

'NAUGHTY BUT NICE?'

'NAUGHTY but nice' is a phrase used by advertisers to beguile us into eating things that are delicious but fattening. But it also expresses the attitude that some people seem to have about sin. The assumption is that all the things we really want to do are wrong, and that Christianity is determined to prevent people from enjoying themselves.

That, of course, is to take a very superficial view of sin. In the second reading of today's Mass, St Paul gives a glimpse of the reality of sin, and of how it has been conquered. Earlier in the same Epistle, he describes human sinfulness as 'wickedness, evil, covetousness, malice ... envy, murder, strife, deceit'. And we have only to look at the papers or watch the TV news to see this on a world-wide scale: violence, greed, injustice, cruelty, torture - all of which leads to untold human suffering. This is the reality of sin. None of it can be described as 'naughty but nice'.

The fact is that sin is never 'nice'. In reality it destroys our humanity because it is a turning away from the purposes for which God created us. The Hebrew and Greek words for 'sin' are connected with the idea of missing the mark, like an arrow that misses its target, or a walker who wanders off the track. Whether these things happen deliberately or not they are a failure. Sin is a turning away from the way of life that we could and should follow.

The mystery is why there should be sin in the first place. St Paul says: 'sin came into the world through one man'. He looks back to the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden, and the wrong choices that were made at the start. This is not only a story about Adam and Eve's particular actions and motives, but also a description of the way we all act towards God and incur guilt before him. From the start human beings have behaved like this, and they are unable to escape by their own efforts. As Paul says, God gave the Law as a pattern to live by, but our weakness in keeping the Law only emphasises our plight.

The solution lies only in the life, death and resurrection of Christ. He is the New Adam, who perfectly does God's will. And just as we shared in Adam's propensity to sin, so we can share in Christ's victory over sin as his free gift to us. 'Just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all'. However disastrous was the fall, the redemption in Christ is far, far greater. 'If the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many'.

Fr Fabian Radcliffe OP

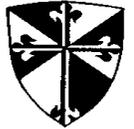
12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A (Weekdays II)

22 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 David	Rose Burns, RIP	Fr David
8:00am	Fr Isidore	Frank Walsh, RIP	Fr Isidore
9:30am Family	Fr David	<i>Pro Populo</i>	Fr Fabian
11:00am Solemn	Fr Leon	John & Rita O'Leary, wedding anniv'y	Fr Leon
7:00pm	Fr Leon	Joe Corley, RIP	Fr Euan

The Novena to Our Lady is each Saturday, at 6:45pm. It is taking place every week for nine Saturdays, leading up to the feast of the Assumption on 15 August. Books for recording your petitions and thanksgiving are in the Lady chapel.

Sunday Evening Services	21 June	Confessions	28 June
5:45 Rosary	Fr Leon	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Fabian
6:15 Sung Latin Compline	Fr Isidore	4:00 - 5:00pm	Fr David
6:40 Benediction	Fr David	7:00 - 7:20pm	Fr Euan

Entrance Antiphon:	God is the strength of his people. In him, we his chosen live in safety. Save us, Lord, who share in your life, and give us your blessing; be our shepherd for ever.
1st Reading:	Jeremiah 20: 10-13
Psalm Response:	In your great love, answer me, O God. (Ps 68)
2nd Reading:	Romans 5: 12-15
Alleluia:	The Word was made flesh and lived among us; to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God. <i>At 11:00</i> - In you, O Lord, I take refuge. Let me never be put to shame. In your justice set me free and rescue me. Hear me and speedily rescue me.
Gospel:	Matthew 10: 26-33
Communion Antiphon:	The eyes of all look to you, O Lord, and you give them food in due season. <i>At 11:00</i> - The Lord says: what I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the housetops.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend: Offertory Collection £1022.52; SVP £11.07; St. Martin's Missions £3.43; Holy Souls £9.28; Grenada £4.38.

Last Monday's Organ Recital by David Cowen was a most pleasant evening and raised £188 for the maintenance of the church. An especial thank-you to David.

There will be a retiring collection next week for Peter's Pence.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

The week ahead...			
Monday:	St Etheldreda, abbess - <i>optional</i>		
Tuesday:	THE NATIVITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, solemnity		
Wednesday:	Feria		
Thursday:	Feria		
Friday:	St Cyril of Alexandria, bishop, doctor - <i>optional</i>		
Saturday:	St Irenæus, bishop, martyr. Novena to Our Lady at 6:45pm.		
Next Sunday:	Ss Peter & Paul, Apostles. Readings:		
Vigil:	Jeremiah 1: 4-10	1 Peter 1: 8-12	Luke 1: 5-17
Day:	Isaiah 49: 1-6	Acts 13: 22-26	Luke 1: 57-66. 80

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.

Inter-faith football match to raise money for the LRI Children's Intensive Care Unit. On Saturday 28 June at 9:30am at Judgemeanow Community College, Marydene Drive. See noticeboard.

National Grandparents Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham. This will take place on Saturday 26 July, beginning at 12noon, and led by Bishop Michael Evans, the Bishop of East Anglia. See noticeboard for details, or visit www.NationalGrandparentsPilgrimage.com/Walsingham.

The Greenbelt Festival. Sarah Bibb, a Student Youth Worker at Leicester Cathedral is planning to take a group of young people to the Festival at Cheltenham Race Course over the August Bank Holiday, 22 to 25 August. Details from Sarah.Bibb@LecCofE.org or phone 248 7468.

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.

There will be a Dominican Family Day on Saturday 28 June at Niland Hall, Bushey, Hertfordshire.

The theme of the day is 'Releasing the Fullness of Preaching', and talks will be given by Fr Ellert Dahl, OP, on 'Fra Angelico's Art as a Form of Contemplation' and by Br Lawrence Lew, OP, on 'Preaching through Music'.

The day will include Mass and Solemn Vespers, together with conviviality, and lunch will be provided. There is no charge for the day, but donations will be welcome. There is a poster on the noticeboard.



Today's Gospel: You are worth many sparrows

The Funeral Mass of Peter Crump will take place at Holy Cross this Wednesday at 1:30pm. Peter attended the 11:00 Sunday Mass for many years and was well known amongst local musicians. He was the Leicester Mercury's classical music critic for a long time around the 1980s, and a member of the Central Composers' Alliance. The Choir sang a setting of *O salutaris hostia* by Peter last Sunday. *Requiescat in pace.*

St Paul's School Anniversary Celebrations will be held on the evening of Saturday 28 June. Open to all past pupils, staff and friends. Details from the school.

Pilgrimage to Mount St Bernard in honour of Blessed Cyprian Iwene Tansi - Saturday 28 June at 1:45pm. See noticeboard for details.

Please join us in the Parish Hall after the 9:30am and 11:00am Sunday Masses for tea, coffee, fruit-juice etc. The Hall is in Wellington Street. There is the chance for a chat with members of the Dominican Community and with parishioners. We particularly welcome visitors to our Parish.

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.