

## God in the Womb

IN the Divine Office (the official prayer of the Catholic Church), we hail Our Lady as 'you who have destroyed the surrounding heresies'. The reason we do that is because Mary is the guarantee of Christ's true humanity. In her, God truly became a man, and was born of her. The implication, and it is a true one, is that every heresy – every distortion or perversion of Christian truth – ultimately amounts to a denial of the truth of the Incarnation, that God-became-man; to deny that Jesus Christ is both truly God and truly man.

The Dominican Order was founded specifically to combat errors which split body and soul, spirit and matter, from each other. We submitted ourselves to the protection of Our Lady, the destroyer of heresies. Our sister order, the Franciscans, began the practice of Christmas cribs for the same reason: that the Incarnation of Our Lord would safeguard against threats to our faith.

Catholicism is a physical religion, simply because we are physical beings. God comes to us at our level: becomes one of us, shares our life, so that we might share His. If God takes us so seriously, we ought to take our own physicality seriously too. It is in the body that we merit heaven or damn ourselves to hell. In the body also we enjoy the beatitude of heaven or endure agony in hell. We are not bodiless angels, but human beings, composites of body and soul.

It is to thwart our temptation to 'angelism' (a purely spiritual version of religion) that we Catholics avail ourselves of matter – graced matter, such as statues, icons, incense, bells, relics, vestments, and candles. As 'rational animals' (note: matter and spirit) our worship is not simply interior and spiritual, but we engage in postures as we worship: standing, kneeling, prostrating, kissing sacred objects – because we are not angels but humans.

It's not that Catholicism is complicated. It's humans who are complicated. And God, who is perfectly simple, comes to share in our complicated, messy, material life, to lead us to the simplicity of His divine life – without jettisoning our complicated, material bodies. Even the institutional Church is nothing more than the result of the Incarnation. That's what the baby Jesus does.

Merry Christmas to you all from all the friars at Holy Cross!

Fr Leon Kuriakos Pereira, O.P.

Christmas & Holy Family

Year A

25 & 26 December 2010

## The Newsletter of HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER

*Serving Leicester's Catholics since AD 1247*



### SUNDAY: THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

**Entrance Antiphon:** The shepherds hastened to Bethlehem, where they found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

**At 11am – page nos in Missale:**

- The Ordinary of the Mass, p 13
- Sung setting: Missa de Angelis, p 206; Credo III, p 216
- The Proper of the Mass, p 54

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6. 12-14

**Psalm 128:** Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in his ways. (Ps 128)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Colossians 3: 12-21

**Alleluia:** Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

**Gospel:** Matthew 2:13-15. 19-23

**Communion Antiphon:** Our God has appeared on earth, and lived among men.

**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.**

**SERVICES BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR.** Please take as many of the cards with service times as you need, and please do not ring the Priory to ask for this information. Thank you! Cards are by the doors.

**PLEASE NOTE ESPECIALLY** that there will be no 10am Mass from Monday to Friday this week. Masses will be at 8am and 12.30pm only, after which the church will be closed. Normal services will resume on Saturday, New Year's Day.

**Thank you to everyone** who has supported the work of the parish social committee this year, either by helping to run or by attending the events. Please look out for our programme for 2011 – you will soon be able to find us on the web-site.

**Do you enjoy the tea and coffee after the 11.00 Sunday Mass?** We are getting low on helpers to organise the drinks once Mass is finished, and to help wash up afterwards. If you can spare some time to help in this way, and would like to spend a convivial half hour or so doing a very useful job, please volunteer your services to one of the people behind the counter.



The Dominican Community wish all our parishioners and visitors a  
happy and holy Christmastide and New Year



**MONEY MATTERS:** Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £1133.01; SVP £12.76; Friends of Holy Cross £7.34; Holy Souls £11.56; Grenada Church Restoration £15.83.

**200 Club – IMPORTANT REQUEST.** Could P Glover, winner of second prize in the November 200 Club draw, please come forward to claim his prize, as we have no address for him? Thank you.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

**Child Protection.** The NSPCC has a 24-hour helpline for use by anyone who is concerned about a child. See noticeboard, and there are small cards available by the doors with the number – 0808 800 5000, or use [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk).

**Leicester: City of Sanctuary.** They are opening a new drop-in centre for asylum seekers for which they will need furniture and furnishings. Also there have been specific requests for a computer/laptop, mobile phone, fridge-freezer, scientific calculator and geometry set. If you can help with any of these things, please contact Gill Buttery, Development worker at [leicester@cityofsanctuary.org](mailto:leicester@cityofsanctuary.org) or Refugee Action (Chancery House, 7 Millstone Lane).



For unto us a child is born,  
unto us a Son is given...and  
His name shall be called  
Wonderful Counsellor.

