

'Here I am Lord. I come to do your will.'

These words are used in the responsorial psalm of today's Mass. They form a bridge between the 1st Reading and the Gospel.

In the 1st Reading we are told about God choosing and preparing a servant. He would be a light to the nations and would bring the Lord's salvation to the ends of the earth. That prophecy would be fulfilled in Christ. At his baptism the Father recognised Jesus as his beloved Son or Servant, and in the power of the Spirit he began to preach the Kingdom of God. The words, **'Here I am Lord. I come to do your will'** sum up Christ's life-long openness and obedience to his Father's will. This would take him to Gethsemane, the cross and the resurrection.

'Here I am Lord. I come to do your will' should also sum up our response to our Christian vocation. At our baptism God calls each one of us to serve him and our neighbour. There are many ways in which we can do that. For most of us it will be as lay people, either single or married. Here we can find unique opportunities for following Christ, the servant of the Lord. God also calls others to serve him in the priesthood or religious life.

Sometimes it may be difficult to know what God is asking of us. Usually we don't hear a voice from heaven clearly telling us what we should do. Instead, God helps us gradually to make up our minds through prayerful thought and inquiry. Wise advice or someone simply acting as a sounding board can be of great assistance. Usually God wants us to use our particular interests and skills in his service.

But it can be a problem when we simply can't tell what God wants of us. This uncertainty may last for some time. Though that may be distressing for us, it may be God's plan for us at that particular moment. He wants us to learn to wait on the Lord and to learn to be patient with him and ourselves. He wants persistence in our prayers to help us decide what we really want. For a time God may want us to serve him by our living with uncertainty. If so, we will need a great deal of trust to believe God knows what he's doing, even if we don't. In this, and in all else, we pray, **'Thy will be done,'** as we place ourselves in God's hands.

To pray, **'Here I am Lord. I come to do your will'** means that we are open to God. We are willing to listen to him, and are eager to do his will. We are not like the two brothers in one of the parables. One enthusiastically agreed to do whatever his father asked of him, and yet didn't get round to obeying him. The other brother, though at first reluctant to obey, eventually did so. Although not ideal, he was certainly better than the brother who was simply full of empty good intentions. But we are called to say, **'Here I am Lord. I come to do your will'** - and mean it, wherever that may take us.

Isidore O.P.

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

20 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 Euan	Evelyn Dixon, RIP	Fr Tony
8:00am	Fr Isidore	Mr & Mrs L A Fernandez, RIP	Fr Isidore
9:30am Family	Fr Fabian	For the People	Fr David
11:00am Solemn	Fr Duncan	Book of Prayer Intentions	Fr Fabian
7:00pm	Fr Tony	Mary Nestor, RIP	Fr Euan

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

Sunday Evening Services	19 January	Confessions	26 January
5:45 Rosary	Fr Fabian	10:30-11:30am	Fr David
6:15 Sung Latin Compline	Fr David	4:00-5:00pm	Fr Leon
6:40 Benediction	Fr Leon	7:00-7:20pm	Fr Fabian

Entrance Antiphon:	May all the earth give you worship and praise, and break into song in your name, O God, Most High.
1st Reading:	Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6
Psalm Response:	Here I am Lord! I come to do your will. (Ps 39)
2nd Reading:	1 Corinthians 1: 1-3
Alleluia:	Blessings on the King who comes, in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens! At 11:00 - Praise God, all his angels, praise him, all his host.
Gospel:	John 1: 29-34
Communion Antiphon:	The Lord has prepared a feast for me: given wine in plenty for me to drink. At 11:00 - We will rejoice at the victory of God and make our boast in his great name.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend: Offertory Collection £741.53; SVP £4.13; St. Martin's Missions £9.92; Holy Souls £11.46; Grenada £5.55.

There will be a retiring collection next week in aid of the fund for sick and retired diocesan priests.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

This week's Feasts		
Monday:	St Agnes, virgin and martyr	
Tuesday:	St Vincent, deacon and martyr (<i>optional</i>)	
Wednesday:	Feria	
Thursday:	St Francis de Sales, bishop and doctor	
Friday:	The Conversion of St Paul the Apostle. Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity ends.	
Saturday:	Ss Timothy and Titus, bishops	
Next Sunday's Readings: 3 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Isaiah 8:23 - 9:3	1 Corinthians 1:10-13,17	Matthew 4: 12-23

Refugee and Asylum Support: We are still collecting food for the Red Cross. Tins are most welcome especially baked beans which can be easily prepared and served by their recipients. 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.

The Dominican Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from 1st to 8th August. This year will be very special at Lourdes as a Jubilee Year is being celebrated to mark the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady to St Bernadette. Air travel has been arranged from Stansted and Newcastle with the cost of the week being from £586.

As well as participating in the great events of Lourdes, we will celebrate the Anointing of the Sick and the Stations of the Cross, and there will be the option of excursions to sights in the vicinity. The pilgrimage will have a Dominican flavour, with sung liturgies, talks given by Dominican brothers and a warm atmosphere of Dominican friendship. There will be many opportunities for quiet prayer, and opportunities to relax and enjoy the company of fellow pilgrims. And, of course, the Dominican brothers will always be available to help in whatever way they can. Early booking is recommended. See the noticeboard, and further details are available from Fr Tony, or Fr John O'Connor, OP (St Columba's, 74 Hopehill Road, Glasgow G20 7HH, tel 0141 332 4530), or e-mail to op.lourdes@gmail.com.

A Women's Interfaith Media Literacy Workshop (an open meeting) will be held on Thursday 24 January at BBC Radio Leicester from 9:30am to 4:30pm. Interested? See noticeboard or contact cj.mottram@ntlworld.com.

Pilgrimage to Ireland: if you would like to join the Blessed Sacrament Parish on their Pilgrimage to Ireland from 4 - 9 May, staying in Westport and with visits to Knock, Achill, Connemara and Ballintubber Abbey, please telephone 285 8795 for a booking form. The cost will be £350 (single supplement £55). See also the noticeboard.

Ratcliffe College is offering four places from September to children joining Year 7 whose parents feel that they can share in and benefit from the ideals and environment of the School, and who otherwise would be precluded from the School for financial reasons. Details are on the noticeboard.

Churches Together in Leicester City Centre are running a Lent Course: 'Just People? The Micah Course' (amongst other things to deepen our theological understanding of God's concern for people affected by poverty, and his desire for a world full of justice, mercy and humility). Every Wednesday in Lent, starting on Ash Wednesday, at the Corn Exchange, at 7:30pm. See the noticeboard. **ADVANCE NOTICE:** the next of the monthly occasions of prayer and worship will be held here at Holy Cross on Thursday 7 February at 12:30pm.

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.

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', and there will be service to mark the centenary in St Nicholas Church, St Nicholas Circle, on Wednesday 23 January at 7:30pm. All are most welcome to attend.

Come and Sing with the Leicester Bach Choir: an opportunity to sing Zadok the Priest, I was Glad, and other great English Anthems on Saturday 26 January at St Denys' Church, Church Road, Evington. There is a rehearsal in the afternoon followed by supper, with the performance at 7pm. If you can't come and sing, come nevertheless to the performance. David Cowen, our organist and choir director, will be playing the organ. Details are on the noticeboard.

 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.
