

Just Give Up

IN LENT we ordinarily give up something. It's practically expected. People say to each other, 'What are you giving up for Lent?' and they expect an answer which is not going to be 'Nothing at all'.

Some people will say that it's not giving up something we should do. They say we ought to do something 'positive' and take on a new activity (something good, no doubt) as our Lenten penance. It's a nice idea, except it's not penance. And as for these good things, we ought to start doing them all the time, not just in Lent.

Some people say they are going to give up something bad for Lent. Like smoking. Or gossiping. But the bad things are what we should give up all the time, not just in Lent. And even if the bad things were not bad in themselves, Lent is not in itself a season for dieting or detox. Those are for the first couple of weeks of January, until we forget or discontinue our New Year's resolutions.

So if Lent is not about adding good things or subtracting the bad (both these should be done all the time!), what's left?

Yes, you've guessed it. The penance of Lent is about giving up something good. And why would we want to do such a mad thing? Because the world has a lot of good things, and we are rightly see and appreciate them as good things. The goodness of all these good things is due to their Maker and ours: God, the Supreme Good - and our Supreme Good. Because we owe our existence and all the good of our lives to him, we also owe God the due of worship. We worship God not because he needs us to for his sake, but because we need to for our sake. We need to humble ourselves before Him, and worship the One who loves us graciously, gratuitously. Why? Because not doing so is not only ingratitude. It's insanity. Insanity to behave like we are self-made, self-sufficient creatures - when a clear, dispassionate look at any of our lives plainly shows we're not.

So we give up something good because we need to offer a present to God, to remind our bodies and souls that God is our supreme good, to draw nearer in love to that Supreme Good. Love, for us, must always involve sacrifice. So we can't say we love God if we are unwilling to show it.

Lent has just started. It's not too late to get started ourselves. Pick something good you enjoy or love, and give it up for Lent - for the love of God. Don't make a fuss; don't broadcast it; don't make a show of it. Just give it to God as your present, 'and your Father who sees in secret will reward you in secret'.

A reminder: the forty days of Lent run from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday inclusive, but don't include the Sundays in between. Count them yourself if you don't believe me. On Sundays we are meant to rejoice and are forbidden to fast - and I suppose that implies a break from your Lenten sacrifice!

Fr Leon Pereira, O.P.

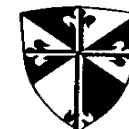
1st Sunday of Lent

Year A

10 February 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 Duncan	Irene Olszcwska, RIP	Fr Isidore
8:00am	Fr Isidore	Deceased members of the Pinto family	Fr Duncan
9:30am Family	Fr Tony	Isabel O'Reilly, RIP	Fr Euan
11:00am Solemn	Fr Duncan	Patrick & Kath Larkin, Anniversary, RIP	Fr Tony
7:00pm	Fr Fabian	For the People	Fr Fabian

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

Sunday Evening Services	9 February	Confessions	16 February
5:45 Rosary	Fr Duncan	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Isidore
6:15 Sung Latin Compline	Fr Isidore	4:00 - 5:00pm	Fr Duncan
6:40 Benediction	Fr Tony	7:00 - 7:20pm	Fr Euan

Entrance Antiphon:	When he calls to me, I will answer; I will rescue him and give him honour. Long life and contentment will be his.
1st Reading:	Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7
Psalm Response:	Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned. (Ps 50)
2nd Reading:	Romans 5: 12-19
Gospel Acclamation (Tract at 11:00):	Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. At 11:00 - Whoever dwells with the assistance of the Most High will abide in the protection of the God of heaven.
Gospel:	Matthew 4: 1-11
Communion Antiphon:	Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. At 11:00 - The Lord will overshadow you, and you will find refuge under his wings. His faithfulness is buckler and shield.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend: Offertory Collection £1283.21; SVP £35.86; St. Martin's Missions £8.99; Holy Souls £9.80; Grenada £6.15. Especial thanks for an extra donation of £200 for the fund for sick and retired diocesan priests.

