

ABRAHAM, OUR FATHER IN FAITH

THE second reading in today's Mass is about Abraham. As an historical figure Abraham is a very long way in the past. But he stands at the fountain head of three world faiths, Judaism, Christianity and Islam, and all three look to him as their 'father in faith'. This makes it all the more tragic that the relations between those faiths has been so stormy over the centuries. Why should we be at loggerheads if we all come from the same source?

From our angle, we believe that God created a perfect world, which has been distorted, but not totally destroyed, by human sin. Out of his love for us, God has resolved to restore his whole creation, to make a 'new heavens and a new earth'. This programme began with the call of Abraham, and came to its fulfillment in Jesus, who is God with us. In him God has more than just restored things to what they were before; he has made it possible for us to share in his own life, on the model of Jesus, God made man. God can dwell with us and we with him because in Jesus, God and man are brought together in personal unity. 'The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us' (John 1: 14). You cannot have a fuller revelation of God than that which is given by God himself in person. So there is 'one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus' (1 Timothy 2: 5).

This is the point at which Christians part company both with Jews and Muslims. The Jews regard it as blasphemous to claim that the immortal and invisible God can be joined to human flesh. God, they say, is working his purposes out in human history, and its fulfillment still lies in the future. The Muslims likewise reject our belief that Jesus is God made man, and claim that Mohammed is God's final prophet through whom the very words of God were revealed and recorded in the Qur'an.

So although we have a common Father, we have gone our separate ways. In the past this has led to conflict and mutual persecution, and there are fundamentalists, especially in Christianity and Islam, who still want to use force to assert what they see as the truth. But many people nowadays have a different attitude, and recognise the futility of violence; instead they look towards dialogue and understanding as the way forward. This does not mean any abandonment of one's own principles. Rather, it requires a genuine desire to understand another person's belief, in the hope that they in turn will seek to understand ours. Understanding will lead to peace and respect, though not necessarily to agreement. It may also lead to asking ourselves if there may be better ways in which our faith can be expressed so that others can more readily understand it. That means we must examine our own faith more clearly, if we are to explain it to others. So the process will be to our own advantage as well!

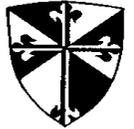
Fr Fabian OP

10th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A (Weekdays II)

8 June 2008

The Newsletter of
HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER

Served by the Dominican Order: website www.torch.op.org



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Sunday Masses	This week	Mass Intentions	Next week
7:30pm Vigil	Fr Isidore	<i>Pro Populo</i>	Fr Isidore
8:00am	Fr David	Susan Donnelly, RIP	Fr Euan
9:30am Family	Fr David	Frank Walsh, RIP	Fr Leon
11:00am Solemn	Fr Euan	Joe Corley, RIP	Fr Fabian
7:00pm	Fr Fabian	David & Gloria Roberts	Fr Fabian

The Novena to Our Lady begins next Saturday, 14 June, at 6:45pm. It will take place every week for nine Saturdays, leading up to the feast of the Assumption. Books for recording your petitions and thanksgiving are in the Lady chapel.

Sunday Evening Services	7 June	Confessions	14 June
5:45 Rosary	Fr Fabian	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Euan
6:15 Sung Latin Compline	Fr David	4:00 - 5:00pm	Fr Leon
6:40 Benediction	Fr Euan	7:00 - 7:20pm	Fr David

Entrance Antiphon:	The Lord is my light and my salvation. Who shall frighten me? The Lord is the defender of my life. Who shall make me tremble?
1st Reading:	Hosea 6: 3-6
Psalm Response:	I will show God's salvation to the upright. (Ps 49)
2nd Reading:	Romans 4: 18-25
Alleluia:	Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. At 11:00 - O God, you sat enthroned, judging with justice. Be a stronghold for the oppressed in times of distress.
Gospel:	Matthew 9: 9-13
Communion Antiphon:	I can rely on the Lord; I can always turn to him for shelter. It was he who gave me my freedom. My God, you are always there to help me! Or (not at 11:00) - God is love, and he who lives in love, lives in God, and God in him.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend: Offertory Collection £1178.24; SVP £11.26; St. Martin's Missions £6.40; Holy Souls £7.84; Grenada £1.20.

The gift from the parish to Fr Tony for his service as parish priest came to £333.56 for which he thanks you most sincerely.

200 Club, May draw. 1st prize, £150: number 164 Connie Irwin. 2nd prize, £100: number 178 Fiona Johnson. 3rd prize, £50: number 68 Bernard Marriott. Congratulations!

