

NOVENA to Our Lady

CATHOLICS venerate Mary the mother of Jesus for two main reasons. (1) Because she is beautiful. And (2) because Jesus gave her to us as our mother.

We know Mary is beautiful because God tells us so in the Bible. God sends the angel Gabriel to greet her *khairê kekharitômenê* (Luke 1.28), usually translated as 'hail, full of grace' but literally meaning 'rejoice, you who have been and remain filled with the divine grace'. You could translate it as God saying to his creature, 'Hiya, gorgeous!' And that would sum up nicely the real import of those words.

We know Mary is our mother because Jesus gave her to us on Calvary, telling 'the disciple Jesus loved', 'Behold, your mother'. And to his mother, 'Behold, your child' (John 19.26-7). We are 'the disciple Jesus loved', the one for whom he died. Later, at the end of the Bible, the mother of the Messiah is also called the mother of all those 'who keep the commandments of God, and hold the testimony of Jesus' (Rev 12.17). Mary is *our* mother, because Jesus wills it.

The idea of a Novena, nine days of prayer, comes to us from the Bible. After Jesus's ascension, the disciples constantly devoted themselves to prayer 'together with Mary the mother of Jesus' (Acts 1.14) until the day of Pentecost nine days later. Because of that we have the custom of keeping novenas, nine days of prayer in company with Mary. The nine days are not necessarily consecutive. They could be nine Saturdays in a row, for example.

That is exactly what will happen here in our parish. On Saturday 14 June, at 6:45pm, we will begin a Novena. It will last nine Saturdays (same time each week), leading up to the feast of Our Lady's Assumption. The novena is dedicated to a local devotion to Mary, to *Our Lady of the Meadows*.

If you look above the high altar, and to the left, you will see a blue shield with a five petalled rose, and the words *Sancta Maria de Pratis*. This was the dedication of Leicester Abbey. In the middle ages, the Dominicans arrived in Leicester in 1247 and were given the church of St Clement, a 'satellite' church of the Abbey. We Dominicans in Leicester also came under the patronage and protection of *Sancta Maria de Pratis*, Our Lady of the Meadows.

There is of course only *one* Our Lady, but this title emphasises the *local* devotion to her. Our statue of the Blessed Virgin (on the right, near the sacristy entrance) is of the medieval *Our Lady of the Meadows*, expressing the devotion of the people of Leicester - the devotion of our ancestors 'here, where prayer has been valid'. Come and join us in this Novena, obeying Jesus as we take Mary to be our mother.
Fr Leon, O.P.

6th Sunday of Easter

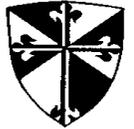
Year A

27 April 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 Isidore	<i>Pro Populo</i>	Fr Isidore
8:00am	Fr Tony	Boyd & Ruane O'Rourke family, RIP	Fr David
9:30am Family	Fr David	Holy Souls	Fr Euan
11:00am Solemn	Fr Euan	Alvaro Menao, RIP	Fr Fabian
7:00pm	Fr Euan	Special Intention	Fr Tony

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

Sunday Evening Services	26 April	Confessions	3 May
5:45 Rosary	Fr Fabian	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Tony
6:15 Sung Latin Compline	Fr Leon	4:00 - 5:00pm	Fr Euan
6:40 Benediction	Fr Euan	7:00 - 7:20pm	Fr David

Entrance Antiphon:	Speak out with a voice of joy; let it be heard to the ends of the earth: The Lord has set his people free, alleluia.
1st Reading:	Acts 8: 5-8. 14-17
Psalm Response:	Cry out with joy to God all the earth. (Ps 65)
2nd Reading:	1 Peter 3: 15-18
Alleluia:	Jesus said: "If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him." At 11:00 - I will not leave you orphans says the Lord: I go, but I will come back to you, and your hearts will be full of joy.
Gospel:	John 14: 15-21
Communion Antiphon:	If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord. The Father will send you the Holy Spirit, to be with you forever, alleluia. At 11:00 - I will not leave you orphans: I will come back to you again, alleluia, and your hearts will be full of joy, alleluia, alleluia.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend: Offertory Collection £1041.15; SVP £19.59; St. Martin's Missions £6.13; Holy Souls £7.19; Grenada £22.85.