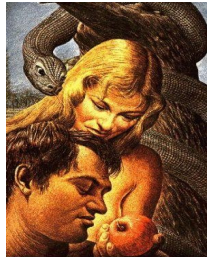
There will be retiring collections this week for the first instalment of our diocesan quota, and next week for CAFOD.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

This week's Feasts		
Monday:	Our Lady of Lourdes - <i>optional</i> . World Day of Prayer for the Sick. Prayers are encouraged for the healing of the sick, and the support of those who care for them.	
Tuesday:	Bl Reginald of Orléans, friar, priest - <i>optional</i> .	
Wednesday:	Bl Jordan of Saxony, friar, priest - <i>optional</i> . Prayers for Dominican vocations are encouraged today.	
Thursday:	Ss Cyril, monk, and Methodius, bishop, Patrons of Europe.	
Friday:	Weekday of Lent. Prayers are recommended for the needs of all people, especially for the productivity of the earth and for human labour, and to give God public thanks.	
Saturday:	Weekday of Lent.	
Next Sunday's Readings: 2 nd Sunday of Lent		
Genesis 12: 1-4a	2 Timothy 1: 8-10	Matthew 17: 1-9

Short Lenten Talks on the theme "Deliver us from evil"

will take place each Friday in Lent after the 10am and 12:40pm Masses. The next in the series is this Friday, when Fr Fabian will speak on "The Mystery of Evil". We hope you can stay for some or all of these talks.



Stations of the Cross will take place each Wednesday in Lent after the 12:40pm Mass.

Compline, the Evening Prayer of the Church, is sung here each Sunday evening at 6.15pm in the traditional Latin form of the Dominican Rite, much of the chant and ceremony probably going back to the earliest days of the Order in the 13th century. Members of the congregation are very welcome to take part, and instruction can be given to anyone who wishes to do this regularly. See Fr Tony or Bernard Marriott.

A Parish Day of Recollection, to which all are invited to attend, will be held in St Clement's Hall on Saturday 8 March from 10:30am to 4:00pm (approx), including time to attend the 12:40pm Mass. Led by Fr David. Please bring a packed lunch.

The Dominican Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from 1st to 8th August. For details, please see the noticeboard.

Lenten Station Masses around Leicester will be celebrated:

- ◆ on Wednesday 13 February at St Edward's, Aylestone Road at 7:30pm;
- ◆ on Wednesday 27 February at Sacred Heart, Mere Road at 7:30pm where Bishop Malcolm will celebrate the Mass and preach; and
- ◆ on Wednesday 5 March at St Mary's, South Wigston, at 7:30pm.

And there will be **Penitential Services**:

- ◆ on Monday 10 March at St Mary's, South Wigston, at 7:30pm; and
- ◆ on Wednesday 13 March at St Thomas More's, Knighton, at 7:30pm.

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill. Did you know that the Government's recent consultation suggests that the public is 'at ease' with the idea of human-animal hybrids? The Bill has overcome objection in the House of Lords and will soon be put to the vote in the House of Commons. Now is the time for us to act against a Bill which strikes at the heart of Christian teaching. We hope to hold a meeting soon to raise awareness about what we can do as a community but please in the meantime contact me, Sica Martinez, on 274 2014 or 0775 88 44 918 if you are interested in forming an action group.

A Musical Celebration of St Patrick will take place on Friday 14 March in the Y Theatre, East Street at 8pm. For details, see the noticeboard.

There will be a Dominican Family Day on Saturday 28 June at Niland Hall, Bushey, Hertfordshire. The theme of the day is 'Releasing the Fullness of Preaching', and talks will be given by Fr Ellert Dahl, OP, on 'Fra Angelico's Art as a Form of Contemplation' and by Br Lawrence Lew, OP, on 'Preaching through Music'. The day will include Mass and Solemn Vespers, together with conviviality, and lunch will be provided. There is no charge for the day, but donations will be welcome. There is a poster on the noticeboard.

St Paul's School - Mass will be celebrated every Thursday of Lent (except 14 February - half term) at 1:25pm in the School Chapel, followed by a soup and roll lunch in aid of CAFOD. Everyone is welcome.

The East Midlands Ambulance Service is looking for volunteer car drivers to transport patients. All hours are considered. Volunteers must have a full clean driving licence and will be subject to CRB and other references. If you are interested, please see the poster 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.

Stations of the Cross: Wednesdays in Lent after the 12:40pm Mass.

On Mondays to Fridays during the winter months the church will be open from 8am until 3:30pm.
