

The difference between Religion and Faith.

One of the useful distinctions made by St Thomas Aquinas, was between the end of an act and its object. Human actions have ends. In fact if they didn't have ends, for St Thomas, they wouldn't strictly speaking be human actions at all. Human beings always act for a purpose. It might be a crazy purpose, but it would still be a purpose. In talking about the ends of human actions, Thomas is following his philosophical mentor, Aristotle, very closely.

Where he goes a good bit beyond Aristotle is in his understanding that the end of human actions is often different from the object of human actions. To understand this, consider a woman who is cooking a dinner. There are a lot of reasons why she might be doing this. It might be to feed her family, it might be to impress her husband's boss. It might be for a party. In all these cases the end is different, yet she is doing fundamentally the same thing. She is cooking dinner. Cooking the dinner is therefore not the end of her action but is its object. It is what she is concerned about.

This distinction helps us to understand why Thomas thinks that faith and religion are different aspects of being human. Religion for Thomas means any sort of religious practice. This might be a pagan religion doing things for the sake of the Gods. For Christians, the objects of the practice, what we are actually doing, might be prayer, sacrifice, pilgrimage or some other fixed way of serving God. The practice is the object of religion, but God is its end.

When Thomas talks of faith, he is thinking of a virtue which is quite different from religion. It is not a form of justice and God is the object of Faith, rather than its end. Faith, Hope and Charity are called the Theological virtues, not because they are the preserve of Theologians but because they are the virtues which deal directly with God. This is why we might speak of Pagan religion but never of Pagan faith. Pagan faith could not have God as its object because this is only possible by the grace of God, a grace which comes through the redemption offered by Jesus Christ. If God is the object of Faith, then what is its end? The end is to go beyond Faith to the vision of God which is not achieved in this life. When we see God, then Faith is no longer necessary. Likewise Hope, the second theological virtue is to be transcended by the triumph of God over all evil. Charity, on the other hand, being the love of God is not transcended. In heaven, love comes to its fulfilment, because it comes from the vision of God. This is why St Paul tells us (1 Corinthians 13:8), 'Love never ends'.

Fr Euan Marley O.P.

29th Sunday of the Year

Year C

21st October 2007

The Newsletter of Holy Cross Priory Church, Leicester



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Priory phone: (0116) 255 3856 Fax/recorded times of services: 255 5552

Parish Priest, Fr. Tony Rattigan: *is away until 23rd October*

For home visits: (0116) 255 3856

Sunday Masses	This week	Mass Intentions	Next week
7:30pm Vigil	Fr Leon	Elna Stantley Mathew	Fr Leon
8:00am	Fr Isidore	Ashbury family & friends, RIP	Fr Isidore
9:30am Family	Fr Euan	Margaret O'Reilly, RIP	Fr David
11:00am Solemn	Fr Fabian	For The People	Fr Fabian
7:00pm	Fr Euan	Mary Ann Rooney, RIP	Fr Fabian

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

Sunday Evening Services	20 th October	Confessions	27 th October
5:45 Rosary	Fr Fabian	10:30-11:30am	Fr David
6:15 Sung Latin Compline	Fr Euan	4:00-5:00pm	Fr Leon
6:40 Benediction	Fr David	7:00-7:20pm	Fr Fabian

Entrance antiphon:	I call upon you, God, for you will answer me; bend your ear and hear my prayer. Guard me as the pupil of your eye; hide me in the shade of your wings.
1st Reading:	Exodus 17: 8-13
Psalm Response:	Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.
2nd Reading:	2 Timothy 3:14 - 14:2
Gospel Acclamation:	Alleluia! Alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. Alleluia!
Gospel:	Luke 17: 11-19
Communion Antiphon:	The Son of Man came to give his life as a ransom for many. At 11.00: How great is your name, O Lord our God, through all the earth!

