

Repentance and Judgement

Can a person truly change? The Ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle offered little hope of change for those who have grown up with a vicious and violent character. Habits formed in youth can become ingrained, and Aristotle through his observations of human nature concluded that a bad upbringing condemns a person for life.

In today's Gospel (Matthew 13:24-43) Jesus tells the parable of the man who wakes up to find that weeds are growing among the wheat he has sown. He realises that the weeds have been planted by an enemy, but when his servants ask whether they should pull them out he replies no. In pulling out the weeds the wheat will also be destroyed. Only when the wheat has grown to harvest can the weeds also be pulled out, when they will be set aside and burned.

Later Jesus explains the parable to his disciples. The field is the world, the wheat represents the children of light and the weeds are the children of the evil one. The time of the harvest is the end of the age, when the Son of Man will appear with his angels and separate the good from the evil.

The message Jesus gives here is clear. Do not rush to premature judgement about who is condemned. There is evil in this world, and those who are children of the evil one will be called to account. But judgement ultimately belongs to Jesus Christ. If we rush to condemn others as children of the evil one, we run the risk of condemning the good along with them.

We also deny the opportunity for repentance and change. The New Testament is the story of how Jesus Christ changes the lives of those who encounter Him. His disciples, the woman at the well, the good thief, St Paul, all have their lives changed through Jesus Christ. Through His love we know that even the most vicious of people can change their lives. So whilst we must hold others responsible for their freely chosen actions, final judgement is left to Christ, with a hope that overcomes all fear.

Fr David Goodill OP

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

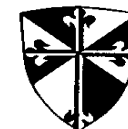
Year A (Weekdays II)

20 July 2008

The Newsletter of

HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER

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



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Parish Priest: Fr Leon Pereira 252 1501 For home visits: 255 3856

Sunday Masses	This week	Mass Intentions	Next week
7:30pm Vigil	Fr Leon	Evelyn Dixon, RIP	Fr Leon
8:00am	Fr Euan	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Isidore
9:30am Family	Fr Leon	Anne Downey, RIP	Fr Fabian
11:00am Solemn*	Fr Fabian	Anne Porterton, sick	Fr Leon
7:00pm	Fr David	Dunstan Xavier Apillai, RIP	Fr Euan

* The Choir is on holiday, and will return on Sunday 10 August.

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	19 July	Confessions	26 July
5:45 Rosary	Fr Euan	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Isidore
6:15 Sung Latin Compline	Fr Fabian	4:00 - 5:00pm	Fr Fabian
6:40 Benediction	Fr David	7:00 - 7:20pm	Fr Leon

Entrance Antiphon:	God himself is my help. The Lord upholds my life. I will offer you a willing sacrifice; I will praise your name, O Lord, for its goodness.
1st Reading:	Wisdom 12: 13. 16-19
Psalm Response:	O Lord, you are good and forgiving. (Ps 85)
2nd Reading:	Romans 8: 26-27
Alleluia:	May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.
Gospel:	Matthew 13: 24-43
Communion Antiphon:	The Lord keeps in our minds the wonderful things he has done. He is compassion and love; he always provides for his faithful. Or I stand at the door and knock, says the Lord. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and sit down to supper with him, and he with me.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend: Offertory Collection £947.86; SVP £7.11; St. Martin's Missions £6.77; Holy Souls £4.35; Grenada £5.20.

Last week's collection for the Apostleship of the Sea came to £317.30.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

The week ahead...		
Monday:	St Lawrence of Brindisi, priest, doctor, religious - <i>optional</i>	
Tuesday:	St Mary Magdalene, disciple, secondary patroness of the Order of Preachers	
Wednesday:	ST BRIDGET OF SWEDEN, WIFE AND MOTHER, RELIGIOUS, PATRON OF EUROPE	
Thursday:	St Sharbel Yūsuf Makhlūf, priest, hermit - <i>optional</i>	
Friday:	ST JAMES, APOSTLE	
Saturday:	SS Joachim and Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Novena to Our Lady at 6:45pm.	
Next Sunday: 17 th Sunday <i>per annum</i> . Readings:		
1 Kings 3: 5. 7 -12	Romans 8: 28-30	Matthew 13: 44-52

We welcome Fr Peter Hunter O.P. who arrives this week to become the new university chaplain. We also say goodbye to Fr David Goodill O.P., who is being transferred to our Oxford Priory.

Our Organist and Choir Director, David Cowen, is one of nine finalists in this year's International Organ Improvisation Competition being held at Haarlem in the Netherlands. He will be playing on an 18th century organ in St-Bavokerk and a 19th century organ in a concert hall. David studied improvisation in Paris under one of France's best known organists and frequently displays his skills on Sundays at the end of Mass. We wish him well in the competition.

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.

Damascus Volunteers - a Gap Year opportunity from September 08 to July 09. St Paul's School are looking for volunteers to help provide opportunities for the personal and spiritual development of young people at the school. Includes paid visits to Lourdes and Rome. See the noticeboard.

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.



The Catholic Chaplaincy at Leicester Royal Infirmary is covered by priests from Holy Cross. Please do not call the Priory if a relative in the LRI needs a priest urgently: instead ask the ward staff to bleep the Roman Catholic Chaplain. Messages for non-urgent visits to Catholic patients in the LRI can be left at the Priory or at the LRI Chaplains' office; but please note that messages may not be picked up until the end of the chaplain's working day.

Ride & Stride. This year's sponsored ride and walk, visiting the churches of Leicestershire, will take place on Saturday 13 September. Please make a note in your diary now! Sponsorship forms will be available nearer the time.

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.

If you have any event or information that you would like publicising in this Newsletter and/or on the noticeboards, please hand in posters/information to the Priory, marked 'Newsletter'. In the case of events and other dated material please try to give 4 weeks' notice for inclusion in the Newsletter. All publicity depends on space available.

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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 Divine Mercy Chaplet, Rosary and simple Benediction at 12noon.**  
 On Mondays to Fridays (except Bank Holidays) the church is open from 8am until 4pm.  
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