u>Or</u> – My heart has prompted me to seek your face; I seek it, Lord, do not hide from me.
1st Reading:	Genesis 15: 5-12.17-18
Psalm Response:	The Lord is my light and my salvation. (Ps 27)
2nd Reading:	Philippians 3:17 - 4:1
Tract (at 11:00) or Verse before Gospel:	<u>At 11:00</u> – You have moved the earth, O Lord, and you have disturbed it. Heal its breaches, for it has been moved. <u>Otherwise</u> – Glory and praise to you, O Christ. ☩ From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Gospel:	Luke 9: 28-36
Offertory (at 11:00):	Your commands have been my delight; these I have loved. I will worship your commands and love them.
Communion Antiphon:	<u>At 11:00</u> – Tell no one about the vision that you have seen until the Son of Man has risen from the dead. <u>Otherwise</u> – This is my Son, my beloved, in whom is all my delight: listen to him.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £982.55; SVP £24.09; Friends of Holy Cross £15.60; Holy Souls £17.30; Grenada Church Restoration £14.00. The McNabb Appeal fund stands at £6650.38.

There is a retiring collection this week for Lenten Fast Day which will be sent to Aid to the Church in Need. Their Director writes: "Whilst we continue to focus on pastoral, spiritual projects throughout the world, many of our benefactors have asked about A.C.N.'s help following the recent tragic events in Haiti. Thanks to the compassion and generosity of our supporters, we have granted emergency aid to the earthquake-stricken country, through the Apostolic Nuncio to Haiti, Archbishop Bernardito Auza, who wrote: 'We are in big trouble. We have no reserves of water and petrol stations are closed. We lack everything.' A.C.N. has sent aid to provide food, clean water, medical supplies, clothing and temporary shelter to the million or more who have been affected."

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

The congregation at the Anglican church of St Mary de Castro send their thanks to all parishioners who came to pray with them and support them.

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

- ♦ 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.

Churches Together in Leicester City Centre will meet at All Saints, Highcross Street, at 12:30pm on Thursday. All are welcome. All Saints is normally closed, and this is one of the occasional opportunities to visit it.

First Friday Coffee Morning: This coming Friday, at 10:30am in the Church Hall. Tea & scones or coffee & cake, a chance to chat with other weekday Mass-goers and members of the Community; and, of course, a raffle. Money raised goes towards the care and maintenance of the church fabric. Volunteers welcome.

The British Red Cross remains in urgent need of food donations to respond to the emergency needs of destitute asylum seekers in Leicester. **ITEMS URGENTLY NEEDED AT THE MOMENT ARE:** jars of baby food for 4-6month olds, baby rice which can be made with boiled water, Cow and Gate formula/milk, and nappies in size 3-4. To help, please leave your gifts after any Mass – non perishable goods such as tinned and dried foods are also 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.

Christ at the Centre. The organisers of the Good Friday drama in the city centre ask for volunteers to take on non-speaking roles or to be stewards, and they seek donations. Please contact Vic Allsop of Churches Together in Leicestershire on cedo@ctil.org.uk or 01664 434697, or see Fr Duncan.



Today's Gospel: "This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to Him."

Year II	The week ahead...		Psalter Week 2
DURING LENT there will be STATIONS OF THE CROSS each Wednesday (at 1pm) and Friday (at 6pm), and CONFESSIONS on Sundays from 6:40 to 7:00pm (Fr Thomas this week).			
Monday to Saturday:	Lenten feria		
WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. Holy Mass will be offered in the older form from Monday to Friday at 8:30am, and on Saturday at 8:15am.			
Next Sunday – 3rd Sunday of Lent. Prayers are recommended for candidates for the sacraments. Readings:			
<i>Either:</i>	Exodus 3:1-8.13-15	1 Corinthians 10:1-6.10-12	Luke 13: 1-9
<i>Or:</i>	Exodus 17: 3-7	Romans 5:1-2.5-8	John 4: 5-42

Events at Blackfriars, Oxford, may be seen on their web-site <http://www.bfriars.ox.ac.uk/events.php>, such as an Aquinas Colloquium on 6th March (Body, Soul and Mind: Aquinas and Modern Developments in Biotechnology and Neuroscience – for further information contact Dr Vivian Boland OP, Director of the Aquinas Institute, at 01865 278407 or vivian.boland@english.op.org) and a Colloquium on flourishing on 13th March (Human Flourishing through the Eyes of Faith and Reason – to request an invitation, please email the Regent – regent@bfriars.ox.ac.uk).

See the Noticeboards for details of:

- ♦ "The Death of the Messiah" - reflections on the Passion Narratives led jointly with Fr Edward Jarosz of St Peter's, at St Anne's, Letchworth Road on Thursday evenings in Lent;
- ♦ Nottingham Diocesan Walsingham Pilgrimage on Sunday 20 June;
- ♦ Nottingham Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes from 18 to 25 July.

The Hindu Christian Dialogue Group will have its next meeting on Wednesday at 7:30pm at St Alban's Church, Weymouth Street – "Who are we? Our identities as Hindus and Christians."

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.

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. More details in due course.

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	'Day for the Year of the Priesthood', with the artist and writer Elizabeth Wang. Details soon.
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
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