

A minor incident in the Middle East

READING the Old Testament is rarely easy. The patterns of thought are strange, the life of the people very different from those of us who live in a modern city, which is more and more of us in the modern world. Yet the Old Testament remains part of scripture because it speaks of the coming of the Christ. This is in fact another reason why the Old Testament is hard to read. The world without Christ is a grim world, a world where God speaks to his people but his people, being merely human, are shown to be unable to respond. Even there, there is value to be found, because we learn something about Christ in reading about a world without the Christ, a Christ revealed by his absence. We learn about the cure, by studying the disease.

A good example of how the Old Testament speaks to us, is in Chapter 26 of Genesis, Verses 17-33. This is the story about how Isaac, the son of Abraham, has to leave the promised land and go to Gerar. The Old Testament likes to make us place names and their meaning, to teach a lesson. Ger, is a Hebrew word for a foreigner who dwells in a foreign land but does not have full rights in that place. Various stories are set in Gerar, and they seem to be about Israel's relation to the outer world, and the slow understanding that the God of Israel is in fact also the God of the whole world.

In Gerar, Isaac tries to dig a well, the most crucial need for any desert dweller. The Philistines have blocked the wells with soil. The herdsmen of Gerar argue with Isaac when he digs his own wells. So what does Isaac do? He gives names to the wells, one he calls Esek, which we are told means 'strife' and the other, he calls Sitnah, which means 'accusation', though this is not translated for us. In the story Isaac's solution is to dig another well. So he digs another well, called Rehoboth, which means wide spaces, and says that God has made wide space for us, using the same word as Rehoboth in its verbal form. Finally Isaac reconciles with the king Abimelech and he moves to Beersheba, which probably means well of abundance.

What does all this mean? Well for one thing, the bible can mean different things in different times. In the twenty-first century, it is obvious to many that water will once again be the source of many disputes, and even wars. Isaac finds no solution to the disputes that wells arouse, the fight for limited resources, but God finds a solution by finding new resources. Wide lands, which Israel, trapped between hostile forces always longed for, and wells of abundance.

What is the Christian solution? If you think for a moment, you might remember there is a story about a well in the Gospels, a story which harks back to the many stories about wells in the Old Testament. The well is quite literally the source of life, but in this story, the story of the women by the well in Chapter four of the Gospel of John, significantly a Samaritan woman, Jesus says, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

This spiritual water of the Christ may not solve all our problems about resources, but neither will technology alone. The water of Christ can teach us to share wisely the water of the world.

Fr Euan Marley

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

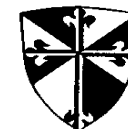
Year A (Weekdays II)

31 August 2008

The Newsletter of

HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER

Served by the Dominican Order: website 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 Peter	Evelyn Dixon, RIP	Fr Peter
8:00am	Fr Isidore	Elizabeth Curran, RIP	Fr Isidore
9:30am Family	Fr Euan	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Euan
11:00am Solemn	Fr Fabian	John O'Reilly, RIP	Fr Leon
7:00pm	Fr Euan	Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Lourdes	Fr Leon

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	30 August	Confessions	6 September
5:45 Rosary	Fr Peter	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Euan
6:15 Sung Latin Compline	Fr Euan	4:00 - 5:00pm	Fr Peter
6:40 Benediction	Fr Isidore	7:00 - 7:20pm	Fr Euan

Entrance Antiphon:	I call to you all day long, have mercy on me, O Lord. You are good and forgiving, full of love for all who call to you.
1st Reading:	Jeremiah 20: 7-9
Psalm Response:	For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God. (Ps 62)
2nd Reading:	Romans 12: 1-2
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. <i>At 11:00</i> - Sing a new song to the Lord for the Lord has worked wonders.
Gospel:	Matthew 16: 21-27
Communion Antiphon:	O Lord how great is the depth of the kindness which you have shown to those who love you. <i>Or</i> - Happy are the peacemakers; they shall be called sons of God. Happy are they who suffer persecution for justice's sake; the kingdom of heaven is theirs. <i>At 11:00</i> - If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections: Offertory Collection £1004.06; SVP £19.90; St. Martin's Missions £11.81; Holy Souls £9.31; Grenada £24.85.

