

The Mother of Sorrows

GOODNESS is often sold as a means to happiness. The good person is the happy person, and no-one is truly happy who is not truly good. The second claim is more plausible than the first. A lack of something which is required for a human being to be a good human being will always be an obstacle to happiness. Yet goodness does not automatically mean happiness. The feast of Our Lady, the mother of sorrows, which we celebrated last Monday is proof of that. Mary, conceived without sin, is also the mother of sorrows, she whose heart was pierced.

Faced with this, we should not then turn around and preach the reverse, that goodness itself is a source of sorrow. Mary proclaims herself in the magnificat as the one, 'whose spirit rejoices in God my saviour'. Her sorrows came from the sin of the world, not from herself. That is part of the solution. There is more to be said. Mary is not in sorrow now. She is in perfect joy, as she cooperates with the fulfilment of God's plan. The mediaeval church prayed the rosary as a way of sharing in the joy of Mary in heaven. The great suffering which Mary endured in this world, is not simply disposed of, put aside in heaven. Instead it is transformed into the joy which she now shares. God turns tears into joy, 'those that sow in tears will reap in joy' as the Psalmist says, (Psalm 126). This is no natural process. The transformation of the sorrows of this world into the joy of heaven is a miracle, akin to the miracle of the transformation of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ. Following that analogy we can say that just as the bread and wine are not replaced by the Body and Blood of Christ, but become the Body and Blood, so the sorrows of this world are turned into the joys of heaven. This is what St Paul seems to be referring to in his First epistle to the Corinthians, Chapter 15. 'Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.' (Verses 52-53).

Not everything is suitable to be changed into the things of heaven. In *Veritatis Splendor*, Pope John Paul states that 'Reason attests that there are objects of the human act which are by their nature "incapable of being ordered" to God, because they radically contradict the good of the person made in his image.' The sorrows of Our Lady came from the contradiction between her goodness and the evils of the world. These are the sorrows which are suitable to be transformed into the joy of heaven, because they are transforming sorrows in themselves. They come from the yearning to transform the world, to share with it the joy of heaven. Such sorrows we should not only be willing to endure but should eagerly seek out.

Fr Euan Marley O.P.

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A (Weekdays II) 21 September 2008

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



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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 Thomas Evelyn Dixon, RIP		Fr Leon
8:00am	Fr Isidore <i>Pro populo</i>		Fr Euan
9:30am Family	Fr Peter Kathleen McGovern, RIP		Fr Isidore
11:00am Solemn	Fr Thomas Mr & Mrs D'Silva, RIP		Fr Leon
5:00pm Students	Fr Peter (Mass for Students in the Lady Chapel)		Fr Peter
7:00pm	Fr Fabian Juan Diego & Gloria Zapata		Fr Fabian

Sunday Evening Services	20 September	Confessions	27 September
5:45 Rosary	Fr Isidore	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Euan
6:15 Sung Latin Compline	Fr Peter	4:00 - 5:00pm	Fr Leon
6:40 Benediction	Fr Fabian	7:00 - 7:20pm	Fr Fabian

Entrance Antiphon:	I am the Saviour of all people, says the Lord. Whatever their troubles, I will answer their cry, and I will always be their Lord.
1st Reading:	Isaiah 55: 6-9
Psalm Response:	The Lord is close to all who call him. (Ps 144)
2nd Reading:	Philippians 1: 20-24. 27
Alleluia:	Blessings on the King who comes, in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens! <i>At 11:00</i> - Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name, make known his deeds among the people.
Gospel:	Matthew 20: 1-16
Communion Antiphon:	You have laid down your precepts to be faithfully kept. May my footsteps be firm in keeping your commands. <i>Or (but not at 11:00)</i> - I am the Good Shepherd, says the Lord, I know my sheep, and mine know me.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections: Offertory Collection £945.58; SVP £12.08; St. Martin's Missions £12.31; Holy Souls £11.25; Grenada £3.92.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

The week ahead...		
Monday:	Feria	
Tuesday:	St Pius of Pietrelcina, priest, religious	
Wednesday:	Our Lady of Walsingham	
Thursday:	Feria	
Friday:	SS Cosmas and Damian, laymen, martyrs - <i>optional</i>	
Saturday:	St Vincent de Paul, priest, religious. Novena to Our Lady at <u>10:30am</u> . Books for recording your petitions and thanksgiving are in the Lady chapel.	
Next Sunday: 26 th Sunday <i>per annum</i> . Readings:		
Ezekiel 18: 25-28	Philippians 2: 1-11	Matthew 21: 28-32

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.

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.

We welcome the many new students who have just arrived in our city and look forward to meeting again those who have returned to their studies. There is a Mass for students each Sunday in term time at 5pm in the Lady Chapel.

Compline, the Evening Prayer of the Church, is sung here each Sunday evening at 6:15pm in the traditional Latin form of the Dominican Rite, much of the chant and ceremony probably going back to the earliest days of the Order in the 13th century. Members of the congregation are very welcome to take part, and instruction can be given to anyone who wishes to do this regularly. See Fr Leon or Bernard Marriott.

Christ in the Centre 2009 - Launch Meeting. 'Christ in the Centre' is the major spectacular drama which takes place in the streets of the City Centre each Good Friday. Planning will begin in earnest at the Launch Meeting which will be held on Thursday 25 September from 7:30 to 9:00pm at the All Nations Christian Centre at Frog Island. No previous experience needed. For more details, contact Hilary Ayling on 01509 890115 or hilary.ayling@woohouse-eaves.co.uk and see the noticeboard.

Towards Advent - Festival of Catholic Culture - will be held as usual at Westminster Cathedral Hall, this year on Saturday 8 November. Admission is free, and there will be talks given by Fr Aidan Nichols, OP, (on the Conversion of England) and Fr Nicholas Schofield (on the Westminster Cardinals), and a workshop on Singing Gregorian Chant. There will also be guided tours of the cathedral. See the noticeboard.

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 usually available, on the Choir's website <http://holycrosschoirleicester.co.uk/> on the 'Links' page.

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.



**Today's Gospel:
The eleventh-hour labourers**

A service of Praise, Worship and Healing will take place at Sacred Heart Church, Mere Road, on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th October. For further details ring Tony on 0793 264 7444 or Bridie on 212 8472.

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 today, 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.