

The Lord spoke to Moses... "This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel... you shall say to them:

'May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace.'

This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them."

That passage from the Old Testament (*Numbers 6:22-27*) was read at Mass on New Year's Day. The psalm (66) echoes the blessing the Lord taught to Moses, "God be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us." Both of these Old Testament passages seem fitting for the start of a new year. Jesus used the parable of the Prodigal Son (and the other, crabby, brother) to teach us that our heavenly Father is always wanting to let his face shine upon us. Always waiting for us to turn back to him and receive his blessing.

The last of those blessings is for peace; a universal New Year hope. Peace is more than an absence of war or absence of conflict and discomfort... though they help and are much hoped for and, rightly, prayed for. Peace for us should also mean wholeness, union with God, divine favour. God helping us to find the spark of the divine he has placed within us.

Another prayer that fits with this time of year is that of Richard of Chichester.

*O most merciful Redeemer, friend and brother,*

*May I know Thee more clearly,*

*Love Thee more dearly,*

*Follow Thee more nearly, Day by day.*

New Year's day is the feast of the Motherhood of Mary... but why have Moses' blessing prayer on her feast day? The blessing is fulfilled in her Son, Mary is Mother of God. The Son is sent so that we might all become sons and daughters. "God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, that we might receive adoption as sons," (*Galatians 4:4-5*), also from the liturgy of 1<sup>st</sup> January. During Christmastide we celebrate more than what happened, we celebrate why it happened. There is a Holy Family so that we can all become family. The gospel passage on 1<sup>st</sup> January, from Luke, told us that Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. Her feast that began this New Year teaches us that Christ became human through human birth so that we might be elevated to the status of children of God. Let's treasure these things and ponder on them. Day by day.

fr Tony OP

The Epiphany of the Lord

Year A

6 January 2008

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 Isidore	James Henry, RIP	Fr David
8:00am	Fr Duncan	Ashberry family and friends, RIP	Fr Isidore
9:30am Family	Fr David	Special Intention	Fr Duncan
11:00am Solemn	Fr Leon	Julie McCarthy, RIP	Fr Fabian
7:00pm	Fr Fabian	For the People	Fr Duncan

**SUNDAYS IN TERM: MASS FOR STUDENTS AT 5pm (in the Church).**

**No Mass today; the first Mass of next term will be next Sunday, 13 January.**

Sunday Evening Services	5 January	Confessions	12 January
5:45 Rosary	Fr Leon	10:30-11:30am	Fr Duncan
6:15 Sung Latin Compline	Fr Duncan	4:00-5:00pm	Fr Euan
6:40 Benediction	Fr David	7:00-7:20pm	Fr Isidore

<b>Entrance Antiphon:</b>	The Lord and ruler is coming; kingship is his, and government and power.
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b>	Isaiah 60: 1-6
<b>Psalm Response:</b>	All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord. (Ps 71)
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b>	Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6
<b>Sequence (at 11:00):</b>	Laetabundus. For translation see 'Emmanuel', p115.
<b>Alleluia:</b>	We saw the star as it rose and have come to do the Lord homage.
<b>Gospel:</b>	Matthew 2: 1-12
<b>Communion Antiphon:</b>	We have seen his star in the east, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

**MONEY MATTERS:** Last Weekend: Offertory Collection £1023.49; SVP £22.77; St. Martin's Missions £6.58; Holy Souls £13.00; Grenada £7.28.

**200 Club December draw winners:** 1st prize (£150) A Weston, 2nd prize (£100) S Bourke, 3rd prize (£50) E Howe. Congratulations!

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

This week's Feasts		
Monday:	St Raymond of Peñafort, friar and priest	
Tuesday:	Weekday after Epiphany	
Wednesday:	Weekday after Epiphany	
Thursday:	Weekday after Epiphany	
Friday:	Weekday after Epiphany	
Saturday:	St Aelred of Rievaulx, abbot	
Next Sunday's Readings: The Baptism of the Lord		
Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7	Acts 10: 34-38	Matthew 3: 13-17

All the **Come Home for Christmas** leaflets which were put out seem to have been taken very quickly. I'd be interested in getting some feedback; what reaction did you get from the people you gave them to? Did they come to any of our Christmas services? Is it something we should do again? (The leaflets were free!) Please email me, John Young, on [johnyoung4927787@btinternet.com](mailto:johnyoung4927787@btinternet.com).

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.

**National Marriage Week:** Bishop Malcolm will be offering a Mass of Celebration during National Marriage Week in St. Barnabas Cathedral on Wednesday, 13 February, 2008 at 7.30 in the evening. All who have ever received the Sacrament are especially welcome and the bishop would very much like to be joined by engaged couples and people who have married in recent years. Light refreshments will be served after Mass. Marriage Care personnel will be on hand to listen to the opinions of couples after Mass about their experiences in early marriage.

**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 Leicester Theological Society** will meet this week on Friday 11 January when The Rt Rev Tim Stevens, Bishop of Leicester, will speak on "Is there a future for the Anglican Communion?". Meetings are held at Christ Church, Clarendon Park Road

(near Queens Road). Visitors are welcome. Details are on the noticeboard.

**Santo Niño Devotion:** All are invited to the celebration of the Feast of Santo Niño (the Divine Infant) on 19 January at Blessed Sacrament Church, Gooding Avenue, Braunstone. All are also welcome to join the 9 days' novena which begins on 11 January. For more details see the noticeboard.

**Training for Reading at Mass.** A new formation course for both existing and prospective readers. Fr Tony has details of a Saturday event in Leicester in early February which will be the first presentation of the diocese's course for those who read at Mass or would like to become readers. The course will be repeated.

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2008:** 2008 marks the 100th anniversary of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity organised by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. The theme for 2008 is 'Pray Without Ceasing'.

*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.*



**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!

*If you have any event or information that you would like publicising in this Newsletter and/or on the noticeboards, please hand in posters/information to the Priory, marked 'Newsletter'. In the case of events and other dated material please try to give 4 weeks' notice for inclusion in the Newsletter. All publicity depends on space available.*

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 Services at Holy Cross during the week:  
**Mass: Monday to Saturday, at 10:00am (with sermon) & 12:40pm.**  
**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Wednesday 10:30am - 12:30pm.**  
**with Rosary and simple Benediction at 12:15pm.**  
 On Mondays to Fridays during the winter months the church will be open from 8am until 3:30pm.  
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