

## God's Salvation for All

SINCE today's Gospel is sandwiched between the accounts of Jesus miraculously feeding two large crowds, presumably of Jews, it's not surprising that today's episode should refer to a meal - or at least scraps from a meal.

The New Testament frequently used the image of a meal to tell us something about the Kingdom of Heaven. At this joyful banquet God satisfies our deepest needs and longings, as he nourishes us with his own company and that of the saints.

But who is invited to this heavenly banquet, and who would agree to come? As God's chosen people the Jews usually assumed that they alone were privileged to be God's guests. But, as in today's 1st Reading, some of the later prophets looked forward to the day when God's salvation would embrace people of every nation.

Today's Gospel tackles the question of inclusion and exclusion at the Lord's table. It's raised when a pagan woman begs Jesus to cure her sick daughter. She shows remarkable faith, as she falls to her knees and addresses him as 'Sir, Son of David' - a Messianic title.

At first Jesus seems to be uncharacteristically dismissive and offensive. But in fact he's trying to draw out her faith in him.

He tells her that he has been sent only to the lost sheep of Israel and that it wouldn't be fair to take the children's food and give it to puppies. Jesus himself has linked being one of God's children with the right to be fed and helped by him. So he seems to be saying that only the children of Israel would be welcome at God's heavenly banquet, and that pagans would be excluded from the salvation that it symbolised. By using the diminutive of 'dogs' - i.e. Puppies - Jesus softens the offensive Jewish custom of referring to pagans as 'dogs.' The Canaanite woman then turns Christ's reference to pagans as 'puppies' to her own advantage. She argues that if real puppies are allowed to eat the scraps, which fall from the children's table, pagans should be allowed to share in God's salvation. She wasn't seeking equal status with the Jews, but only wanted the scraps, which fell from their table. That would take nothing away from the Jews.

Jesus was so impressed by this woman's faith in him and the witty way she persisted in her prayer that he healed her daughter.

There's a strong contrast between her faith in Jesus and the hostility, which most of his own people showed him.

The brevity of Christ's mission meant that he had to focus his attention on his own people - the lost sheep of Israel. But today's episode foreshadowed the risen Lord commissioning the Church to preach the Good News to the whole world, so that people of every race, culture and class would be welcome at the heavenly banquet of the Lord. God's invitation would exclude no one.

Isidore O.P.

20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

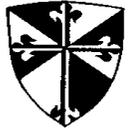
Year A (Weekdays II)

17 August 2008

The Newsletter of

### HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER

Served by the Dominican Order: website [www.torch.op.org](http://www.torch.op.org)



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 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 Isidore	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Fabian
8:00am	Fr Isidore	Margaret Green, RIP	Fr Isidore
9:30am Family	Fr Euan	Margaret O'Reilly, RIP	Fr Euan
11:00am Solemn	Fr Peter	Anne Potterton (sick)	Fr Euan
7:00pm	Fr Fabian	Norman Cox (for health)	Fr Isidore

There is a Novena to Our Lady each Saturday, at 10:30am. It is taking place every week, leading up to the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on 7 October. Books for recording your petitions and thanksgiving are in the Lady chapel.

Sunday Evening Services	16 August	Confessions	23 August
5:45 Rosary	Fr Leon	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Euan
6:15 Sung Latin Compline	Fr Isidore	4:00 - 5:00pm	Fr Fabian
6:40 Benediction	Fr Fabian	7:00 - 7:20pm	Fr Euan

<b>Entrance Antiphon:</b>	God, our protector, keep us in mind; always give strength to your people. For if we can be with you even one day, it is better than a thousand without you.
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b>	Isaiah 56: 1, 6-7
<b>Psalm Response:</b>	Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. (Ps 66)
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b>	Romans 11: 13-15, 29-32
<b>Alleluia:</b>	The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice, says the Lord, I know them and they follow me. At 11:00 - Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who save us.
<b>Gospel:</b>	Matthew 15: 21-28
<b>Communion Antiphon:</b>	With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption. Or - I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord; if anyone eats this bread he will live for ever. At 11:00 - My house shall be called a house of prayer, says the Lord. In it the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him.

