

Risen Indeed

ONE Easter, six years ago, with some of the friars at our priory in Oxford, I watched the Pope's traditional Easter blessing *urbi et orbi* (to the City and to the World). The programme was followed immediately by something not in quite the same vein, but close enough: *The Opera Babes in the Holy Land*. One of the friars had been to university with one of the Opera Babes, and was naturally very excited. The rest were mystified, yet intrigued.

The Opera Babes, in case you don't know, are two talented young ladies who sing opera and operatic songs. Initially, many of the links in the programme were a little tenuous: watching the moon set over Lake Galilee segues into *Claire de lune*. That sort of thing. But later, when they got to Jerusalem, to the church of the Holy Sepulchre, one the 'babes' (the agnostic one) put her hand into the hole at the base of an altar, through which she touched the top of the granite spur which is Calvary. And she burst into tears. She was moved by the faith of the pilgrims; moved by the events of Calvary and the Tomb.

The Opera Babes you could say, were the catalyst to my own pilgrimage to the Holy Land – something I hadn't dared contemplate before, being put off by the risks. There the sepulchre still stands, and one still has to stoop to enter, just like the two disciples who stooped and saw the linen cloths lying, and the napkin which had been around Our Lord's head rolled up in a place by itself. The disciples went in and believed – for 'as yet they did not know the scripture, that He must rise from the dead.'

In the sepulchre, a red velvety cloth hangs beneath the icon of Christ, touching the marble slab which now covers the shelf on which Our Lord's body had lain. On the cloth is a small cross, and the words in Greek, XPICTOC ANECTH (*Khristos anestē*, Christ is risen!). And kneeling to kiss the slab, believers whisper in veneration, *Alēthōs anestē!* (He is risen indeed!). Here, like many pilgrims before them, over two thousand years, the Opera Babes found faith also.

This is not an ordinary tomb. Its occupant is gone. As the angel said, 'Why do you seek the Living One among the dead? He is not here. He is risen!' Happy Easter to all of you.

Christ is risen, Alleluia!
He is risen indeed, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Fr Leon Pereira, O.P.

Easter Day

Year C

4 April 2010

The Newsletter of HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER

Serving Leicester's Catholics since AD 1247



Sunday Masses	This week	Mass Intentions	Next week
8:00pm Vigil	Fr Leon	James Henry, RIP	Fr Isidore
8:00am	Fr Isidore	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Fabian
9:30am Family	Fr Duncan	Nora MacRory, RIP	Fr Duncan
11:00am Solemn	Fr Leon	Private Intention	Fr Peter
12:30pm Old rite	Fr Thomas	Holy Souls	Fr Thomas
5:00pm Students	— —	No Mass now until next term	— —
7:00pm	Fr Fabian	Fidelma Gallagher (sick)	Fr Leon

OTHER SUNDAY SERVICES	6:00pm Rosary	3 April	Confessions	10 April
9:00am Lauds	6:20pm Compline	Fr Thomas	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Peter
5:45pm Vespers	6:40pm Benediction	Fr Duncan	5:00 - 6:00pm	Fr Fabian

Today there will be solemn Vespers at 6:20pm instead of Compline

Tomorrow, Monday, is a bank holiday, so there will only be one Mass in the church, at 12:30pm, after which the church will be closed.

2010 Spes Unica Lecture. Professor Luke Gormally, Senior Research Fellow at the Linacre Centre & Member of the Pontifical Academy for Life, will speak on 'Sex and the City: Chastity as a Social Virtue' on Friday 7 May 2010 at 7:30pm, at Blackfriars' Hall. All are welcome.

Entrance Antiphon:	<u>Either</u> – I have risen: I am with you once more; you placed your hand on me to keep me safe. How great is the depth of your wisdom, alleluia! <u>Or</u> – The Lord has indeed risen, alleluia. Glory and kingship be his for ever and ever.
1st Reading:	Acts 10: 34.37-43
Psalm Response:	This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Ps 118)
2nd Reading:	Colossians 3: 1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5: 6-8
Sequence:	Victimae paschali laudes immolent Christiani... Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise...
Alleluia:	Christ, our Paschal Lamb, has been sacrificed; let us, therefore, celebrate the festival in the Lord.
Gospel:	John 20: 1-9 or Luke 24: 1-12 or Luke 24: 13-35
Communion Antiphon:	Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth, alleluia.

MONEY MATTERS: At the time of going to press (earlier than usual as it's Holy Week) the figures for last weekend were not available, but should appear next week.