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

The week ahead...		
Monday:	St Ephraem, deacon, doctor <i>or</i> St Columba, abbot - <i>both optional</i>	
Tuesday:	Bl John Dominic, bishop - <i>optional</i>	
Wednesday:	ST BARNABAS, APOSTLE, TITULAR OF THE CATHEDRAL, feast	
Thursday:	Feria	
Friday:	St Anthony of Padua, priest, religious, doctor	
Saturday:	Saturday Mass of Our Lady - <i>optional</i> . Novena to Our Lady at 6:45pm	
Next Sunday:	Eleventh Sunday <i>per annum</i> . Readings:	
	Exodus 19: 2-6	Romans 5: 6-11
		Matthew 9:36 - 10:8

The 3rd and final reading of the Human Embryology Bill will take place on 17th June. This is our last chance to show opposition to the Bill. MPs may yet vote against it. Please look out for action leaflets by the doors of the church with information about contacting your MP, and help stop this act against humanity.

Red Cross Appeal for Refugees & Asylum Seekers. The Red Cross has issued a revised list of items needed to support these destitute vulnerable people:

- ◆ Dried items: rice, pasta, cous-cous, maize mealie-meal, sugar, salt, porridge, cooking oil, flour (self-raising), spices, palenta, mashed potato (Smash), tea, coffee, powdered milk, water, fruit juice, semolina;
- ◆ Tins: baked beans, soup, fruit, rice pudding, sauces, vegetables;
- ◆ Pre-prepared food: cereal bars, chocolate, biscuits, nuts, crisps, pot noodles;
- ◆ Baby items: nappies (sizes 2-4), baby wipes, food, milk, lotion, talc, clothing, equipment;
- ◆ Toiletries: toothpaste, tooth brush, soap, moisturiser, shampoo, conditioner, toilet paper.

Please leave these items at any Mass. We thank you for your continued support.

Holy Cross Parish 2008 Assembly and AGM of the Parish Pastoral Council. Friday 20th June in the Church Hall at 7:30pm. Everybody is welcome. See the Notice for the Agenda; and please consider joining the Parish Council. You'll need a nomination form.

Parish Evening of Music at the Holy Cross Centre, next Saturday June 14th - 7 till late - featuring groups and individuals from the parish; Holy Cross Gospel Choir and anyone else who would like to perform. Plenty of sing-along opportunities for those who wish to join in! Bar open. Please bring snack finger-food to share. If you'd like to perform or need further details, please call Jeff Henry 0116 243 1289.

The Catholic Truth Society's latest bulletin is on the noticeboard. You can visit their new website on www.cts-online.org.uk.

Handel and Leicestershire: talk with musical illustrations, this Friday, 13th June, at 2pm in Holy Cross Church. Handel and his music have a number of important connections with Leicestershire. For example Charles Jennens of Gopsall Hall was the author of text of "Messiah", while the first ever church performance of "Messiah" was at Church Langton in 1759, thanks to the extraordinary Rev. William Hanbury.

Prof. Patrick Boylan (a member of our choir) is giving a talk on this in Holy Cross to the weekend meeting in Leicester of the Friends of Cathedral Music, with musical illustrations by Nicky Bingham (soprano), Stephen Foster (bass) and our own David Cowen on the organ, and the Friends warmly invite the Parish to join them.

The talk will finish by 3.10pm to give everyone time to go (if they wish) to a special Choral Evensong at the Cathedral for the visiting "Friends", which will also have a Handel theme. David hopes to include a Handel Organ Concerto, playing this mainly on the surviving original organ pipes still in the Cathedral instrument from the 1774, that was inaugurated with the great Handel festival of that year that Patrick will speak about in his talk.

Organ Recital at Holy Cross. Our Organist and Choir Director, David Cowen, will give an organ recital here of music by Bach and Mendelssohn at 8pm on Monday 16 June.

Proceeds will go to the upkeep of the church and refreshments will be available in St Clement's Hall afterwards. The full programme is on the noticeboard, and parking will be available in the gated car park just beyond St Clement's Hall. Admission will be £7 (£5 for the un-waged).



Today's Gospel: The Call of Matthew

The Choir has a number of vacancies for sopranos to sing at the 11am Mass. If you enjoy singing and can read music, please see David Cowen, Organist and Director, after the 11 o'clock Mass. You can also contact us via our website www.holycrosschoirleicester.co.uk.

 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 (except Bank Holidays) the church is open from 8am until 4pm.
