

## THE DAY IS COMING

The first time I saw the Diwali decorations in the Belgrave Road, I thought: 'How terrible! They are putting up Christmas decorations already, two months early'. Then I realised that they were Diwali decorations, at the right time for that festival; but they also serve, with hardly any change, as Christmas decorations too, or rather as decorations to encourage the pre-Christmas shopping spree.

Christmas, like Diwali, is a festival of light, though there is much more to it than that. Christmas comes just after the turn of the year, when the days are beginning to lengthen, the light is increasing and warmth is returning to a frozen world. What better time to celebrate the birth of Him who is the Light of the World, God-With-Us, who brings life and warmth to our cruel and selfish world.

But why talk about this now? Christmas is still over a month away. Well, for one thing, this is the time of the year when the Mass readings are all about looking to the future, being prepared for both the blessings and the troubles that await us. 'The day is coming', says the prophet Malachi, when evil-doers will be punished, but the sun of righteousness will shine on those who reverence God. And in today's Gospel, Jesus talks about the conflict and suffering that his followers can expect. 'Being prepared' is the keynote.

Secondly, we are getting near to the time for preparing for Christmas. Now, preparation is one thing, but celebration is another. But we have fallen into the trap of the pre-Christmas shopping spree. As soon as Christmas is over the decorations in the Town Hall Square and the shopping streets disappear, and the time that should be the real celebration is an anti-climax. And it is difficult to prevent this from affecting the religious observance of Christmas too. The Carol Services and the Nativity Plays all take place before the event that they celebrate. Strange, isn't it!

There is not much we can do to change this. But being aware of it may help us to keep the days after 25 December as a personal, and perhaps parochial, Christmas time. And there are reminders during the days before 25 December that what we are celebrating is a religious event and not simply a commercial blow-out.

The Crib in the Town Hall Square is one reminder. And it is impressive to see people, especially parents with their children, stopping to look at it. And there are also the Christmas stamps that Royal Mail issues. This year there will be a Madonna & Child design on first and second class stamps only. But Post Office staff have been told to sell the Madonna & Child stamps only if people specifically ask for them. Obviously people will not ask for them unless they know about them. And if we don't buy these stamps, Royal Mail might claim that there is no demand for religious Christmas stamps and not issue them in future. So, ask for the 'Madonna & Child' stamps when you do your Christmas post, and encourage your family and friends to do the same.

Fr Fabian OP.

33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Year

Year C

18 November 2007

## The Newsletter of HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER

Served by the Dominican Order: website <http://www.torch.op.org>



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Sunday Masses	This week	Mass Intentions	Next week
7:30pm Vigil	Fr Tony	Holy Souls	Fr Isidore
8:00am	Fr Isidore	Marjorie Vincent, lately deceased	Fr Tony
9:30am Family	Fr Fabian	For The People	Fr David
11:00am Solemn	Fr Euan	Deceased members of Holy Cross Choir	Fr Duncan
7:00pm	Fr Tony	Holy Souls	Fr Euan

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

Sunday Evening Services	17 November	Confessions	24 November
5:45 Rosary	Fr Isidore	10:30-11:30am	Fr Duncan
6:15 Sung Latin Compline	Fr Euan	4:00-5:00pm	Fr Leon
6:40 Benediction	Fr David	7:00-7:20pm	Fr Euan

<b>Entrance antiphon:</b>	The Lord says: my plans for you are peace and not disaster; when you call me, I will listen to you, and I will bring you back to the place from which I exiled you.
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b>	Malachi 3: 19-20
<b>Psalm Response:</b>	<b>The Lord comes to rule the peoples with fairness. (Ps 97)</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b>	2 Thessalonians 3: 7-12
<b>Gospel Acclamation:</b>	<b>Alleluia! Alleluia! Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to stand with confidence before the Son of Man. Alleluia! At 11.00: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice!</b>
<b>Gospel:</b>	Luke 21: 5-19
<b>Communion Antiphon:</b>	I tell you solemnly, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours, says the Lord.

**Money Matters:** Last Weekend: Offertory Collection £1011.79; SVP £4.22; St. Martin's Missions £5.12; Holy Souls £1.85; Grenada £5.39.