**Red Cross Appeal for Refugees & Asylum Seekers.** The full list of items needed to support these destitute and vulnerable people is:

- ◆ **Tinned goods:** tomatoes/ kidney beans/ chick peas/ tuna/ mackerel/ corned beef/ tinned fruit/ tinned vegetables/ baked beans/ soup;
- ◆ **Dried foods:** rice/ maize meal/ lentils/ cous cous/ dried fruit/ noodles/ sugar/ porridge/ flour/ pasta;
- ◆ **Long life goods:** cooking oil/ cereal bars/ nuts/ cereal/ crisps/ indian savoury mix/ chocolate/ biscuits;
- ◆ **Drinks:** fruit juice/ tea/ coffee/ drinking chocolate/ dried milk/ long-life milk/ squash/ water
- ◆ **Toiletries:** toothpaste/ toothbrushes/ soap/ toilet paper/ shampoo/ sanitary towels/ face and body creams/ shaving equipment;
- ◆ **Baby items:** nappies/ baby wipes/ oil/ baby milk/ baby food jars/ baby bath liquid;
- ◆ **Also:** tin openers/ cutlery/ crockery/ pans/ towels/ sleeping bags/ t-shirts/ supermarket and other shopping vouchers/ mobile telephone top-up vouchers/ writing paper/ envelopes/ stamps.

Please leave these items after any Mass. Thank you.

Are you keen to know what feasts are celebrated in this church for the coming year? The Dominican Ordo for the liturgical year 2010/2011 may be ordered from this website: <http://www.lulu.com/product/paperback/op-or-do-2011/13999510>. Or you can download an electronic version from [http://english.op.org/News\\_files/Ordo%20OP%202011.pdf](http://english.op.org/News_files/Ordo%20OP%202011.pdf).

**THE PARISH WEBSITE IS LAUNCHED!**

Go to <http://www.holycrossleicester.org> and there it is. Thank you to everyone who has sent information about their parish group; if yours is not there, we need up to 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.

Year 1	This week's calendar & Mass Intentions	Psalter Week 1
Confessions	None on Christmas Day	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD.</b> <i>There is no evening Mass today.</i>	
Midnight	23.30 † German Guerrero, Elvia Arango 8.00 <i>Pro populo</i>	
Family	9.30 † Fr John Orme Mills, OP	
Solemn	11.00 † Fr Austin Milner, OP	
OP Rite	12.30 † Fr Edmund Hill, OP	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY &amp; JOSEPH</b>	
	8.00 <i>Pro populo</i>	
Family	9.30 † Celesta Steele	
Solemn	11.00 In thanksgiving (GR)	
OP Rite	12.30 Mrs Christina Fiscyer (sick)	
Students	17.00 <b>No Mass now until next term</b> 19.00 † Hilagos Alebusa	
<b>Monday</b>	<b>ST JOHN, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST</b>	
	10.00 <i>No Mass at this time today</i> 12.30 † Deceased members of the Andrade family	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>THE HOLY INNOCENTS</b>	
	10.00 <i>No Mass at this time today</i> 12.30 † Dead of the Order of Preachers	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>ST THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP, MARTYR</b>	
	10.00 <i>No Mass at this time today</i> 12.30 † Tomnic Lyons	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>SIXTH DAY IN CHRISTMAS OCTAVE</b>	
	10.00 <i>No Mass at this time today</i> 12.30 Nicole Rachel, David & unborn baby	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>SEVENTH DAY IN CHRISTMAS OCTAVE</b>	
	10.00 <i>No Mass at this time today</i> 12.30 † Deceased members of the Pinto family	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>HOLY MARY, MOTHER OF GOD, solemnity</b>	
	10.00 † James & Doris McCarrick 12.30 † Ngo Kollo Emerentienne	
Confessions	10.30 to 11.30 Fr Thomas, and 17.00 to 18.00 Fr Isidore	
<b>WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN.</b> Holy Mass will be offered in the older form from Monday to Saturday at 8am		
<b>Next Sunday – THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD. Readings:</b>		
Isaiah 60: 1-6	Ephesians 3:2-3a.5-6	Matthew 2: 1-12

**The Aquinas Institute at Blackfriars, Oxford.** There will be a series of seminars on Thomas Aquinas and Contemporary Culture on Thursdays from 27 January to 3 March 2011. See noticeboards.

**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.

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>Parish Website:</b> <a href="http://www.holycrossleicester.org">www.holycrossleicester.org</a> <b>Website &amp; Newsletter Editors:</b> <a href="mailto:holycrosswebsite@gmail.com">holycrosswebsite@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:holycrossnewsletter@gmail.com">holycrossnewsletter@gmail.com</a>
<b>CONTACT DETAILS</b>
Holy Cross Priory 45 Wellington Street, LE1 6HW Priory phone: (0116) 255 3856 For home visits/recorded times of services: 255 3856 Fax: 255 5552 <b>Parish Priest:</b> Fr Leon Pereira: 252 1501 <a href="mailto:leicester@english.op.org">leicester@english.op.org</a>