

IT'S been suggested to me that instead of the usual kind of column on the back page, I use this space to tell you a little about myself, since I'm a new face around the priory in Leicester and many of you won't know me very well, if at all. Trying to work out what to say about myself is a slightly uncomfortable business. All our lives are full of different influences but the great and constant presence in our lives, whether we know it or not, is God. It's because the process of thinking through what to tell you all about myself confronts me with just how present God has been in my life that it's rather uncomfortable. I'm tempted to say what my namesake the Apostle Peter did when he was called by the Lord, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." But if he did depart, where would I be?

I was born in 1970 in South Africa, not far from Johannesburg, but within a few years we'd moved to the Indian Ocean coast, not very far from Durban, and it was there that I lived for all but one of my years in South Africa. I was blessed with a good, close family, I was happy at school, and from a young age I loved the Church. That's not to say that growing up didn't have its difficulties - for one thing, my brother Neil, four years younger than I, is profoundly autistic - but I had a very good start in life, I think.

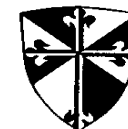
Of course, growing up in the 70's and 80's in South Africa was very strange in many ways. My country, as you know I'm sure, laboured under the terribly unjust system of apartheid. As I grew up, I became more and more aware of that. One reason for that growing awareness, I'm proud to say, was the impressively clear stance taken by the Catholic archbishop of Durban, the saintly Denis Hurley. I became increasingly opposed to apartheid, and anxious that as a white male, I would be required to fight in the South African army, at that time a fierce instrument of the apartheid government. I decided to refuse to be conscripted, was threatened with six years in prison and fled to Britain to escape that sentence.

I'm quite sure all of that was part of God's plan for me, because I went to Cambridge, where I met the Dominicans and an early thought that I should be a priest - I expect every Catholic boy at some point wonders whether he should be a priest - came back to me very strongly. Both my acceptance by the university and my family coming into money which paid for my studies are episodes that were clearly guided by God's hand, and looking back on my life, it's unnervingly clear that God knew what he wanted of my life, even if I didn't. I joined the Order, and after a novitiate in Edinburgh, I studied in Oxford and then London, was a university chaplain in Edinburgh and then taught in our study house in Oxford before being sent here. I am delighted to be with you all, and excited to see what God has in store for me here!

Fr Peter OP

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A (Weekdays II) 7 September 2008

The Newsletter of
HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER
Serving Leicester's Catholics since AD 1247



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 Peter	Irene Olszewska, RIP	Fr Isidore
8:00am	Fr Isidore	Susan Donnelly, RIP	Fr Thomas
9:30am Family	Fr Euan	Sean Fury, RIP	Fr Euan
11:00am Solemn	Fr Thomas	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Leon
7:00pm	Fr Leon	Thanksgiving	Fr Peter

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	6 September	Confessions	13 September
5:45 Rosary	Fr Euan	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Thomas
6:15 Sung Latin Compline	Fr Peter	4:00 - 5:00pm	Fr Isidore
6:40 Benediction	Fr Euan	7:00 - 7:20pm	Fr Euan

Entrance Antiphon:	Lord, you are just, and the judgements you make are right. Show mercy when you judge me, your servant.
1st Reading:	Ezekiel 33: 7-9
Psalm Response:	O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts. (Ps 94)
2nd Reading:	Romans 13: 8-10
Alleluia:	Your word is truth, O Lord, consecrate us in the truth. <u>At 11:00</u> - O Lord, listen to my prayer and let my cry for help reach you.
Gospel:	Matthew 18: 15-20
Communion Antiphon:	Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for you, my God. My soul is thirsting for the living God. <u>Or</u> - I am the light of the world, says the Lord; the man who follows me will have the light of life. <u>At 11:00</u> - Make vows to your God and fulfil them. Let all pay tribute to him who strikes terror, who cuts short the breath of princes, who strikes terror in the kings of the earth.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections: Offertory Collection £1026.54 (previous week £1081.31); SVP £13.38; St. Martin's Missions £12.61; Holy Souls £10.86; Grenada £7.91. The collection on the Feast of the Assumption came to £216.52.