The collection today is your gift to the Dominican brethren. We thank you very much for your support.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

Pope Benedict's Pastoral Letter to the Catholics of Ireland regarding the abuse of children and vulnerable young people. The full text of the letter may be downloaded from <http://www.catholicbishops.ie/>, the website of the Irish Bishops, and there are two reference copies on the tables near the entrances.

Holy Cross Country Walk. TOMORROW, Easter Monday 5th April. Please join us for a springtime walk around beautiful Leicestershire countryside. Meet at Hungarton village church at 1.45pm for a 5 mile circular walk (approx 2 hours) across rolling fields. For more details or if you need a lift to Hungarton please contact Liz and Tony Scarborough tel 270 7953.

MARRIAGE MATTERS. Is it time to take a fresh look at how and why marriage matters? Brian and Maureen Devine and Canon Frank O'Sullivan will be reflecting on these questions and inviting participants to discuss their own experience and perspective. Brian and Maureen Devine have masters degrees in theology and Canon Frank has had many years' pastoral experience and in the field of marriage enrichment. They will lead a day on Saturday 15th May at Rearsby Convent, 10am - 3pm. For further information please contact Eileen and Laurence Udall 01629 540383 or email rockcott@googlemail.com.

The Prison Outreach Ministry of "Our Lady of the Assumption" Catholic Church in Chania, Crete, Greece, would like to thank all who have contributed to "Light-Bearers Ministries U.K." for your great generosity in providing 5 Holy Bibles. This is a truly wonderful gift and is greatly appreciated. The prison ministry in Chania has been operating for many years; indeed one lady has been visiting for over 30 years. The prison we visit is for male prisoners, and we meet people from many parts of the world. We are regularly asked for Bibles, and as we rely totally on donations to meet demand, you can readily understand how much your donation is valued. We thank you again for helping those in prison, and pray God's blessing on you all for your kindness. With our best wishes to you all – Fr. Peter, Fr. Angelo, Eileen and Linda.

Our parish is now using Twitter. To see at a glance what's going on on any particular day, go to http://twitter.com/holycross_leic and sign up for tweets on your mobiles. (But don't regard this as a substitute for the Newsletter! - Ed)

Are you looking for a piano? Look no further! We wish to dispose of the piano which is currently stored in the alcove by St Helena's altar (on the New Walk side of the church). No offer will be refused. See Fr Leon.



Today's Gospel: "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him."

Year II	The week ahead...	Psalter Week 1
Monday:	Easter Monday	
Tuesday:	Easter Tuesday	
Wednesday:	Easter Wednesday	
Thursday:	Easter Thursday	
Friday:	Easter Friday	
Saturday:	Easter Saturday	
WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. Holy Mass will be offered in the older form from Tuesday to Friday at 8:30am, and on Saturday at 8:15am.		
Next Sunday – 2nd Sunday of Easter: Divine Mercy Sunday.		
Readings:		
Acts 5: 12-16	Apocalypse 1:9-13.17-19	John 20: 19-31

Deepening Faith in Prayer. We plan to form a group to meet in the Lady Chapel after the 6 o'clock Saturday evening Mass, at 6:45. There will be a first meeting on the Saturday after Easter, 10 April, for introductions and planning, and then six half-hour meetings on the following Saturdays until Pentecost. We will try to learn to use discussion, prayer and silence. For details, contact fr Duncan (0116) 252 1516.

Independent Funeral Directors. A parishioner of St Thomas More has established the Aylestone & District independent funeral service. Information from Annie Gosling on 283 2500 or at 753 Aylestone Road, LE2 8TG.

Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Stone, and an illustrated talk on the Rosary by Fr Richard Conrad, OP. Saturday 29 May from 10am to 5pm. Details from Sr Angela Mary Leydon OP at St Dominic's Convent, Stone – 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 also mostly wanted. A full list of items may be seen on the noticeboard and in the Newsletter (14 March) on the website given for past Newsletters. Please keep giving generously to support these vulnerable people. Thank you.

Forthcoming events for your diary	
Sat 24 Apr	Karaoke evening, 7pm
Fri 7 May	2010 <i>Spes Unica</i> Lecture. Professor Luke Gormally, Senior Research Fellow at the Linacre Centre & Member of the Pontifical Academy for Life on 'Sex and the City: Chastity as a Social Virtue', 7:30pm, Blackfriars' Hall
Sat 8 May	BLACKFRIARS MARKET – NOTE THE DATE NOW!
Sat 15 May	'Day for the Year of the Priesthood', with the artist and writer Elizabeth Wang, and Fr Richard Duffield, Provost of the Birmingham Oratory.
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 XTMAS & 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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