

## IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ANGELS

Last Tuesday was the memorial of the Guardian Angels. And on 29 September we celebrated the feast of the Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael. So at this time of year angels are more in our thoughts than usual. The Archangels have always had a major feast day; but though the Guardian Angels used also to have a major feast, they have now been downgraded to a simple 'memory', and there seems to be less awareness or devotion to them among Catholics than there used to be. How many of us, for example, pray to our Guardian Angel? And what would we mean if we did?

At the same time an intense interest in angels has developed among 'New Age' religious people, who may have no Christian faith whatever. Look at all the books, pictures and cards about angels that you can buy these days. Why does awareness of Guardian Angels seem to be diminishing among Catholics, while it is increasing among others? Perhaps we don't think enough about them. Or rather, are we sufficiently open to them?

You don't just bump into angels. They aren't obvious and tangible, like trees or houses; nor are they around but hard to find, like some rare species of animal. Whatever else we might mean when we talk about angels, one thing is clear: we are talking about something to do with invisible reality. But our culture is one which has great difficulty in giving any sense at all to the notion of 'invisible reality'. That may not have been true of many cultures in the past, but it certainly true now. So we are tempted to be dismissive about angels, or else in total denial. They are like fairy stories, we might say; how can I be expected to believe in them?

We should resist this temptation. We do need to train ourselves into an awareness of things that are invisible. And, perhaps not surprisingly, the place to do this is the Mass. The Mass is about 'presences': God is present to us, and we to God; the sacrifice of Christ is made present; Christ is made present in the signs of bread and wine; the worship of myriads of angels and of saints is made present to us and we are made present to them, when we cry out with them: 'Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might'. When we share in the Mass we are not just affirming, but experiencing, all these presences - above all the presence of the glory of God in the glorified body of Christ which is with the Father, and of which we are members. Even in the here-and-now, our lives are lived in the presence of the angels, ministering to us the power, protection and healing of God.

Fr Fabian OP

27<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year

Year C

7<sup>th</sup> October 2007

### The Newsletter of Holy Cross Priory Church, Leicester



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Parish Priest, Fr. Tony Rattigan: *is away until 23<sup>rd</sup> October*

For home visits: (0116) 255 3856

Sunday Masses	This week	Mass Intentions	Next week
7:30pm Vigil	Fr Leon	Irene Olszewska, RIP	Fr Isidore
8:00am	Fr Euan	For The People	Fr Isidore
9:30am Family	Fr David	Special intention	Fr Leon
11:00am Solemn	Fr Tony	Evelyn Dixon	Fr Leon
7:00pm	Fr Fabian	Robert Family Intentions	Fr Euan

#### SUNDAYS IN TERM: MASS FOR STUDENTS AT 5pm (in Holy Cross Church)

Sunday Evening Services	6 <sup>th</sup> October	Confessions	13 <sup>th</sup> October
5:45 Rosary	Fr Fabian	10:30-11:30am	Fr Isidore
6:15 Sung Latin Compline	Fr Tony	4:00-5:00pm	Fr Leon
6:40 Benediction	Fr Tony	7:00-7:20pm	Fr Euan

<b>Entrance antiphon:</b>	O Lord, you have given everything its place in the world, and no one can make it otherwise. For it is your creation, the heavens and the stars: you are the Lord of all.
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b>	Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4
<b>Psalm Response:</b>	<b>O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b>	2 Timothy 1:6-8; 13-14
<b>Gospel Acclamation:</b>	<b>Alleluia! Alleluia!</b> <b>Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life..</b> <b>Alleluia!</b>
<b>Gospel:</b>	Luke 17: 5-10
<b>Communion Antiphon:</b>	The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to those who are searching for his love.

