

## 1st Sunday of Advent

“Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel. He has visited his people and redeemed them.” With these words Zechariah praised and thanked God for the miraculous birth of his son, John the Baptist. He realised his child was destined to prepare the way of the Lord. The final stage of God’s plan for our salvation had been set in motion!

Zechariah spoke of God ‘visiting his people.’ That’s the principal meaning of the feast of the Visitation. I realise that at first that seems primarily to be about Mary going to see her cousin, Elizabeth, who would soon give birth to John the Baptist.

But there’s much more to the Visitation than that. In Mary’s unborn child the Son of God had already come among us. His visit among us to redeem us had already begun. And this is not just a short-term visit, as though he’d dropped in on us, stayed with us for a while, and then departed as he ascended into heaven.

No. When God became man he forged in his very person an indestructible bond with the human race. Now he is forever one of us, forever committed to us.

Zechariah tells us why God has visited us - to redeem us, to save us from the destructive power of sin and death. More even than this, God has shared our human life, so that we may share his divine life and happiness. He has gone to such trouble simply because he loves us so much that he wants us to be with him forever, sharing his life and happiness.

Advent is a season of preparation for ‘the coming of our God.’ Jesus longs to visit each of us, to enter our lives and stay with us. May we always long to be with him! We hope our short Advent talks will assist you to make him especially welcome on his birthday.

Isidore O.P.

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

Year A

2 December 2007

The Newsletter of  
**HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER**  
Served by the Dominican Order: website <http://www.torch.op.org>



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Parish Priest, Fr. Tony Rattigan: 252 1501 For home visits: 255 3856

Sunday Masses	This week	Mass Intentions	Next week
7:30pm Vigil	Fr Tony	Julia Barrat, RIP	Fr Isidore
8:00am	Fr Isidore	David Lyons, RIP	Fr Euan
9:30am Family	Fr Duncan	Hugh Bradley, RIP	Fr David
11:00am Solemn	Fr David	David Lyons, Anniversary, RIP	Fr Duncan
7:00pm	Fr Fabian	For the People	Fr Tony

**SUNDAYS IN TERM: MASS FOR STUDENTS AT 5pm (in the Church). The last Mass this term will be on 9 December, and the first next term on 13 January**

Sunday Evening Services	1 December	Confessions	8 December
5:45 Rosary	Fr Tony	10:30-11:30am	Fr Euan
6:15 Sung Latin Compline	Fr Duncan	4:00-5:00pm	Fr Isidore
6:40 Benediction	Fr Leon	7:00-7:20pm	Fr David

<b>Entrance Antiphon:</b>	To you, my God, I lift my soul, I trust in you; let me never come to shame. Do not let my enemies laugh at me. No one who waits for you is ever put to shame.
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b>	Isaiah 2: 1-5
<b>Psalms Response:</b>	I rejoiced when I heard them say: “Let us go to God’s house.” (Ps 121)
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b>	Romans 13: 11-14
<b>Gospel Acclamation:</b>	Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us see, O Lord your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!
<b>Gospel:</b>	Matthew 24: 37-44
<b>Communion Antiphon:</b>	The Lord will shower his gifts, and our land will yield its fruit.

**MONEY MATTERS:** Last Weekend: Offertory Collection £1008.00; SVP £3.96; St. Martin's Missions £2.81; Holy Souls £0.92; Grenada £4.52.

Last week's collection for the Diocesan Quota came to £341.85.

There will be a collection as you leave Mass this week (and next week too). This week it will be to support the Poor Parishes of the diocese. Next week we will be collecting money for the Christmas Flowers.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

This week's Feasts		
Monday:	St Francis Xavier, priest	
Tuesday:	St John Damascene, priest and doctor	
Wednesday:	Feria	
Thursday:	St Nicholas, bishop (optional)	
Friday:	St Ambrose, bishop and doctor	
Saturday:	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Principal Patron of the Diocese	
Next Sunday's Readings		
Isaiah 11: 1-10	Romans 15: 4-9	Matthew 3: 1-12

**Refugee and Asylum Support: URGENT.** There is a great need for toiletries, disposable nappies &c; please consider dropping off a tube of toothpaste or the like! 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.

**Short Advent Talks at Holy Cross - "The Origins of Christmastide".** These talks take place on Fridays after the 10:00 and 12:40 Masses. On Friday, 7 December, it's the turn of Fr Isidore to speak on 'St Francis' Christmas'. We hope these talks will help you to prepare for the birth of our Saviour.

**First Friday Coffee Morning: Friday, 7 December,** at 10:30am in the Church Hall. Tea & scones or coffee & cake, a chance to chat with other weekday Mass-goers and members of the Community; and, of course, a raffle. Money raised goes towards the care and maintenance of the church fabric.

**"Wish upon a Star Scheme":** After its outstanding success for the last two years, this is being repeated this year, although at rather short notice! The tree goes up this weekend, the first Sunday in Advent and will be up the following Sunday, after which the gifts will be taken to the organisers, i.e after 10th December. The tree carries stars, and each star carries the name of a gift, some cheap, others a little more expensive. You choose a star, or more than one if you wish, buy and wrap the gift(s) named and return it (them) to the church with the stars attached. Your star gifts will go to someone in need, and arrangements will be made to deliver them.

**PARISH CHRISTMAS LUNCH.** Tickets, at £10, are available for the Parish Christmas lunch, which is next Sunday at 12.30.

**Support St Paul's School:** During its 30th Anniversary year, St Paul's is aiming to raise £30,000 for internal refurbishment including the school library. Please consider supporting our Catholic school in the following ways:

- Buy a ticket for the Grand Christmas Draw: with half of the proceeds awarded in prizes, this is a much better investment than a lottery ticket. £5 per ticket - only 1000 tickets available. No limit on how many tickets per person. Available after Mass next week, or through the school - tel. 241 4057 or e mail [30thcelebrations@st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk](mailto:30thcelebrations@st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk).
- Treat yourself or someone you know to a Gourmet card, giving significant reductions at restaurants throughout the East Midlands for a year. Often offering 50% discount, this card pays for itself in one or two visits. Reduced price through the school of £39.50 each or £79.80 for three. Available as above.

**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.

**Reader Training.** A new formation course will be launched on Saturday 2 February at Beaumont Leys. For further information, see Fr Tony.

**International Young Leaders Network.** There will be a training session held at Blackfriars, Oxford, in July 2008. See noticeboard.

Today, 2nd December, the **CAFOD Justice & Peace Group** will be promoting actions that you can do before Christmas to support CAFOD campaigns, and to be part of the live simply personal commitment to change. And on 3rd December, 9.30am at Voluntary Action Leicester, Newarke St, there will be further discussions about **Leicester becoming the second "city of sanctuary" for refugees and asylum seekers** by coordinating both public and voluntary support efforts. To be involved with either please contact Christina Mottram on 0116 221 3066 or [cj.mottram@ntlworld.com](mailto:cj.mottram@ntlworld.com)

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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.**

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

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