There will be a retiring collection next week for the Dominican Priests' Training Fund.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

The week ahead...		
Monday:	Feria	
Tuesday:	Bl Ingrid of Skänninge, widow, nun - <i>optional</i>	
Wednesday:	St Gregory I the Great, pope, doctor, apostle of the English	
Thursday:	St Cuthbert, bishop - <i>optional</i>	
Friday:	ANNIVERSARY OF OUR DECEASED FAMILIARS AND BENEFACTORS	
Saturday:	Saturday Mass of Our Lady - <i>optional</i> . Novena to Our Lady at 10:30am.	
Next Sunday:	23 rd Sunday <i>per annum</i> . Readings:	
	Ezekiel 33: 7-9	Romans 13: 8-10
		Matthew 18: 15-20

It is 80 years since the foundation stone was laid for the first part of our church. Another part of the story of this event (two previous parts appeared in the Newsletter earlier this month), as recorded in A H Kimberlin's *The Return of Catholicism to Leicester, 1746-1946*, is: "This date [14 September 1928] was also still more memorable by the restoration as an act of grace by the Dominican Fathers of the Priory in London, of the Relic of the True Cross, formerly in the possession of the Leicester priory, and on account of which the old church was dedicated to the Holy Cross. It had been taken to London many years previously and it was thought fitting that it should now return to its old abode to grace the new church ... This relic originally belonged to the Dominican Cardinal Howard; we also find mention made of it in Pepys's Diary as a famous relic ..."

"Fr Stephen Fitzgerald [he had been Prior throughout the period of planning and fundraising for the new church] finished his term of office on April 7th, 1929, but before leaving he had the pleasure of seeing the new church considerably advanced, the walls being 20 feet above the ground, some of the windows complete in stone, and one arch finished ... At the time of his leaving, the funds amounted to £10,479, to which may be added the sum of £221 collected by the women's section of the Blessed Sacrament Guild to provide a high altar for the church, and a further sum of £85 obtained by the Children of Mary for the Lady Chapel. Of this sum, Fr Stephen from the time his special efforts commenced on June 1st, 1925, obtained £5,388.

"... [The new Prior, Fr Fabian Dix] had now to continue the work which Fr Stephen Fitzgerald had begun, and at once set to work to organise everything to the best possible advantage."

Churches Together in Leicester City Centre will meet on Thursday 4 September at 12:30pm at the Cathedral. All are welcome.

HOLY CROSS GOSPEL SINGERS: If you enjoy singing and would like to meet people and have fun, please join us from 7pm every Tuesday, during school term-time, in St. Clement's Hall. First session - September 2 (not the 9th as advertised last week). BEGINNERS WELCOME.



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.

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.

Today's Gospel: Jesus predicts His Crucifixion

Ride and Stride - sponsored visiting of churches and chapels throughout the county. This year's event will take place on Saturday 13 September, and Holy Cross has been a beneficiary of money raised in previous years. Be sponsored as a Walker or Cyclist, and then visit as many churches in Leicestershire as you can on the day (many open churches are in and around the City Centre, so it's easy to get a head start on those people 'out in the sticks'). Sponsorship forms will be available in the Wellington Street transept and more information can be obtained from Bernard Marriott on 285 6158.

Enrich your marriage. If you are a married couple, here is an opportunity to enrich your relationship away from the stresses of everyday life. A Marriage Encounter Weekend is for couples who have stable marriages and gives them time to look at their relationship. The weekend is spent listening to a series of presentations on various aspects of relationship, including the Church's Vision for Marriage. Apart from mealtimes and the concluding Mass, the weekend is spent together as a couple. The next weekend in this region is at Chesterfield from 19-21 September. Visit www.wvme.org.uk or ring 0115 877 7694 for details, and see the noticeboard.

Services at Holy Cross during the week:

Mass: Monday to Saturday, at 10:00am (with sermon) & 12:40pm.

On Bank Holidays there is only one Mass, at 10am, after which the church is closed.

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.