

“He’s done more for Christianity in Britain than anyone has in decades”

So, we’ve just said goodbye to Pope Benedict, and while he arrived with many newspapers declaring him mad, bad and dangerous to know, journalists seem to have come round to the idea that his visit was something really good for the United Kingdom, for its Catholics, certainly, but for everyone.

Why was there such a maelstrom of negative press in advance of the Pope’s arrival? Some of it can be explained by the poor image many media people had of him, but that only makes me ask why they had such a poor (and false) image of him in the first place. Some of it, no doubt, is due to a very deeply-embedded anti-Catholicism in the UK, but that isn’t the whole story either.

I suspect that many people who do not go to church imagine that churchy people are inclined to wag their fingers. I mean that lots of people expected the Pope to come to Britain and disapprove of lots of things, of decadent British culture. This wasn’t entirely unreasonable, since newspaper headlines often only reported the Pope when they thought he was, yet again, disapproving of things that modern liberal journalists think are good and to be encouraged. When Benedict came, he did indeed speak out against some things, principally the current silliness of pushing Christianity out of public life under the banner of fairness or secularism, but that wasn’t the main theme of his visit, and I think that’s why the response to him has changed.

None of us wants to feel disapproved of, but true Christian preaching is never simply disapproving, and the Pope showed this. What he showed us was that he loves us. That was the reason for his visit, and the guiding light in all that he said and did in the UK in his all-too-brief visit. Like a good father, he wants us to be happy, and he knows, because of the wisdom of the Gospel, which is to say, of God, that some aspects of modern life are hollow and illusory sources of happiness, that in the end, people will not be happy unless they come to Christ.

I went with a group from the parish, some students, some parents, some young children to the prayer vigil in Hyde Park. It was a remarkable event. For me, the most remarkable features of it were the evident joy of those there in welcoming the Pope, the reverent silence and prayerfulness of the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament which formed the focus of the vigil, and the Pope’s beautiful and wise words.

He spoke about our unique vocation, the fact that God has created us each for a role which is our own, given to us to fulfil and to no-one else. He invited especially the young people in the congregation to learn to listen to Jesus, who’s heart is already speaking to our own hearts, to discover what it is he has planned for our lives. I felt my heart burning within me and felt at once a sorrow for my own failure to be what I was called to be and a burning desire to live out the plan of God for my life.

The Pope won people round, because he showed them love, not disapproval. His words made us all aware of our failings, but they didn’t leave us in despair, but called us on, to desire something greater and more perfect for ourselves, to know that by God’s help, we could be truly happy, through a life of love like his. I was inspired by his words, but equally by his shy little smile, which spoke of a genuine joy at being with us, and made his call to holiness credible, even irresistible.

And that is why people have reacted as they have. A friend, an Anglican priest, told me she had asked some evangelical Christians whether they had seen anything of the papal visit. “Oh no, we don’t approve of him,” was the reply. “It’s a shame,” my friend answered, “because he’s done more for Christianity in Britain than anyone has in decades.” I had to agree.

Peter OP

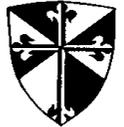
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year C

26 September 2010

The Newsletter of HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER

Serving Leicester’s Catholics since AD 1247



Entrance Antiphon:	O Lord, you had just cause to judge men as you did: because we sinned against you and disobeyed your will. But now show us your greatness of heart, and treat us with your unbounded kindness.
1st Reading:	Amos 6: 1.4-7
Psalm R:	Praise the Lord, O my soul! (Ps 146)
2nd Reading:	1 Timothy 6: 11-16
Alleluia:	<u>At 11:00</u> – My heart is ready, O God; I will sing, sing your praise. <u>Otherwise</u> – Though Jesus Christ was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.
Gospel:	Luke 16: 19-31
Communion Antiphon:	<u>Either</u> – O Lord, remember the words you spoke to me, your servant, which made me love in hope and consoled me when I was downcast. <u>Or (but not at 11.00)</u> – This is how we know what love is: Christ gave up his life for us; and we too must give up our lives for our brothers.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Peter Tahaney (who died on 22 September). His funeral will be on Friday 1 October at 12:30pm.

Classes in preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation will begin in October led by Sr Angela Leydon OP. If you wish your child to be enrolled in these classes, please take an application form from the sacristy. Fill it in, sign it and return it to the Parish Priest. If you know anyone whose child is due to receive either sacrament, please let them know.

Ongoing works. The ramp to the hall is being modified to a gentler slope as required by the City Council although it will involve a slightly more circuitous route. In the next few weeks we should also see the start of work on the Martyrs’ shrine in the New Walk transept. Bishop Malcolm will consecrate the shrine on 8 December at 7pm (and not 25 October as previously advertised), the 10th anniversary of his ordination as a bishop.

Wanted: if any parishioner living near Holy Cross has a room to let for our new sacristan (young, single male), please contact Fr Isidore, tel: 255 3856. Thank you! **Our current sacristan, Nick Hoff, will be leaving us this Friday, 1 October,** to take up his new position as sacristan at the Birmingham Oratory. We wish to thank him for some twenty years’ excellent service here, both in the sacristy and in training servers, and to wish him every blessing in this great and sacred vocation.

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.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £1123.07 (previous week £1182.90). For the last three weeks: SVP £79.81; Friends of Holy Cross £46.56; Holy Souls £40.87; Grenada Church Restoration £26.85. The appeal for the McNabb fund came to £200.05, so the McNabb Appeal stands at £9638.43.

