

HOLIDAYS:HOLYDAYS

This is the time of year when congregations are smaller than usual because a lot of people are away on holiday. We do need holidays. To live at just the same pace and intensity all the time is not good for us, whether it is a high pitched or low pitched pace. 'All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy', and Jill a dull girl too. And the same would be true for 'all play and no work'.

This pattern of tension and relaxation seems to be one that is most healthy for us, because it is built into our human nature and into the natural world in which we live. We have the pattern of day and night, work and sleep. We also have the pattern of the seasons: spring grows into summer, with sunshine (we hope!), long days and fruitful harvest; then follows autumn and winter when activity slows down and almost ceases in the dark and cold, gathering strength for the new spring. This is much more marked in our part of the globe, less so in the countries nearer the equator. But even there they have different seasons: wet and dry, calm and stormy, as well as the familiar pattern of day and night.

So it is our creator God who has given us this pattern. God rested on the seventh day from all his work of creation, not that God gets tired and needs to rest, but that he sets the style for us: six days work followed by one days rest. For the Jew this was the Sabbath, rest from work, and resting in the praise of God. For Christians this is transferred to the first day of the week, the day when we celebrate the Resurrection and new life, anticipating our eternal rest in the glory of God. That is why we call it a 'holy day', one which gives all our 'holidays' their true meaning. At the same time we have built into the week the contrasting day, Friday, remembering Christ's suffering and death, so we make that a day of fasting or of some other penance.

Sadly, though, we are tempted to go to extremes in both directions: either we work too hard, Sundays included, and so suffer from stress; or else we pursue a 'luxury life-style' all the time, which leads to laziness and selfishness - like the rich man in the parable who 'feasted sumptuously every day' and ignored Lazarus the beggar at his door.

There is a wholesome wisdom in this pattern of holy day and fast day, holiday and work, feasting and fasting. We all need both. Getting the balance right is something to strive for. We also need it daily: getting a short time of prayer every day, setting aside our work and burdens, and resting in the presence of God, being aware of his love, putting all our desires before him. That gives flavour to the whole of life, like salt: small in quantity but strong in effect.

Fr Fabian Radcliffe OP

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

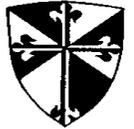
Year A (Weekdays II)

27 July 2008

The Newsletter of

HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER

Served by the Dominican Order: website 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 Leon Pereira 252 1501 For home visits: 255 3856

Sunday Masses	This week	Mass Intentions	Next week
7:30pm Vigil	Fr Leon	Book of Prayer Intentions	Fr Euan
8:00am	Fr Isidore	Francis & Olive Hare, RIP	Fr Isidore
9:30am Family	Fr Fabian	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Fabian
11:00am Solemn*	Fr Leon	Elizabeth Harrigan	Fr Fabian
7:00pm	Fr Euan	Alvaro Uribe Velez	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	26 July	Confessions	2 August
5:45 Rosary	Fr Isidore	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Fabian
6:15 Sung Latin Compline	Fr Fabian	4:00 - 5:00pm	Fr Isidore
6:40 Benediction	Fr Leon	7:00 - 7:20pm	Fr Isidore

Entrance Antiphon:	God is in his holy dwelling; he will give a home to the lonely, he gives power and strength to his people.
1st Reading:	1 Kings 3: 5. 7-12
Psalm Response:	Lord, how I love your law! (Ps 118)
2nd Reading:	Romans 8: 28-30
Alleluia:	I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.
Gospel:	Matthew 13: 44-52
Communion Antiphon:	O, bless the Lord, my soul, and remember all his kindness. Or Happy are those who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs. Happy are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend: Offertory Collection £887.83; SVP £7.48; St. Martin's Missions £5.60; Holy Souls £6.00; Grenada £2.45.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

The week ahead...		
Monday:	Feria	
Tuesday:	St Martha, disciple	
Wednesday:	St Peter Chrysologus, bishop, doctor - <i>optional</i>	
Thursday:	St Ignatius of Loyola, priest, religious	
Friday:	St Alphonsus Mary Liguori, bishop, doctor, religious	
Saturday:	Saturday Mass of Our Lady or St Eusebius of Vercelli, bishop or St Peter Julian Eymard, priest, religious or Bl Jane of Aza, mother of Our Holy Father Dominic - <i>all optional</i> . Novena to Our Lady at 6:45pm.	
Next Sunday: 18 th Sunday <i>per annum</i> . Readings:		
Isaiah 55: 1-3	Romans 8: 35. 37-39	Matthew 14: 13-21

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.

The Dominican Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from 1st to 8th August. For details, please see the noticeboard. Prayer petition cards are available near the side doors and can be handed to a priest.

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.

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.

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.

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.



He sells everything he owns and buys the field.

Catholic Singles is an organisation which helps single Catholics meet up, either one to one or through social events. For more information please tel. 0161 941 3498, visit the website www.catholicsingles.org.uk or email info@catholicsingles.org.uk.

Do you wish to be married at Holy Cross? The diocese requires a couple to give at least 6 months' notice. To be married at Holy Cross at least one of the couple should be a Catholic parishioner of Holy Cross, and both must be 'free to marry' under the Catholic Church's rules. Please consult the Parish Priest.

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.

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.