

'The Drama of Holy Week'

THE events of the first Holy Week make up a single drama, commemorating the most decisive event in human history. The drama begins with Jesus triumphantly entering Jerusalem to claim his kingdom. That is achieved by his humiliating crucifixion and his glorious resurrection from the dead.

In this drama there's a hero, Jesus, who is victorious in apparent defeat. There are also villains and uncommitted bystanders.

Through the liturgical services the drama of our salvation, achieved through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, is re-enacted and made present. In different ways the services of Holy Week proclaim the wonder of God's love for us, and so are a form of prayerful preaching.

If we enter into the spirit of the drama of Holy Week we will find that gradually, over the years, Christ's death and resurrection will shape our lives - our thoughts and desires, our priorities. That means, that when we attend the Holy Week liturgy we are not simply passive spectators, but become active participants in the drama itself.

With Christ we should die to sin and rise with him to new life. At the washing of the feet on Maundy Thursday we are called to follow Christ in loving service of his heavenly Father and of our neighbour.

In the Good Friday liturgy we are prayerfully reminded of Christ's death on the cross. As we reflect on his crucifixion we realise that our personal sins have added to his suffering. As we look upon the crucified Christ, Jesus challenges our sense of values. Above all, reflecting on the crucified Christ should inspire us to respond to the love he has shown by giving his very life to save us from the consequences of sin.

The stillness of Holy Saturday gives us time to reflect on death and to mourn the loss of our loved ones. But amidst this stillness preparations are being made to celebrate our sharing in the resurrection of Christ. The sadness of death is tempered by hope of eternal life.

Finally, the Paschal Vigil celebrates Christ's victory over death, with the birth of new life, symbolised by the lighting of the Pascal fire, with the light of the Pascal candle being handed onto to us. This reminds us that we are children of the light, who have been commissioned to hand on the light of Christ. As we renew our baptismal vows we re-dedicate ourselves to dying with Christ to sin and rising with him to new life - to living the Pascal mystery, which we will celebrate during Holy Week.

Sharing in the drama of Holy Week should mean that we are not passive spectators, but active participants, who allow the liturgy to transform our whole lives. Celebrating the Holy Week drama of our salvation is all about audience participation.

We do hope you can come to at least some of the services. Isidore O.P.

Palm Sunday: The Passion of the Lord

Year A

16 March 2008

The Newsletter of HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER



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

Holy Cross Priory, 45 Wellington Street, LEICESTER LE1 6HW
 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	Irene Olszewska, RIP	Vigil at 8pm
8:00am	Fr Tony	John Irwin, RIP	Fr Isidore
9:30am Family	Fr David	Book of Prayer Intentions	Fr Euan
11:00am Solemn	Fr Leon	For the People	Fr Leon
7:00pm	Fr Euan	Elvia Arango, RIP	Fr Duncan

**SUNDAYS IN TERM: MASS FOR STUDENTS at 5pm (in the Church).
NO MASS now until next term.**

Sunday Evening Services	15 March	Confessions	22 March
5:45 Rosary	Fr Tony	10:30 - 11:30am*	Fr Duncan
6:15 Sung Latin Compline	Fr Euan	4:00 - 5:00pm	Fr Leon
6:40 Benediction	Fr Isidore	7:00 - 7:20pm	No confessions

* to 12 noon on Saturday 22 March

Entrance Antiphon:	Six days before the solemn passover the Lord came to Jerusalem, and children waving palm branches ran out to welcome him. They loudly praised the Lord: Hosanna in the highest. Blessed are you who have come to us so rich in love and mercy.
1st Reading:	Isaiah 50: 4-7
Psalm Response:	My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? (Ps 21)
2nd Reading:	Philippians 2: 6-11
Gospel Acclamation:	Christ was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all names.
Gospel:	Matthew 26:14 - 27:66 - The Passion
Communion Antiphon:	Father, if this cup may not pass, but I must drink it, then your will be done.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend: Offertory Collection £1188.42; SVP £17.61; St. Martin's Missions £6.00; Holy Souls £15.48; Grenada £17.15.

Good Friday Collection (a message from Bishop Malcolm): You will be aware from media coverage that Christians living in the Holy Land and throughout the Middle East are currently under a great deal of pressure. Please be generous in your response to the Good Friday Collection for the Holy Places of Palestine.

200 Club, February draw. 1st prize, £150: M Cullen. 2nd prize, £100: M Yates. 3rd prize, £50: G Camp. Congratulations!

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

The week ahead		
Monday:	Monday of Holy Week	The times of services throughout Holy Week are given on the cards available by the Church doors. Please take a card rather than ringing the Priory! The times are also on the Choir's website (see bottom of next page) under 'Services'.
Tuesday:	Tuesday of Holy Week	
Wednesday:	Wednesday of Holy Week	
Thursday:	MAUNDY THURSDAY	
Friday:	GOOD FRIDAY	
Saturday:	HOLY SATURDAY	
<p>Tenebrae: On the three mornings of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday, the friars here at Holy Cross will have their usual Morning Prayer in choir. On these days Morning Prayer is given the special name 'Tenebrae' meaning 'darkness', referring to the darkness that fell when Jesus was crucified. We warmly encourage you to join us to share in these prayers at 9:30am each morning of the Triduum.</p>		
Next Sunday's Readings: Easter Day		
Acts 10: 34. 37-43	Colossians 3: 1-4	John 20: 1-9

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.



Christ in the Centre. The Passion Drama in the City Centre on Good Friday morning will run to this timetable:

- 10.15 Start at Castle Green with a re-enactment of John Wesley's visit of 1770.
- 10.45 Procession to Town Hall Square.
- 11.00 Drama in Town Hall Square.
- 12.00 (approx) Procession to Humberstone Gate for Trial and Crucifixion.

John Smeaton, Director of the Society for Unborn Children (SPUC) will be giving a talk on pro-life issues at 7pm on Tuesday 8 April in Blackfriars Hall, Holy Cross. All parishioners are invited to attend to hear more about the problems of abortion, embryo research etc in society today and, hopefully, get involved in new work going on in the City on pro-life issues. For more details please contact Sica Martinez on 0775 88 44 918 or 0116 274 2014.

BLACKFRIARS MARKET, our principal fundraising event of the year, will be held on Saturday 10 May. Please make a note in your diary! There will be a meeting of helpers in the Priory Library on Saturday 29 March at 10:30am. All offers of help will be gratefully received, even if you can't make the meeting. Please see Fr Tony.

Our Lady and the Rosary - a series of five talks on Friday evenings in the Parish Hall. Begins Friday 4th April. For more details see the Newsletter soon.

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

The Feast of the Divine Mercy, Sunday 30 March. There will be an afternoon of Devotions, the main celebrant being Bishop Malcolm. At Our Lady of Good Counsel, Rushey Mead. See noticeboard for details or ring Mary Sage on 210 2025.

Christians Aware invite you to an Awareness Day on Monday 17 March to learn more about Fair Trade and to an India Day on Saturday 19 April. See noticeboard.

The Carmelite Fellowship of Contemplative Prayer - The Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites invite you to join them. See the noticeboard and handbills, or ring Heather Ward on 0115 928 3603.

Services at Holy Cross during the week:

Mass: Monday to Wednesday only, at 10:00am (with sermon) & 12:40pm.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Will NOT take place this week.

Stations of the Cross: Wednesday after the 12:40pm Mass.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER: The times of services and Confessions are on the cards by each door, and on the Choir's website www.holycrosschoirleicester.co.uk

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