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

200 Club. Last month's winners were: Eugene Curley £150, Sharon Watson £100, Michael Payne £50. Congratulations! An apology to prizewinners: unfortunately the money won't be available for a month or so whilst changes to bank accounts are sorted out (so don't clock up any debts just yet - ed).

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

The week ahead...		
Monday:	THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	
Tuesday:	St Peter Claver, priest, religious - <i>optional</i>	
Wednesday:	Feria	
Thursday:	Feria	
Friday:	The Most Holy Name of Mary - <i>optional</i>	
Saturday:	St John Chrysostom, bishop, doctor. Novena to Our Lady at <u>10:30am.</u>	
Next Sunday:	THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS, our patronal feast. Readings:	
	Numbers 21: 4-9	Philippians 2: 6-11
		John 3: 13-17

We welcome back to Holy Cross Fr Thomas Crean. Many parishioners will remember his being here a few years ago, since when he has worked in a parish in South London, and at Blackfriars, Cambridge. Fr Thomas has been appointed Bursar.

Ride and Stride - sponsored visiting of churches and chapels throughout the county. This year's event will take place next **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 are available in the Wellington Street transept and more information can be obtained from Bernard Marriott on 285 6158.

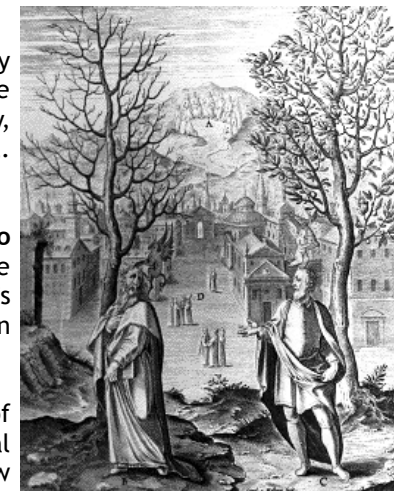
Refugees and Asylum Seekers - Leicester City of Sanctuary. We have now joined in the "Golden Giver Scheme" to measure the amount we give and (hopefully) earn a certificate for our efforts. The Red Cross are desperate for food and personal goods and we would ask you to be as generous as you can. No clothing or alcohol please but tins, rice, soup, pasta &c as per lists in previous Newsletters. If you want a list please e mail b-.hawcroft@ntlworld.com.

Praying for Vocations with the Saints of our Isles. A small booklet, with a prayer for each month of the year, is available on the table by the Wellington Street door. Please take one.

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. **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.

CULTURAL QUARTER. The public launch of CQLyfe, the City Centre Churches' ecumenical ministry to the Cultural Quarter around the new theatre, will be on Tuesday October 7th at 7.30 pm in the Lallie Bella Bar in Queen Street. There's also a website: www.cqlyfe.co.uk.



Today's Gospel: If your brother wrongs you, have it out with him alone.

Racial Justice Sunday (next Sunday, 14 September) is an opportunity to affirm that we want to live together in mutual respect, and that it is possible to do so. It's about saying that human diversity can be a source of strength and delight, and does not have to be feared. It draws attention to injustices but says that we can overcome them peacefully. It says no to fear, prejudice and violence, and yes to diversity, love and respect. There will be a service at the Church of Christ the King, Beaumont Leys, at 5:30pm, to which all are welcome. The preacher will be the Archdeacon of Southwark, Ven Dr Michael Igrave, who has worked in Leicester on interfaith issues.

Elections to the Parish Pastoral Council will be held on 27 and 28 September. All positions are available. If you would like to volunteer your services, please take a nomination form from any of the priests, and return it to Fr Leon by 21 September.

 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 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.
