

## Newspapers and the Truth

In his 1848 novel, *Loss and Gain*, Blessed John Henry Newman makes one of his characters say this: *My father never could endure newspapers – I mean the system of newspapers; he said it was a new power in the State.* Of course the work of a journalist can be done honourably, or else they would hardly have been given their own patron saint (it is Francis de Sales). To discover and publish truths that can help society is a noble calling. Yet, it is not too hard, I think, to see what Newman was driving at. Uninvested with civil authority, the newspaper proprietor or editor yet has a vast influence upon the thinking of his fellow citizens and therefore upon the manners and morals of his age. Probably even greater power is enjoyed by those who rule in the world of television, since a viewer is still more passive than a reader...

Why make these observations now? A week or so ago we saw newspapers all over the world seemingly united in distorting some words spoken by Pope Benedict XVI in an interview with a journalist. This is not the place to go into the moral question that was raised. Suffice it to say on that point that the Church can never change her teaching on the sanctity of marriage and its openness to life. What must strike us, though, is how the journalistic art was turned by many to an end clean contrary to its proper one: to mislead, and not to enlighten, the greatest possible number.

Of course, this is not a new problem, perhaps especially in Church affairs. To a correspondent who wanted to know what was happening at the First Vatican Council (1869-70), Cardinal Manning wrote from Rome that she should study the English newspapers as attentively as possible, and then believe the opposite! But if it is not a new problem, it is perhaps a worsening one, not least because headlines that tell 'the opposite of the truth' can now be generated everywhere at the same moment.

Fortunately, we have some better sources of information at our disposal. St Paul tells us today that God gave us the Holy Scriptures for our 'encouragement', or, as another translation has it, to be our 'consolation'. If we are disturbed by the half-truths or downright untruths that sometimes swirl around us, we can find refuge in that shelter, where everything speaks of Christ. This Advent, why not spend less time with the uncertain media of men, and more with those most certain Scriptures?

Fr Thomas OP

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Year A

5 December 2010

## The Newsletter of HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER

*Serving Leicester's Catholics since AD 1247*



<b>Entrance Antiphon:</b>	People of Zion, the Lord will come to save all nations, and your hearts will exult to hear his majestic voice.
<b>At 11am – page nos in Missale:</b>	•The Ordinary of the Mass, p 13; Asperges, p 40 •Sung setting: Mass XVII, p 214; Credo I, p 215 •The Proper of the Mass, p 44
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b>	Isaiah 11: 1-10
<b>Psalm <del>118</del>:</b>	<b>In his days may righteousness flourish, and peace abound for ever.</b> (Ps 72)
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b>	Romans 15: 4-9
<b>Alleluia:</b>	Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God.
<b>Gospel:</b>	Matthew 3: 1-12
<b>Communion Antiphon:</b>	Rise up, Jerusalem, stand on the heights, and see the joy that is coming to you from God.
<b>WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN.</b> In addition to the Masses listed in the schedule on p 3, Holy Mass will be offered in the older form from <b>Monday to Saturday at 8am.</b>	

### TO HELP YOUR SPIRITUAL PREPARATION FOR THE COMING OF THE 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 Isidore will speak on "Christ's Passion Foreshadowed in His Infancy".
- **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 Mini Food Fest' is being held today, Sunday, in the Parish Centre** from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm. Please visit the market and support this venture in aid of parish funds.

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE SVP IN THE SUDAN.** In 1988 we opened a feeding centre which fed 230 babies every other day; and the programme peaked at 10,000 babies a day for 5 days a week. The centres are near camps for displaced people not far from Khartoum. Vast numbers of the population have been displaced because of unrest in the Sudan and Darfur. The SVP is running this programme and keeping babies alive and giving them hope for the future. It costs £40 a year for each baby to provide nourishing food. Would you like to help? £40 for a year's food, or £20 for six months or £100 for vocational training for 2 adults or £60 for medical treatment for 20 patients. If you would like to help please contact Bernard Hawcroft on [b.hawcroft1@ntlworld.com](mailto:b.hawcroft1@ntlworld.com) or 0116 210 9077 or 0777 252 5327. He would love to hear from you!

**MONEY MATTERS:** Last Weekend's collections – Figures are not yet to hand (the Newsletter has gone to press early this week). More news next week.

This week there is a retiring collection for the new and poor parishes of the diocese. Next week there is a retiring collection for flowers to decorate the church over Christmas.

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 Martyrs' shrine in the New Walk transept. Bishop Malcolm will consecrate it on Wednesday, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, at 7.30pm, the 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr Austin Milner OP who died recently.



Today's Gospel: In due course John the Baptist appeared, "Repent," said he, "for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand."