**MONEY MATTERS:** Last Weekend: Offertory Collection £922.36; SVP £17.38; St. Martin's Missions £15.00; Holy Souls £8.48; Grenada £10.85.

The retiring collection towards our diocesan quota came to £211.78.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

The week ahead...		
Monday:	Bl Mamés, friar, priest, brother of Our Holy Father Dominic - optional	
Tuesday:	St John Eudes, priest - optional	
Wednesday:	St Bernard, abbot, doctor	
Thursday:	St Pius X, pope	
Friday:	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
Saturday:	St Rose of Lima, virgin, lay Dominican. Novena to Our Lady at 10:30am.	
Next Sunday:	21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday <i>per annum</i> . Readings:	
	Isaiah 22: 19-23	Romans 11: 33-36
		Matthew 16: 13-20

It is 80 years since the foundation stone was laid for the first part of our church. Some more of the story of this event (the first part appeared in the Newsletter two weeks ago), as recorded in A H Kimberlin's *The Return of Catholicism to Leicester, 1746-1946*, is: "We must now record the great occasion of the laying of the foundation stone of the new Holy Cross Church. The ceremony commenced with a solemn High Mass, sung in the presence of the Lord Bishop of Nottingham, the Rt Rev Thomas Dunn. Many clergy were present, including the Provincial of the Dominicans, Fr Bede Jarrett, the Priors of the various Priories of the Order in England, together with a large number of the secular clergy. The singing was done by the Dominican Fathers who formed a choir for the occasion.

"After the Mass, a procession was formed which was joined by the Lord Mayor, and Lady Mayoress of Leicester, supported by members of the civic body. His Lordship the Bishop laid the stone with all the stately ceremony of the Church. The weather was perfect, the sun shining brilliantly throughout. It was a great occasion, and being the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross [1928], a most appropriate day. Fr Vincent McNabb, OP, was the special preacher, and speaking from a temporary rostrum he took for his theme that 'A truth that is not worth dying for, is not worth living for'.

"The ceremony was followed by lunch at the County Rooms [now the City Rooms, Hotel Street], given and arranged under the auspices of the Catholic Women's League. It was attended by the Lord Bishop, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, and the clergy, together with many other distinguished guests. During the lunch, Fr Stephen Fitzgerald [the Prior] announced that the collection at the stone had amounted to £388."

David Cowen, our Organist and Choir Director, has returned from competing in the International Organ Improvisation Competition in Haarlem, and this is his report: It is one of the oldest and most important organ competitions in the world. After an preliminary round based on submitted recordings, t of us played in the competition (3 rounds in 3 days). I was the only British organist to play in the competition this time and was one of the four finalists. The world famous Christian Müller Organ (1738) in St Bavo's Church is one of the most photographed organs in the world and has been played by Mozart and Handel. You can see pictures of me and listen to the final by visiting: [http://www.orgelfestivalhaarlem.nl/\\_private/oiocinfo2008.html](http://www.orgelfestivalhaarlem.nl/_private/oiocinfo2008.html).

St Paul's School and the development of the adjacent Leicester Grammar School site. The Grammar School has moved to a new site and is in the process of selling the site adjacent to St Paul's. They have applied to the City Council for the site to be used for residential development. This is not in the interests of St Paul's who want to buy the land themselves in order to improve the facilities for the students and families of St Paul's, and the local community. If you wish to object to the application, please take one of the letters on the tables by the New Walk and Wellington Street entrances.



Today's Gospel: Jesus cures the daughter of the Canaanite woman

Please note that the Children's Liturgy will not occur during the summer until 31 August. More information about it will be available in a leaflet nearer the time (please look out for it). In the meanwhile, a trolley with religious books and stories will be left by the door of the church for children during the 9:30am Family Mass.

The annual pilgrimage in honour of Our Lady Queen of Peace takes place in Walsingham on 25 August. For information and transport details, phone Kath on 0116 234 0103 a.s.a.p.

Missed last week's Newsletter and want to catch up? Back copies of the Newsletter are available, technology permitting, on the Choir's website <http://holycrosschoirleicester.co.uk/> on the 'Links' page.

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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.

**Novena to Our Lady:** Saturday at 10:30am

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

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