

## Cosmic Friendship

**M**ONTY DON is currently touring the world's gardens in a BBC2 series. Last week he visited the ancient and modern gardens of China and Japan. In Japan gardens have been traditionally designed according to the philosophy of Zen Buddhism, in which the universe is modelled on a small domestic scale. A person gazing upon such a garden is transported from the commonplace and domestic, to the extra-ordinary and cosmic.

In the Gospel of St John we also find this juxtaposition of the everyday and the cosmic. Jesus Christ the Word of God, the Word that is God, appears in the ordinary events of Jewish life. We have the wedding feast at Cana, fishing on the lake of Galilee, various religious events, and today's Gospel, the death of Jesus' close friend, Lazarus.

On one level the story of Lazarus' death is one familiar to each of us. Jesus weeps for his friend, who has been in the tomb for over three days. Yet in the midst of these ordinary events something extraordinary happens; Lazarus is raised from death to life.

Jesus places his actions on a larger scale than that which is immediately evident to those around him. When Jesus decides to visit the tomb of Lazarus, his disciples are initially afraid that if he returns to Judea he will be stoned. In response to their fears Jesus replies: 'Are there not twelve hours in the day? A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling because he has the light of this world to see by; but if he walks by night he stumbles because there is no light to guide him.' We can imagine the confusion of the disciples on hearing this saying. Jesus is placing himself and his actions in the context of a cosmic struggle between good and evil; just as his Father has divided the day and the night in his original plan for the world, so now Jesus is the light of the new creation, divining good from evil. Those who follow him will walk in the light, but those who reject him stumble, for they walk in the dark. The events that are taking place here in this ordinary domestic setting are not merely of importance for those immediately involved; they will determine the fate of all people for all time. This is why Jesus tells Martha: 'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he die he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.' In the Japanese garden the cosmic is reflected on a domestic scale. In the life of Jesus Christ the universe is re-created, as he pours the love of his Father (the Holy Spirit) into the day-to-day events of his life.

**David Goodill OP**

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

Year A

9 March 2008

The Newsletter of  
**HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER**



Served by the Dominican Order: website <http://www.torch.op.org>

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Parish Priest: Fr Tony Rattigan: 252 1501 For home visits: 255 3856

Sunday Masses	This week	Mass Intentions	Next week
7:30pm Vigil	Fr Euan	Anne Sloyan, RIP	Fr Isidore
8:00am	Fr Isidore	Susan Donnelly, RIP	Fr Tony
9:30am Family	Fr David	Dominic Green, RIP	Fr David
11:00am Solemn	Fr Duncan	Thomas Bartlett (intention)	Fr Leon
7:00pm	Fr Tony	For the People	Fr Euan

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

**This is the last Mass of the term.**

Sunday Evening Services	8 March	Confessions	15 March
5:45 Rosary	Frs Duncan & Tony	10:30 - 11:30am	Frs Tony & David
6:15 Sung Latin Compline	Fr Euan	4:00 - 5:00pm	Fr Euan
6:40 Benediction	Fr Leon	7:00 - 7:20pm	Fr Isidore

<b>Entrance Antiphon:</b>	Give me justice, O God, and defend my cause against the wicked; rescue me from deceitful and unjust men. You, O God, are my refuge.
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b>	Ezekiel 37: 12-14
<b>Psalm Resp:</b>	<b>With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b>	Romans 8: 8-11
<b>Gospel Acclamation (Tract at 11:00):</b>	<b>I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will never die.</b> At 11:00 - They have often fought against me from my youth. They have prolonged their iniquity. The just Lord will cut the necks of sinners.
<b>Gospel:</b>	John 11: 1-45
<b>Offertory (at 11:00):</b>	I will thank you, Lord with all my heart. Bless your servant and I shall live and obey your word; By your word, revive me O Lord.
<b>Communion Antiphon:</b>	He who lives and believes in me will not die forever, said the Lord. At 11:00 - Seeing the sisters of Lazarus weeping at the tomb, the Lord wept before the Jews. Then he cried: Lazarus, here! Come out! And he who had been dead four days came out, his feet and hands bound.