Forthcoming events for your diary	
Sun 5 Dec	<b>TODAY!</b> 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 <a href="mailto:jandpatdoyle@yahoo.co.uk">jandpatdoyle@yahoo.co.uk</a> .
Sun 12 Dec	Parish pre-Christmas lunch, Parish Centre, 1pm
Wed 15 Dec	Solemn Vespers with most of the English Dominican friars, sometime between 3 & 4pm
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

A Group of singers and musicians from the parishes of St Mary's, South Wigston and St John Bosco, Eyres Monsell, will be carol singing to raise money for CAFOD at Asda, Fosse Park, on Monday 20 December between 7pm and 8.30pm. Please go and support them!

**The Angelus Project.** Following the Papal visit, we have all been invited to continue the celebrations with a Year of Catholic Education. The Diocesan Education Service has picked out five main themes on which to base our activities for this year. These are **Sainthood, Service, Vocation, Communication and Prayer**. These themes are drawn together as 'The Angelus Project'. The Angelus links the five themes, and also provides a beautiful way for the Diocese as a whole, parishes, schools and other groups, to continue its follow-up to the Papal visit. Please take a prayer card from one of the tables by the entrances.

**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](mailto:holycrosswebsite@gmail.com) as soon as possible. Stay tuned for progress reports!

Year 1	This week's calendar & Mass Intentions	Psalter Week 2
Confessions	10.30 to 11.30 Fr Duncan, and 17.00 to 18.00 Fr Leon	
Sunday	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent. Bible Sunday. Prayers are recommended for openness to the Word of God.</b>	
	Vigil 18.00 <i>Pro populo</i>	
	8.00 Intentions of St Anthony	
Family	9.30 ✠ Maureen Wilman	
Solemn	11.00 In thanksgiving (Gloria R)	
OP Rite	12.30 ✠ Lilian Barnes	
Students	17.00 <b>Mass for students in the Lady Chapel</b>	
	19.00 ✠ Ngo Kollo Emerentienne	
Monday	<b>Advent feria</b>	
	10.00 ✠ Irene Olszewska	
	12.30 ✠ Patrick Mullarkey	
Tuesday	<b>St Ambrose, bishop, doctor</b>	
	10.00 ✠ Dead of the Order of Preachers	
	12.30 ✠ Sean Murphy	
Wednesday	<b>THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, PRINCIPAL PATRON OF THE DIOCESE, solemnity. There will be an additional Mass at 7.30pm celebrated in the older form by Bishop Malcolm.</b>	
	10.00 ✠ Dr Eileen Brady	
	12.30 ✠ Thomas & Bridget Connell	
Thursday	<b>Advent feria</b>	
	10.00 ✠ Jessie Tierney	
	12.30 ✠ Joseph Johnstone (anniversary)	
Friday	<b>Advent feria</b>	
	10.00 ✠ Susan Donnally	
	12.30 ✠ Jessie Tierney	
Saturday	<b>Advent feria</b>	
	10.00 In thanksgiving to Our Lady of Lourdes	
	12.30 ✠ Ngo Kollo Emerentienne	
Confessions	10.30 to 11.30 Fr Peter, and 17.00 to 18.00 Fr Duncan	
	<b>WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. Holy Mass will be offered in the older form from Monday to Saturday at 8am</b>	
	<b>Next Sunday – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, 'Gaudete'. Readings:</b>	
	Isaiah 35: 1-6.10	James 5: 7-10
		Matthew 11: 2-11

If you haven't already, please do consider signing the petition by the Wellington Street doors to oppose TV ads aimed at children, and please take a blue leaflet for more information.

**Christmas Tree Star Appeal for Asylum Seekers & Refugees:** the tree, in the Wellington Street transept, 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, and we cannot 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.

REGULAR SERVICE TIMES
<b>MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS</b>
7.30 Lauds
10.00 Mass
12.30 Mass
17.45 Vespers
Old Rite Masses as announced.
<b>WEDNESDAYS</b>
10.30 Exposition until 12.30
11.45 Divine Mercy Chaplet, Rosary & Benediction
<b>SATURDAYS</b>
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.
<b>HOLIDAYS</b>
18.00 (previous day) Vigil Mass
7.30 Lauds
10.00 Mass
12.30 Mass
17.45 Vespers
19.00 Mass
<b>BANK HOLIDAYS (&amp; MON TO FRI AROUND XTMAS &amp; NEW YEAR)</b>
7.30 Lauds
12.30 Mass, after which the church is closed
<b>SUNDAYS</b>
8.00 Mass
9.00 Lauds
9.30 Mass (Family)
11.00 Mass (Solemn: Latin on 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> 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
<b>Leicester Royal Infirmary Catholic Chaplaincy:</b> 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.
<b>Website for past Newsletters:</b> <a href="http://holycrosschoirleicester.co.uk">holycrosschoirleicester.co.uk</a>
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