This week there is a retiring collection for the Missionaries of the Company of Mary (Montfort Missionaries). They were founded by St Louis Marie de Montfort in the 18th century to preach the Gospel wherever the Spirit led them. Today they carry out their mission in more than 30 countries worldwide, including Malawi, Uganda and Kenya in East Africa. Please give generously. There is a poster on the noticeboard.

BLACKFRIARS MARKET. This is our main annual fund raising event, and will be held on the morning of **Saturday 10 May**. Items are needed for all the stalls, eg. plants, and for the Tombola stall and as raffle prizes but, please, no second-hand clothes. Plastic bags for donations will be handed out this weekend, and we will be most grateful if you can return them with your gifts next weekend. Please scour your house this week for items!

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

The week ahead...		
Monday:	St Peter Mary Chanel, priest, teacher, martyr <i>or</i> St Louis Mary Grignon de Montfort, priest, Dominican tertiary - <i>both optional</i>	
Tuesday:	ST CATHERINE OF SIENA, VIRGIN, DOCTOR, LAY DOMINICAN, PATRONESS OF EUROPE, feast	
Wednesday:	St Pius V, pope	
Thursday:	St Joseph the Worker - <i>optional</i> . By the intercession of St Joseph, workman and provider, prayers are encouraged for human labourers and their work: for just wages, the dignity of workers, and the prudent stewardship of the earth.	
Friday:	St Athanasius, bishop, doctor. First Friday coffee morning at 10:30.	
Saturday:	SS PHILIP AND JAMES, APOSTLES, feast	
Next Sunday:	THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD. Readings:	
	Acts 1: 1-11	Ephesians 1: 17-23
		Matthew 28: 16-20

40th anniversary of the Abortion Act. A service of Hope, Healing and Remembrance will be held on Sunday 27 April at 4pm at Our Lady of Victories Church, Market Harborough. It will also be supported by the Anglican and Free Churches. More details from Maureen Douglas on 01858 431157.

Whit Sunday at 11am. The choir Coro Nostro will assist us in the celebration of this major feast by singing one of Mozart's Masses at the 11am Mass.

The Holy Trinity in Art, Music and Devotion - a study morning organised by the Lay Dominicans will take place on Saturday 10 May from 10:30am to 1pm at St Dominic's Priory, Southampton Road, London NW5, and be given by Fr Richard Conrad, OP. The cost is £5 (£3) and all are welcome. There is a poster on the noticeboard.

Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham. Our parish joins the other priories and parishes of the English Dominicans for a pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham on Sunday 18 May. Transport from Holy Cross and back will be included. Times and costs later. If you would like to join us please contact Fr Leon (252 1512) or approach one of the priests.

Open meeting on Climate Change at Our Lady of Victories Church, Market Harborough on Friday 2nd May at 7.30 pm, as part of the CAFOD's campaign to strengthen the Climate Change Bill, currently going through Parliament. Edward Garnier, MP for Market Harborough, will be in attendance, along with expert speakers Nick Otter (Director Technology Alstom Power) and Peter Jones (Director Biffa Waste). For more information please contact Sue Otter on 01858 880711 or sue.otter@btinternet.com.

CQ LYFE - GRAND OPENING. CQ Lyfe is the name of the ecumenical Church project in the newly-developing Cultural Quarter in Leicester. We're having a launch night on Tuesday May 6th at 7.30pm at the Lallie Bella Cafe Bar in Queen Street (just past the former Odeon). We need strong and broad-based support for this "Fresh Expression" of the Church's mission in Leicester. More details from [John Young4927787@btinternet.com](mailto:John.Young4927787@btinternet.com).

DE LISLE CATHOLIC SCIENCE COLLEGE, LOUGHBOROUGH. Required for September 2008, a Temporary Full-time Teacher of Religious Education (to cover maternity leave), with the ability to teach Religious Education up to GCSE. The ability to teach Philosophy of Religion AS and A2 is desirable but not essential. Application forms and further details can be obtained from the Head Teacher's secretary. Closing date for application is 2nd May 2008.

OTHER SITUATIONS VACANT: Holy Cross Primary School, Stonesby Avenue requires an Assistant Headteacher and two Primary Teachers. Bishop Ellis School in Thurmaston requires a Primary Teacher. All Saints' School in Mansfield requires a Headteacher. See posters on the noticeboard.

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.

Churches Together in Leicester City Centre will meet on Thursday 1 May at 12:30pm at St Mary de Castro. All are welcome.

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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.**  
 On Mondays to Fridays the church is open from 8am until 4pm.  
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