

**T**ODAY'S Gospel is quite a story. We must have heard it from the person herself, a quite forward and liberated lady Jesus asks for water - He never gets. They have quite an exchange of views, about religion. He shocks her, by knowing everything about her. (He shocks His friends; by talking to a woman in the first place). It is a striking story; but is meant to be really effective if I dare put myself in the picture. Has Jesus, can I feel, asked me for something? Did I give it? Did I argue? Or make excuses? Did I feel that JESUS(!) can't, really, be talking to me? Especially, I might think, if He knew everything about me - everything! What if He does! The story goes on to show that He might very well talk to me, even if He knows it all; perhaps, especially, if He knows... I might start to get a glimpse at last of what it means that He is my 'Saviour'. All mess and shame in my life is just what He has come about. It is all just what He can do, a good deal, about. Do, far more, than I realise; until I let Him talk to me, and work on me. Then - He leaves me to work it out myself. He shows a gracious and loving trust, in me. It can shame, and inspire me. It can, strangely, do both at the same time. This is the very mysterious way He has; of doing things; or getting-things-done by me. Or - is it the same thing? I am getting us into some very dangerous theology here which has caused a lot of trouble, in the past, and split the Church into all the mess of 'churches' we are left in today. I believe, He can, and will, pull us all together. Or, is He leaving it to us, to do that? With His help? Is it the thing we all have to pray-and-work for, with Him? Last touch in the story, a good point for a preacher like me to remember always: 'We no longer believe because of what you told us - we have heard Him for ourselves'.  
Fr Duncan OP

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

Year A

24 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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 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 Isidore	Evelyn Dixon, RIP	Fr Duncan
8:00am	Fr Tony	For the People	Fr Isidore
9:30am Family	Fr David	Catherine Kerr, RIP	Fr David
11:00am Solemn	Fr Leon	Bruno Courdery, RIP	Fr Fabian
7:00pm	Fr Duncan	Martin Kilkullen, RIP	Fr Euan

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

Sunday Evening Services	23 February	Confessions	1 March
5:45 Rosary	Fr Isidore	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Duncan
6:15 Sung Latin Compline	Fr Leon	4:00 - 5:00pm	Fr Fabian
6:40 Benediction	Fr David	7:00 - 7:20pm	Fr Tony

<b>Entrance Antiphon:</b>	My eyes are ever fixed on the Lord, for he releases my feet from the snare. O look at me and be merciful, for I am wretched and alone.
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b>	Exodus 17: 3-7
<b>Psalm Response:</b>	<b>O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts. (Ps 94)</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b>	Romans 5: 1-2.5-8
<b>Gospel Acclamation (Tract at 11:00):</b>	Lord, you are really the saviour of the world; give me the living water, so that I may never get thirsty. At 11:00 - I have lifted up my eyes to you, who dwells in the heavens. Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us.
<b>Gospel:</b>	John 4: 5-42
<b>Offertory Antiphon (at 11:00):</b>	The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart, and sweeter are they than honey, than honey from the comb. So in them your servant finds instruction.
<b>Communion Antiphon:</b>	Whoever drinks the water that I shall give him, says the Lord, will have a spring inside him, welling up for eternal life.

**MONEY MATTERS:** Last Weekend: Offertory Collection £1072.79; SVP £18.60; St. Martin's Missions £5.00; Holy Souls £2.80; Grenada £1.60.

There will be a retiring collection again this week for CAFOD, and next week for Easter flowers to decorate the church.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

This week's Feasts		
Monday:	Weekday of Lent	
Tuesday:	Weekday of Lent	
Wednesday:	SS Margaret Clitherow, wife and mother, Anne Line, widow, and Margaret Ward, virgin, martyrs - <i>optional</i>	
Thursday:	Weekday of Lent	
Friday:	Weekday of Lent	
Saturday:	St David, bishop	
<b>Next Sunday's Readings: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent ('Laetare' and Mother's Day)</b>		
1 Samuel 16: 1. 6-7. 10-13	Ephesians 5: 8-14	John 9: 1-41

**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 "Good & Evil in Society". 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.

**A Parish Day of Recollection**, will be held on Saturday 8 March from 10:30am to 4:00pm (approx). Led by Fr David. See noticeboard and handbills.

**Lenten Station Masses** around Leicester will be celebrated:

- ◆ 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.

**Is Fairtrade Fuelling Climate Change?** Cafe Equitable discussion evening, Bambu Cafe, Welford Road, Tuesday 26th February at 7.15pm.

**City of Sanctuary - have your say on Asylum.** There will be a discussion at the Active Community Centre, 9 Newarke Street, on Tuesday 4 March from 9:30am to 1pm. Details on noticeboard.

**SUMMARY OF BISHOP MALCOLM'S ADDRESS AT THE DIOCESAN CELEBRATION - February 16th.**

St Bede tells the story of the refusal of the British bishops to co-operate with St Augustine in the mission to the English at the very beginning of the 7th century. Why? Maybe it was bitterness at having been invaded. The Church today may feel invaded by the forces of secularism and the arrival of people of other faiths. Instead of feeling bitter and turning in on ourselves, we should follow the examples of Our Lady and St Paul.

Mary is the first believer in the New Covenant. She belonged to the community of those who relied on God for everything. She was open to the grace of God, and accepted dependence on others, not her own resources.

There were times when St Paul was rejected and had to draw attention to his record to show he was not a self-seeker. God's power is made perfect in Paul's weakness, which thus becomes a claim on God's strength. So the Church today is to rely on God's strength in our weakness and loss of resources.

Bishop Malcolm expressed a sense of new confidence in our believing together and growing interdependence. Our role is to "hand on truths, not opinions; principles, not judgements". The Church must not, at all costs, become a sect. A church is different from a sect in that it is not consumed with its own concerns, that it is open to the wider society. If we are to hand on our faith, we must engage with society. Catholicism is not a hobby, not a life-style choice, not a sort of spiritual Lego, a self-assembled New Age kit. It is a comprehensive approach to life, a wisdom.

"We cannot hand on our faith, without being our faith." As Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP asked at the 2003 Diocesan Assembly, we have to learn how we can have an identity that doesn't shut anybody out.

*The Diocesan and the parish Pastoral Plans now change into "Handing on our Faith." A year from now, each deanery is to have a celebration of how we have handed on our faith in the year, and how we plan to do it in the next year.*

**Interreligious Conversion** - should such conversions be sought? And, if so, why? Discussion at St Philip's Church, Evington Road on Monday 10 March from 10am to 4pm. Details on noticeboard.

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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.**  
**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.  
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