

ADVENT: THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE

FOR the past few months, Fr. Leon has laboriously composed a 'Back Page' for the Newsletter each week, describing the new translation of the Mass. Exactly when this will come into use we don't know, but it will probably be some time in the course of the coming year. Still, it is good to be prepared for it when it does come. Now Fr. Leon has completed that task, and we are reverting to the familiar pattern, with one of the Friars writing a comment each week, so you get constant change and variety.

When you come to think of it, it is very appropriate for this to happen at the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is a new beginning. And naturally that makes you think of the future. We are making a fresh start, perhaps taking a new direction, or at least renewing our old aims. So we are thinking about the present and the future, where we are and where we are going to.

But in today's readings, Isaiah and Jesus seem to have very different views of the future. Isaiah gives a visionary picture of the days when the Temple of the Lord will be the centre of life for all nations, when God's law will be followed by everyone and there will be universal justice and peace. In contrast, Jesus dwells more on judgement. The day 'when the Son of Man comes' will be a day that separates the good from the bad: 'one is taken and the other left'. Until then both the date of the judgement and its results are hidden from us, and life continues in all its ordinariness and ambiguity – 'as in Noah's day'. Watchfulness, like that of a householder waiting to catch the burglar: this is what we need.

And this is what St Paul says too. We should be awake now, like people waiting for the dawn. If our expectation **now** is for the light, then we should live **now** as people of the light. We should leave aside the deeds of darkness and live as in the light. Isaiah is describing the final goal, the future, when God's purposes are fulfilled. He uses the image of the Temple because that was what he was familiar with. In contrast, Jesus and Paul are speaking of our expectations **now**, of how we live as people whose vision is upheld by hope and trust in the Son of Man.

Fr Fabian OP

Advent Sunday

Year A

28 November 2010

The Newsletter of HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER

Serving Leicester's Catholics since AD 1247



Entrance Antiphon:	To you, my God, I lift my soul, I trust in you; let me never come to shame. Do not let my enemies laugh at me. No one who waits for you is ever put to shame.
At 11am – page nos in Missale:	•The Ordinary of the Mass, p 13 •Sung setting: Mass XVII, p 214; Credo I, p 215 •The Proper of the Mass, p 43
1st Reading:	Isaiah 2: 1-5
Psalm R:	We shall go rejoicing to the house of the Lord. (Ps 122)
2nd Reading:	Romans 13: 11-14
Alleluia:	Show us your merciful love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.
Gospel:	Matthew 24: 37-44
Communion Antiphon:	The Lord will shower his gifts, and our land will yield its fruit.

WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. In addition to the Masses listed in the schedule on p 3, Holy Mass will be offered in the older form from **Monday to Saturday at 8am.**

To help your spiritual preparation for the coming of our Lord we have:

- **Short Illustrated Advent Talks – The Nativity in Art.** This is a series of talks given on Fridays after the 10am and 12.30pm Masses. This Friday Fr Leon will speak on "Fra Angelico and the Annunciation".
- **Advent Carol service,** based on the 'O' Antiphons, Wednesday 1 December, 7:30 pm followed by refreshments in the hall.
- **Look to the Future Now – From Christmas to Advent: A Festival of Choirs.** Wednesday 15 December – 7.30pm in the Parish Centre (downstairs): We have a fantastic line-up of choirs performing at this event. Please do come along and bring family and friends. Entry is free and refreshments (finger-food and drinks) are provided **but please do bring something sweet or savoury to share.**
- **Christmas Novena Masses.** As our immediate spiritual preparation prior to the Solemnity of the Birth of our Lord, we shall have 9 specially themed 6pm daily Holy Masses from 16 December (except on Sunday the 19th, 7pm as normal). The theme for the novena of Masses is: 'Come, Lord Jesus, dwell among us!' All are invited to attend.

The Advent Market. NEXT SUNDAY we will hold our first 'Advent Mini Food Fest' (10:00 am to 1:30 pm). If you feel you can help in any way, shape, or form, please contact Stephanie on 01530 249802. In the meantime, donations of the following items will be appreciated:

- Bottles – Wine, Champagne, Cava, Spirits, Mulled Wine etc.;
- Home-made or bought – Christmas cakes, chocolate cakes, sponge cakes etc.; mince pies; jams, marmalades, chutneys; muffins and brownies;
- Chocolate; and Raffle Prizes.

The next FACT session is on Saturday December 4th at 7pm in the Church, discussing Suffering. Open to all Catholics aged 18-35. Food provided, donations welcome.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £1107.28; SVP £30.83; Friends of Holy Cross £14.57; Holy Souls £13.80; Grenada Church Restoration £15.33. The retiring collection for the McNabb appeal for parish funds came to £216.43 so the McNabb Appeal now stands at £9854.86, very close to our target of £10,000, so thank you very much.

This week there is a retiring collection for Bishop Malcolm as our thanks for his ten years as our bishop. Next week there is a retiring collection for the new and poor parishes of the diocese.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

There is a St Thomas study-weekend at the Dominican convent in Stone from 10th-12th December, led by Sr Valery Walker and Fr Thomas Crean. To book, contact Sr Valery on 020 8997 8550. The theme is "The angels and the incarnation".