This week there is a retiring collection for the Dominican priests' training fund, and next week there will be a retiring collection for the Autumn Fast Day specifically for CAFOD's aid to Pakistan.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

Wednesday is the feast of Ss Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels, and there will be an extra Mass, sung, at 7.30pm, in the older form.



Today's Gospel: "Father, Abraham, pity me [Dives, the rich man] and send Lazarus [the poor man] to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames."

Please do add to your diaries the first FACT group on Saturday 16 October at St Clement's Hall, starting at 7pm. There will be food! But more importantly food for the soul. Fr Leon is supporting the FACT group and will be our theological 'back up'. This group is for you if you are 18-35. We need to keep up the impetus of the visit of our Holy Father, and joining FACT is one way of doing this – learning more about our Apostolic faith and how to explain it to others (and speak up for it, where necessary!). Look out for the posters by the doors and pick up a FACT postcard. More info from Chris on 07817 805836 or <http://faithandcharityintruth.wordpress.com/>.

Forthcoming events for your diary

Sat 16 Oct	FACT session for young Catholics (18-35), 7pm
Sat 30 Oct	All Saints' Holy X Factor – a karaoke with a difference, 7pm

Missale: In October we will introduce a new book for use at the 11am Sunday Mass. *Missale* will have all the texts used at Mass, both in Latin and with a translation, and it will have the chants used by the congregation. There is also a selection of prayers and it is hoped that these will be an aid to your devotions.

Have you ever wondered about becoming a Sister? There is a weekend for women 18-35 discerning whether the Lord may be calling them to Religious Life. It's a taste of life as a Franciscan Sister, so you will participate in our life of prayer as well as getting to know the Sisters. We will have time for prayer, discussion, questions, input on Religious Life and the opportunity for one-to-one with myself, Sr Marianne. Places are limited so let us know if you are coming as soon as you can, or get in touch with any queries. God Bless! The taster weekend is 5-7 November at St Clare's Convent, Clay Cross S45 9AQ. Contact vocations@franciscansm.org. Also see poster for details.

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 updated list of items may be seen on the noticeboard and in the Newsletter (29 August) on the website given for past Newsletters. Please keep giving generously to support these vulnerable people. Thank you.

Year II	This week's calendar & Mass Intentions	Psalter Week 2
Confessions	10.30 to 11.30 Fr Thomas, and 17.00 to 18.00 Fr Peter	
Sunday	26th Sunday per annum. Harvest Sunday. Prayers are recommended for the harvest, all fruits of human work, and the reverent use of creation.	
Vigil	18.00 <i>Pro populo</i> 8.00 ✠ Holy Souls	
Family	9.30 Private intention	
Solemn	11.00 ✠ Elizabeth Fleming	
OP Rite	12.30 ✠ Libardo Lozano Guerrero & Cilia Angel Guerrero	
Students	17.00 No Mass now until next Sunday 19.00 Pat Lucey's intentions	
Monday	St Vincent de Paul, priest, religious 10.00 ✠ Treasa Condon 12.30 ✠ Stewart Charles	
Tuesday	SS Dominic Ibañez de Erquicia, James Tomonaga, friars, priests, Lawrence Ruiz, husband and father, lay Dominican, and Companions, martyrs of Japan 10.00 ✠ Dead of the Order of Preachers 12.30 Roseanne & Daniel Mangan	
Wednesday	SS MICHAEL, GABRIEL AND RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS. There will be an additional Mass, sung in the older form at 7.30pm 10.00 ✠ Holy Souls 12.30 Pat Lucey's intentions	
Thursday	St Jerome, priest, doctor 10.00 ✠ Veronica Mary Simpson 12.30 ✠ Holy Souls	
Friday	St Teresa of Lisieux, virgin, religious, doctor. Autumn Fast Day. Prayers are recommended for the needs of all people, especially for the productivity of the earth and for human labour, and to give God public thanks. 10.00 Pat Lucey's intentions 12.30 ✠ Holy Souls	
Saturday	The Holy Guardian Angels 10.00 Pat Lucey's intentions 12.30 ✠ Holy Souls	
Confessions	10.30 to 11.30 Fr Leon, and 17.00 to 18.00 Fr Thomas	
WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. Holy Mass will be offered in the older form from Monday to Saturday at 8am		
Next Sunday – 27th Sunday per annum. Readings:		
Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4	2 Timothy 1:6-8.13-14	Luke 17: 5-10

Holy X Factor – If you would like to compete at the Holy X Factor event please pick up a form from the Wellington Street entrance. Or come and see some of Holy Cross Parish's finest singers in action and cast your vote for the very best! A great evening of entertainment and fine food, with the bar open too. Saturday October 30 from 7pm. Tickets only £5 – family tickets and concessions available. For further details contact Jeff on 0116 243 1289.

Have you considered joining the Parish 200 Club? It costs just £5 a month, and prizes of £150, £100 and £50 are paid out monthly. All proceeds go to the upkeep of the church. Membership forms are available by the doors of the church.

REGULAR SERVICE TIMES
MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS 7.30 Lauds 10.00 Mass 12.30 Mass 17.45 Vespers Old Rite Masses as announced. Church is open from 7.30 - 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 7.30 Lauds 10.00 Mass 12.30 Mass 17.45 Vespers 19.00 Mass
BANK HOLIDAYS (& MON TO FRI AROUND XMAS & NEW YEAR) 7.30 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 Tweets: twitter.com/holycross_leic
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