

A Great Light

Is it true? Is it necessary? Is it kind? These three questions can help us to decide whether or not to tell someone a hard truth. Sometimes a truth may not in itself be kind, but it may be the kindest thing to tell it. There are times when it is not necessary to tell someone a truth; although we must never lie to them. Often we are unsure whether something is true, but in these cases we can express our doubts.

Let's put these questions to the life and death of Jesus Christ. Was it true? In the first reading today we hear the prophecy of Isaiah: 'The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light' (Isaiah 9:2). This prophecy is referred to in today's Gospel from Matthew (4:16), in which Jesus is described as that great light. Jesus is the light of the truth, who enters into the darkness we create through our lies and deceits. But was Jesus' life and death necessary? Was it necessary for the Son of God to enter into the world as one like us, and to undergo death on a cross?

Without God's saving help we could not dispel the darkness of this world, or that in our own hearts; we needed God to save us. The question is not, however, whether we needed saving, but whether we needed to be saved through the life and death of Jesus Christ. For two reasons we can say that it was not necessary for the Son of God to live amongst us, or to die on the cross. Firstly, God was under no compulsion to save us. He saves us, and bestows on us heavenly riches, not because he needs to, but because he loves us. Secondly, God did not need to send his Son into this world to save us; again, he chose to do so, because he loves us.

This brings us to the third question: was it kind? Certainly it was not kind for Jesus himself! Yet what kinder way could God have chosen to save us, to have told us the truth about ourselves, than to send his only Son to suffer for us. He does not judge from afar, but judges us through sharing in our sorrows, and taking the darkness of this world upon himself in the person of Jesus Christ. Is it true? Is it necessary? Is it kind? In Jesus Christ the loving kindness of God shines into the lives of those who live in darkness.

David Goodill OP

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

27 January 2008

The Newsletter of HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER



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Sunday Masses	This week	Mass Intentions	Next week
7:30pm Vigil	Fr Tony	Irene Olszewska, RIP	Fr Isidore
8:00am	Fr Isidore	Mary & John Pinto, RIP	Fr Euan
9:30am Family	Fr David	For the People	Fr Fabian
11:00am Solemn	Fr Fabian	Deceased members of the Callen family	Fr Leon
7:00pm	Fr Euan	Holy Souls	Fr Duncan

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

Sunday Evening Services	26 January	Confessions	2 February
5:45 Rosary	Fr David	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Euan
6:15 Sung Latin Compline	Fr Fabian	4:00 - 5:00pm	Fr Fabian
6:40 Benediction	Fr Leon	7:00 - 7:20pm	Fr Leon

Entrance Antiphon:	Sing a new song to the Lord! Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Truth and beauty surround him, he lives in holiness and glory.
1st Reading:	Isaiah 8:23 - 9:3
Psalm Response:	The Lord is my light and my help. (Ps 26)
2nd Reading:	1 Corinthians 1:10-13,17
Alleluia:	Jesus proclaimed the Good News of the kingdom, and cured all kinds of sickness among the people. At 11:00 - The Lord is king, let earth rejoice, let all the coastlands be glad.
Gospel:	Matthew 4: 12-23
Communion Antiphon:	Look up at the Lord with gladness and smile; your face will never be ashamed. At 11:00 - Follow me and I will make you fishers of men. And they left their nets and the boat and followed the Lord.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend: Offertory Collection £1034.60; SVP £3.26; St. Martin's Missions £2.62; Holy Souls £1.95; Grenada £0.41.

There will be a retiring collection this 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 Thomas Aquinas, friar, priest, doctor	
Tuesday:	Feria	
Wednesday:	Feria	
Thursday:	St John Bosco, priest, religious, teacher	
Friday:	Feria. First Friday coffee morning in the hall at 10:30.	
Saturday:	The Presentation of the Lord	
Next Sunday's Readings: 4 th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Isaiah 8: 23-9:3	1 Corinthians 1: 10-13, 17	Matthew 4: 12-23

Two Situations Vacant (for volunteers) at Holy Cross:

- The 200 Club needs an administrator. Each week the money collected from members needs to be checked, recorded and deposited in the bank. Each month the draw is made, cheques sent to the winners and the month's bank statement needs checking. Each October the new membership cards are distributed, new members recruited, annual membership payments are banked and the annual bonus draw is made. And accounts for the year need to be presented to the Parish Council.
- Also the Parish needs someone to look after the Children's Society boxes. The contents need counting, recording and banking and the boxes are returned to collectors.

Please contact fr Tony if either of these opportunities to volunteer interests you.

St Philip's Centre Day Course 'Jesus and the Christian Gospel for All?' How to offer the challenge of the Christian faith to our Hindu, Sikh or Muslim neighbours. It will be led by Canon Dr Andrew Wingate and Revd John McGinley. Saturday 8th March 10am - 3.15pm at St Philip's Church, Evington Road, Leicester LE2 1QN.

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.

There will be a meeting of the **Parish Council** at 7:30pm on Monday 28 January in St Clement's Hall.

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.

St Paul's School 30th reunion for ex-pupils will be held on Saturday 28 June at 8pm. A co-ordinating group will meet on Monday 28 January at 7:30pm in school - new members of the group would be very welcome! Thank you to all those who bought tickets for the Christmas Draw - there were two winners, both from St Thomas More parish.

Catholic Singles is an organisation which helps single Catholics meet up, either one to one or through social events. For more information please tel. 0161 941 3498, visit the website www.catholicingles.org.uk or email info@catholicingles.org.uk.

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 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.

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.

 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.