Money Matters: Last Weekend: Offertory Collection £734.74; SVP £14.27; St. Martin's Missions - not yet counted; Holy Souls - not yet counted; Grenada £9.99.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - MINI MARKET ON SATURDAY 17 NOVEMBER 10:30 - 12:30 (AND AFTER THE 9:30 AND 11:00 MASSES ON THE SUNDAY). Do please make a note to come to the mini market in St Clement's Hall as it one of our main methods of fundraising - all proceeds will go to the church refurbishment fund.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

This week's Feasts:

Monday	Feria
Tuesday	St John of Capestrano - <i>optional</i>
Wednesday	St Anthony Mary Claret - <i>optional</i>
Thursday	Feria
Friday	Ss Chad and Cedd - <i>optional</i>
Saturday	Saturday Mass of Our Lady - <i>optional</i>

TODAY IS WORLD MISSION SUNDAY. We are asked to join all the Catholic communities and parishes around the world by offering our prayers and material help to our brothers and sisters in countries where the Church is new, young or poor. They, in turn, will care for others, sharing God's love and compassion. Your support will help them grow strong and share the Good News of Jesus with all peoples, and will help every mission diocese in the world! Please support the second collection today; the money will go directly to those most in need. If you pay sufficient Income Tax, please use the Gift Aid envelopes provided, which will increase the value of your donation by 28%. More information on www.missio.org.uk.

The Ecumenical Committee have organised some Sunday afternoon pilgrimages for the autumn. The next is to Mount St Bernard Abbey on Sunday 11th November, and the following one to Quenby Hall on Sunday 9th December. All are welcome. Please meet at Holy Cross at 1.30pm, to arrive at the venue at 2pm, where we will have a guided tour and finish with afternoon tea, before making our way back to Holy Cross to join the students in their 5pm mass. The cost is £7.50 per visitor. We'll try to share transport. If interested please call Maureen 222 0634 or Linda 281 1322. These are ecumenical events; please bring your non-Catholic friends!

Please join us in the Parish Hall after the 9:30am and 11:00am Sunday Masses for tea, coffee, fruit-juice etc. The Hall is in Wellington Street. There is the chance for a chat with members of the Dominican Community and with parishioners. We particularly welcome visitors to our Parish.

The journey to heaven in art, music, prayer and poetry. A day of reflection hosted by the Birmingham and Leicester Lay Dominicans, with the main speaker being Fr Richard Conrad, OP. Saturday 27th October at Maryvale Institute, Birmingham. Talks include 'Christ's Conquest in Art', the poetry of Dante & Newman, and 'The Last Things in Christian Music'. The last talk will be 'illustrated' by Holy Cross Choir. 10.45am-4.30pm. Contact: Winifred Flanagan 0121 475 0386.

We welcome the many new students who have just arrived in our city; and look forward to meeting again those who have returned to their studies. There is a Mass for students each Sunday at 5pm in the Lady Chapel with a gathering in the Old School House afterwards. Mass on campus (**at 12.30pm**) is on Monday and Friday at Leicester University and Tuesday and Thursday at De Montfort University.

Confirmation: We are looking to start a class for young persons wishing to be confirmed. The class will be for those in year 7 and above, and will take place on Sundays after the 9:30am mass. Confirmation will not be held at Holy Cross this year, but we will either join a nearby parish or go to the Cathedral in Nottingham. Those interested should speak to Fr David.

Volunteer required! Holy Cross Centre Management Committee meets twice a year in the Priory Library, the meetings last about an hour and are very informal (6 people). We are looking for someone who would arrange the dates of the meeting with Fr Tony, circulate the dates and agenda to the others (most have email), take minutes, type them and circulate ready for the next meeting. If you can assist please contact Fr Tony. Thank you.

Fancy a day in London? You could go to 'Towards Advent – a Festival of Catholic culture' at Westminster Cathedral Hall on Saturday 3 November from 10am to 4pm. Events include tours of the Cathedral treasures. Details are on the noticeboard in the Wellington Street transept.

Beautiful house to share: with one other. Close to City Centre with private gardens and parking. Tel: 0796 333 5376. Available immediately.

Justice and Peace Annual Assembly: The 2007 Annual Assembly will be at St Patrick's Church, Beaumont Leys Lane, Leicester, on 10 November 2007. The day will commence with the AGM at 10.00am. Bishop Malcolm OP will celebrate Mass at 12 noon for delegates and visitors. Theme for the day is Migrant Workers.

Services at Holy Cross during the week:

Mass: Mon - Sat, at 10:00am (with sermon) and 12:40pm.

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Wednesday 10:30am - 12:30pm.
with Rosary and simple Benediction at 12:15pm.**