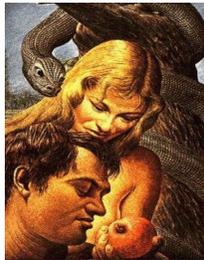
**MONEY MATTERS:** Last Weekend: Offertory Collection £1068.57; SVP £7.60; St. Martin's Missions £2.14; Holy Souls £2.56; Grenada £7.66. The retiring collection for Easter flowers in the church raised £242.44.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

This week's Feasts		
Monday:	Lenten feria	
Tuesday:	Lenten feria	
Wednesday:	Lenten feria	
Thursday:	Lenten feria	
Friday:	Lenten feria	
Saturday:	St Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This solemnity has been transferred from the Wednesday of Holy Week.	
Next Sunday's Readings: Palm Sunday		
Isaiah 50: 4-7	Philippians 2: 6-11	Matthew 26:14 - 27:66

**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 Isidore will speak on "Christ's Conquest of Evil". We hope you can stay for this talk.



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

**Refugee and Asylum Support: URGENT NEED FOR HELP.** The Red Cross (244 London Road) has said: Our cupboards are empty! We need the following -

- **Tinned goods:** beans/ soup/ kidney beans/ tinned fruit/ tuna/ mackerel/ corned beef/ tinned veg;
- **Dried foods:** Rice/ pasta/ dried fruit/ cereal/ crisps/ noodles/ cereal bars/ nuts/ indian savoury mix/ chocolate;
- **Drinks:** Fruit juice/ tea/ coffee/ dried milk/ squash/ water;
- **Extras:** Baby milk/ baby food jars/ porridge/ nappies/ baby wipes/ oil;
- **Toiletries:** toothpaste/ soap/ toilet paper.

Please help with any of these if you can. 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. It is good to do something to help.

The Leicester Theological Society will meet this week on Friday 14 March when Rev'd Amos Kasibanti, Co-ordinating Chaplain at the University of Leicester, will speak on "Diaspora and Biblical Interpretation - a Case Study of Ugandan Christians in Britain". Details are on the noticeboard, or ring 277 4534, or by e-mail from [peterholmes@theiet.org](mailto:peterholmes@theiet.org).

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.

**People of the Passion: a day of recollection for Holy Week** at the Diocesan Centre, Mackworth, Derby, on Saturday 15 March from 10am to 3:30pm. Through the course of the day, time will be spent in reflection, prayer, silence and sharing, focusing on the passion according to Matthew and the characters we encounter in the story. The cost of the day is £10 per person. Bring a packed lunch - tea and coffee are provided. To book a place contact Janet Hornsby on [janet.hornsby@nottingham-des.org.uk](mailto:janet.hornsby@nottingham-des.org.uk) or by phone on 01332 293833 ext 820.

**Easter cards, booklets and bookmarks** - including some for children - will be on sale after some Masses this week and next.

**A Diocesan Pilgrimage to Beauvale** to honour the first two martyrs of the Reformation, St John Houghton and St Robert Lawrence will be held on Sunday 4 May, led by Bishop Malcolm. Details are on the noticeboard, or ring 01773 713532.

**John Stainer's "The Crucifixion"** will be sung by St Barnabas Cathedral Choir, at the Cathedral in Nottingham, on Sunday 16 March at 7:30pm. Details on noticeboard.

**The Nottingham Diocese, Parish and Schools pilgrimage to Walsingham** will take place on Sunday 22 June. Details on the poster, or from Fr David Cain at the Vocations commission on 251 9370, or visit [www.rucalled.com](http://www.rucalled.com).

**Advance notice for sopranos! Can you sing high C?** There will be a vocal workshop at the Early Music Festival on Monday 26 May (the Bank Holiday) to rehearse and perform Haydn's Missa Sancti Nicolai and Allegri's Miserere. Details on the noticeboard, and from 270 9984, and [mail@earlymusicleicester.co.uk](mailto:mail@earlymusicleicester.co.uk).

**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.

**The Dominican Pilgrimage to Lourdes** will take place from 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> August. For details, please see the noticeboard and contact one of the priests.

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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.**

**HOLY WEEK & EASTER: The times of services are on the cards which are by each door, and on the Choir's website [www.holycrosschoirleicester.co.uk](http://www.holycrosschoirleicester.co.uk)**

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

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