The Leicester Theological Society's next talk will be given by Professor Robert Jackson from the University of Warwick. He will speak on "Education about Religions and Beliefs: European Policy Recommendations and Young People's Views" on Friday. All are welcome. Meetings are held at Christchurch, Clarendon Park Road (near Queens Road) at 7:30pm. And Churches Together in Leicester City Centre will meet at St Mary de Castro Church on Castle Street, at 12:30pm on Thursday. All are welcome.



Advent is our time for preparation for the coming of the Lord.

Forthcoming events for your diary

Wed 1 Dec	Advent Carol service, based on the 'O' Antiphons, 7:30 pm in the church
Sun 5 Dec	Advent Mini Food Fest, 10:00 am to 1:30 pm
Wed 8 Dec	Bishop Malcolm will consecrate the Martyrs' Shrine, 7.30pm (NOTE CHANGED TIME)
Sat 11 Dec	Insights from St Thomas Aquinas. A discussion day, St Clement's Hall, after 10am Mass. Information from 01482 802020 or jandpatdoyle@yahoo.co.uk .
Sun 12 Dec	Parish pre-Christmas lunch, Parish Centre, 1pm
Wed 15 Dec	A festival of Carols for Advent and Christmas, Parish Centre, 7.30pm
Thu 16 Dec	Christmas Novena Masses, daily Mon to Sat at 6pm, start today

Christmas Tree Star Appeal for Asylum Seekers & Refugees: the tree carries stars, each star having the name of a gift. You choose a star, or stars, buy and wrap the gift(s) named and return it (them) to the church with the stars attached. Your gifts will go to someone in need. The tree will be in the church for the first three Sundays of Advent, so presents must be ready please by 12 December.

Parish Lunch – Dec 12: Unfortunately we have sold out of tickets for the Christmas Lunch. We have tried to fit in as many of you as we can, so we will be completely stretched as far as catering is concerned. We cannot, therefore, admit anyone without a ticket – sorry. If you do have a ticket, please write your name on the seating plan that is on the wall in the narthex, next to the Parish Council noticeboard.

NEW PARISH WEBSITE. Thank you to everyone who has sent information about their group. If you haven't yet done so, we need no more than 200 words (and pictures are welcome) about your activities in the parish, written exactly as you would like to see them on the website, so that the site can be as comprehensive as possible. Please email your information or any questions to holycrosswebsite@gmail.com as soon as possible. Stay tuned for progress reports!

Year 1	This week's calendar & Mass Intentions	Psalter Week 1
Confessions	10.30 to 11.30 Fr Fabian, and 17.00 to 18.00 Fr Peter	
Sunday	1 st Sunday of Advent	
	Vigil 18.00 ✠ Ngo Kollo Emerentienne 8.00 ✠ Isabel O'Reilly	
	Family 9.30 Amagia Emmanuel	
	Solemn 11.00 ✠ Anthony Rosario	
	OP Rite 12.30 ✠ Deceased of the Martinez family	
Students	17.00 Mass for students in the Lady Chapel 19.00 <i>Pro populo</i>	
Monday	Advent feria 10.00 ✠ Frank & Mary Roberts 12.30 ✠ Catherine & Peter Bource	
Tuesday	ST ANDREW, APOSTLE 10.00 ✠ Dead of the Order of Preachers 12.30 ✠ Lyons & Freaney families	
Wednesday	Advent feria 10.00 ✠ Patrick Gilmore 12.30 ✠ Peggy Cremin	
Thursday	Advent feria 10.00 ✠ Patrick Mullarkey 12.30 ✠ David Lyons	
Friday	St Francis Xavier, priest, religious. <i>Migrants' Day. Prayers are recommended for migrants and refugees.</i> 10.00 ✠ Laurena Smith 12.30 ✠ Gerald Tackz	
Saturday	Advent feria 10.00 In thanksgiving 12.30 ✠ Victorine K Hillah	
Confessions	10.30 to 11.30 Fr Duncan, and 17.00 to 18.00 Fr Leon	
WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. Holy Mass will be offered in the older form from Monday to Saturday at 8am		
Next Sunday – 2nd Sunday of Advent. Bible Sunday. Prayers are recommended for openness to the Word of God. Readings:		
Isaiah 11: 1-10	Romans 15: 4-9	Matthew 3: 1-12

The Martyrs' shrine in the New Walk transept. Bishop Malcolm will consecrate it on 8 December at 7.30pm (*note changed time*), the 10th anniversary of his ordination as a bishop. The consecration will be preceded by Solemn High Mass in the older form. Bishop Malcolm has commented that it is fitting that Mass be celebrated in the form the martyrs themselves knew.

Solemn Vespers on 15 December. On that day most of the English Dominican friars will gather here for a meeting. It will end with Solemn Vespers in the church some time between 3 and 4pm. You are most welcome to join the friars in prayer.

Please see the noticeboard for further details of **The Legion of Mary** who invite you to their annual reunion at St Patrick's, Beaumont Leys Lane, on 10 December, starting at 6.45pm. And **Forgiveness & Reconciliation – Insights from St Thomas Aquinas: Developments in understanding and practice of the sacrament.** A discussion day here led by Fr Gregory Murphy, OP, on 11 December.

REGULAR SERVICE TIMES
MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS 7.30 Lauds 10.00 Mass 12.30 Mass 17.45 Vespers Old Rite Masses as announced.
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 XTMAS & 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.
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