

This Sunday's Feast, of the Holy Family, is another of the new Feasts established by recent Popes. It was promoted in fact, because - to be honest - there is very little about family life in the Gospels. Many of the things Jesus said didn't seem supportive of family life. He called His disciples away from their homes, and even talked of needing to 'hate' our family members before becoming a true disciple. He never started a family of His own and seemed to prefer His disciples to whatever family He had, even His own Mother we have learned to venerate so much. He did say strong things in support of marriage - 'God has joined' - and showed great love and respect for children - 'these are of the Kingdom'- but demanded of disciples poverty, celibacy and obedience as we practise in Priesthood and Orders.

This creates a problem, in all churches. There seems to be a 'distinction' between 'disciples'; and 'followers' to be guided, like 'sheep'; or netted, like 'fish'! This misunderstanding has been disastrous. Even the fact that from the beginning, so many 'followers' have been declared Saints, doesn't really change the picture; so many people 'leave religion to the priests', 'in church', simply not realising what religion really is - living every day with mind and heart towards God. Protestants, to be fair, have understood this better; but seem to have gone on to a really 'do-it-yourself' kind of Christianity that makes having a Church quite impossible; and may well make Christianity almost disappear in future - to be replaced by some of the other Religions now among us? Pope Paul once made a very interesting suggestion. He said he wanted to make 'group Saints'. Any families willing to volunteer to try, to show us all Christian life?

fr Duncan OP

The Holy Family

Year A

30 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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 Priory phone: (0116) 255 3856 Fax/recorded times of services: 255 5552
 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 | Gordian Marshall, OP, RIP | Fr Isidore |
| 8:00am | Fr Isidore | Quirke Family (Intentions) | Fr Duncan |
| 9:30am Family | Fr Tony | Mary Cross, RIP | Fr David |
| 11:00am Solemn | Fr Duncan | For the People | Fr Leon |
| 7:00pm | Fr Duncan | John & Nancy McCaffrey, RIP | Fr Fabian |

SUNDAYS IN TERM: MASS FOR STUDENTS AT 5pm (in the Church).
 No Mass today; the first Mass of next term will be on Sunday 13 January.

| Sunday Evening Services | 29 December | Confessions | 5 January |
|--------------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------|
| 5:45 Rosary | Fr Isidore | 10:30-11:30am | Fr Leon |
| 6:15 Sung Latin Compline | Fr Tony | 4:00-5:00pm | Fr Duncan |
| 6:40 Benediction | Fr Euan | 7:00-7:20pm | Fr David |

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|--------------------------------|--|
| Entrance Antiphon: | The shepherds hastened to Bethlehem, where they found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. |
| 1st Reading: | Ecclesiasticus 3 :2-6, 12-14 |
| Psalm Response: | O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways! (Ps 127) |
| 2nd Reading: | Colossians 3: 12-21 |
| Alleluia: | May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts; let the message of Christ find a home with you. At 11:00 - Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. |
| Gospel: | Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23 |
| Communion Antiphon: | Our God has appeared on earth and lived among men. At 11:00 - Take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead. |

MONEY MATTERS: No figures for last week's collections available yet - details next week, but a big thank-you to all to come to, or contributed towards, the Advent and Christmas celebrations, decorations and services.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

| This week's Feasts | | |
|------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Monday: | Seventh day of the Christmas Octave | |
| Tuesday: | HOLY MARY, Mother of God. Only one Mass, at 10am, after which the church will be closed. | |
| Wednesday: | Ss Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, bishops and doctors | |
| Thursday: | The Most Holy Name of Jesus (<i>optional</i>) | |
| Friday: | St Zedislava of Lemberk, wife and mother, countess, lay Dominican | |
| Saturday: | Christmas feria | |
| Next Sunday's Readings | | |
| Isaiah 60: 1-6 | Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6 | Matthew 2: 1-12 |

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr Gordian Marshall, OP, who died earlier this month. Many parishioners will remember him from his time at Holy Cross in the late 1980s when he was Bursar and involved in much interfaith work. RIP.

A **Christian/Muslim dinner** will be held at St Philip's Church on 18th January. Tickets £12.50 from Sheila Brucciani. Money raised is for Christian/Muslim projects. Fr Tony can put you in touch with Sheila.

MANY THANKS for the wonderful response to the **Wish Upon a Star** appeal! We have collected **250** gifts to go to the refugees, asylum seekers and other groups of disadvantaged and needy people in Leicester. To every one of you who gave a gift - Thank you!

St Paul's School will celebrate its **30th Anniversary** on the evening of Saturday 28 June, at the school. The event is open to all past pupils who are over the age of 18, staff and friends. For more details ring 241 4057, visit www.st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk or e-mail stpaulsrcschool@netscape.net. Do let anyone who is coming home for Christmas know!

The National Board of Catholic Women (the consultative body for women to the Bishops' Conference for issues such as Education, Health, Marriage and the Family, Social Justice etc) is holding its AGM in Nottingham on 21-22 June 2008. In order to prepare for that meeting there will be a discussion session at Rearsby convent, 61 Station Road, Rearsby on Saturday 5th January from 10am - 4pm. Fair trade refreshments and a light lunch will be included - Contact Christina Mottram 0116 221 3066 cj.mottram@ntlworld.com to book or for further information.

The Catholic Chaplaincy at Leicester Royal Infirmary is covered by priests from Holy Cross. Please do not call the Priory if a relative in the LRI needs a priest urgently: instead ask the ward staff to bleep the Roman Catholic Chaplain. Messages for non-urgent visits to Catholic patients in the LRI can be left at the Priory or at the LRI Chaplains' office; but please note that messages may not be picked up until the end of the chaplain's working day.



First Friday Coffee Morning: This coming Friday, 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.

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 Black Friars - the Newsletter of the English Dominican Province. There are many articles and photographs showing the work of the Province, including a report on the Dominican pilgrimage to Lourdes. See if you can spot any parishioners in the photographs. Please take a copy, available by all the doors.



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



Services at Holy Cross during the week:

Mass: Monday and Wednesday - Saturday, at 10:00am (with sermon) & 12:40pm.

Tuesday (Bank Holiday) - at 10am only, after which the church will be closed.

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 ordinary weekday until 3:30pm.