➤ **LAST REMINDER!! MINI MARKET, ST CLEMENT'S HALL, TODAY, AFTER THE 9:30 AND 11:00 MASSES.** There will be a variety of stalls: gifts, bric-a-brac, religious Christmas cards and a raffle. All proceeds will go to the church refurbishment fund.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

This week's Feasts:	
Monday	St Elizabeth of Hungary, wife and mother
Tuesday	Feria
Wednesday	The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Thursday	St Cecilia, virgin and martyr, patron of church musicians
Friday	St Clement I, pope and martyr, or St Columban, abbot ( <i>both optional</i> )
Saturday	Ss Ignatius Delgado Cebrián, bishop, Vincent Lê Quang Liêm, priest, Dominic Pham Trong Kham, husband and father, and Companions, Martyrs of Vietnam

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During the winter months the church will be open from 8am each weekday until 3.30pm.

**Hassocks Galore!** We have been very fortunate to obtain about 150 hassocks from the disused church of St Paul on Glenfield Road. These will be used to replace the uncomfortable kneeling stools in the side aisles, and fill any gaps in the nave. BUT they are rather dirty, and need a clean-up. **We would be very grateful if you would please take a few, clean them, and then return them to the weekday chapel.** They are stored in black bags in the alcove next to St Joseph's altar on the Wellington Street side of the church. As the proverb goes: Many hands make light work! After cleaning, they will be fitted with eyelets so that they can hang on hooks on the backs of the chairs.

**PARISH CHRISTMAS LUNCH.** Sunday 9th December: £10. Tickets on sale soon. The cooks would appreciate some helpers on the day and the evening before. Please volunteer to Fr Tony.

**LEICESTER CATHOLIC STUDIES.** Our Autumn session begins on Monday 26 November in Holy Cross Centre from 8:00pm to 9:30pm. Our speaker will be the Rt Rev Vivienne Faull, the Dean of Leicester Cathedral, and her subject is 'What will it take to regenerate Leicester?'

Christians in Leicestershire Inter Faith Network have a vacancy for a Project Facilitator. It's a part-time job to set up and maintain a website, and to provide other basic administrative support. See the noticeboard.

**Leicester YMCA Homelessness Christmas Appeal.** The generosity of individuals is vital to the service provided for around 80 people a day who are rough sleepers or vulnerably housed. As well as providing counselling and advice, the YMCA offers activities such as arts, healthy eating and IT to encourage people to explore their skills and consider their long term employment and training prospects. Further details from the Dawn Centre on Conduit Street, phone 221 2787, or [yasc@leicesterymca.co.uk](mailto:yasc@leicesterymca.co.uk), and see noticeboard. The YMCA Christmas Carol Service will be held on Tuesday 11 December at 7:30pm at the YMCA, East Street.

St Mary's church in Loughborough will have a Mass for people from the Philippines on Saturday 8th December at 4.30pm.

Concert at St Barnabas Cathedral, Nottingham - Sunday 2 December at 3pm. See noticeboard in transept.

Touching the Presence - is an exploration of Matthew's theme 'I am with you' on Saturday 1 December from 10:30am to 3:30pm at St Gregory's Social Centre, Sibley. See poster on noticeboard.

Cantate Domino, Nottingham Cathedral Choir's first CD (£10) - Choral music from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. See noticeboard in transept and [www.priory.org.uk](http://www.priory.org.uk). An ideal Christmas present!

Advent Retreat Day - Saturday 15 December at the Diocesan Centre, Derby, from 10:00am to 3:30pm. See the noticeboard.

**Do you wish to be married at Holy Cross in 2008?** The diocese requires a couple to give at least 6 months' notice. To be married at Holy Cross at least one of the couple should be a Catholic parishioner of Holy Cross, and both must be 'free to marry' under the Catholic Church's rules. Please consult the Parish Priest.

**Refugee and Asylum Support:** We are still collecting tins of food for the Red Cross. The collection point after the 9:30 and 11:00 Sunday Masses is Holy Cross Centre. At the other Sunday Masses it is the Wellington Street entrance. We are very grateful to you for your support: when we take the donations to the Red Cross on a Monday there is often a queue of people waiting for food and the cupboards are nearly bare! It is good to do something to help. **Keep the tins coming!**

*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.*

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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.**