

THE CREDIT CRUNCH - AND US

THE credit crunch and turmoil in the financial markets of the world have dominated the news for the last couple of weeks. It has been a repeat on a far wider scale of the collapse of Northern Rock last year. For those of us who are not financial experts it is very hard to understand exactly what has been going on. At the same time we know that many people have lost all their savings or income or both, and many more are in great anxiety. There is a feeling of crisis, of uncertainty and bewilderment, a sense that the security of our life is threatened. What, if anything, can you and I do about it?

First, it's obviously no use acting like the proverbial ostrich and hiding one's head in the sand, hoping the problem will go away. It won't. And anyway there are far too many people suffering for us to be indifferent. It is the same as with other massive global problems: child poverty, starvation, war, the arms trade, AIDS and other epidemics, natural disasters and global warming. As St Paul says in the second reading at today's Mass, we should not think just of our own interests but those of others. Our own natural sense of sympathy and compassion should stir us.

But still, does that help? Just feeling sorry for those who are suffering doesn't by itself achieve anything. Yes; but it's quite different when seen by Christian faith. Both Bible and Church tell us to pray. A central part of prayer is intercession, prayer for other people. And intercession springs from communion with Jesus, 'who ever lives to make intercession for us' (Hebrews 7:25). Our prayer for others as well as for ourselves, aims to draw us all into the life of God in Jesus. Intercession is our longing for God's loving purposes to be fulfilled in everyone, in earth as in heaven, in all the details and complexities of our life. We remember though that God fulfils his purposes in his own way, not in ours. Entering wholeheartedly into intercession is saying 'Thy will be done - even though it may not look like it from my angle'.

So intercession expresses both our desire for God's will to be done, and our love and concern for others. It should be a constant part of our personal prayer, just as it is a regular part of our common worship. Each Eucharistic Prayer includes intercession for the whole Church, mentioning the Pope and Bishop by name, and for the peace and salvation of all the world, especially for the present congregation. And on Sundays we also have the Bidding Prayers, mentioning all kinds of different people and intentions in detail.

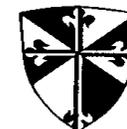
Maybe just praying for those suffering as a result of the credit crunch, and other crises, does not sound much use. But when you reflect on what intercession really is, then you see that it is perhaps the most powerful thing you can do.

Fr Fabian OP

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A (Weekdays II) 28 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 Leon	Leon & Margaret Steinborn	Fr Thomas
8:00am	Fr Euan	Nance Roche, RIP	Fr Isidore
9:30am Family	Fr Isidore	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Fabian
11:00am Solemn	Fr Leon	Book of Prayer Intentions	Fr Thomas
5:00pm Students	Fr Peter	(Mass for Students in the Lady Chapel)	Fr Peter
7:00pm	Fr Fabian	Alvaro Henao German Guedder Eliva Azango	Fr Euan

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

Entrance Antiphon:	O Lord, you had just cause to judge men as you did: because we sinned against you and disobeyed your will. But now show us your greatness of heart, and treat us with your unbounded kindness.
1st Reading:	Ezekiel 18: 25-28
Psalms Response:	Remember your mercy, Lord. (Ps 24)
2nd Reading:	Philippians 2: 1-11
Alleluia:	If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him. <i>At 11:00</i> - My heart is ready, O God; I will sing, sing your praise.
Gospel:	Matthew 21: 28-32
Communion Antiphon:	O Lord, remember the words you spoke to me, your servant, which made me live in hope and consoled me when I was downcast. <i>Or (but not at 11:00)</i> - This is how we know what love is: Christ gave up his life for us; and we too must give up our lives for our brothers.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections: Offertory Collection £971.84; SVP £14.05; St. Martin's Missions £125.88; Holy Souls £5.85; Grenada £2.86.

Next Sunday there will be a retiring collection for Aid to the Church in need.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

The week ahead...		
Monday:	SS MICHAEL, GABRIEL AND RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS	
Tuesday:	St Jerome, priest, doctor	
Wednesday:	St Teresa of Lisieux, virgin, religious, doctor	
Thursday:	The Holy Guardian Angels	
Friday:	Feria	
Saturday:	OUR SERAPHIC FATHER ST FRANCIS, RELIGIOUS, DEACON Novena to Our Lady at 10:30am. Books for recording your petitions and thanksgiving are in the Lady chapel.	
Next Sunday: 27 th Sunday <i>per annum</i> . Readings:		
Isaiah 5: 1-7	Philippians 4: 6-9	Matthew 21: 33-43

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.

Katie McCarthy, who struggles to walk far, requests a lift from a kind soul to bring her to Mass on one or two days a week (e.g. Sunday and Wednesday). She lives in Conduit Street, near the station. Any volunteers please talk to Fr Leon.

Parish Council Elections. Because not more than one candidate stood at each Mass, there will not be elections this weekend. Instead, the Parish Pastoral Councillors will simply be appointed by the parish priest. The new councillors are: Keith Athaide, Andrew Barrett, Anne Chafer, Anthony Devereux-Lacey, Stephanie Henderson, and Patricia Nutting. Congratulations!

Funeral. The 10:00am Mass on Tuesday 30th will be a requiem Mass.

Friday 3rd October is the autumn fast day, that is, a day set aside for special fasting and prayer. It corresponds to the old Ember-fast. Please keep the money you save or raise by your fasting, and add it to the retiring collection next week as a gift to the charity Aid to the Church in Need, which helps the most beleaguered parts of the world. Gift-aid envelopes are provided, and will increase your donation by 20% without costing you personally anything extra. Please gift-aid your offering if you pay Income Tax in the U.K.

Fr Gordian Marshall, O.P. A limited number of obituary cards are available for our brother Gordian. Parishioners who knew him and would like to have this aide-mémoire to pray for his soul, please see Fr Leon.

This year marks the 41st anniversary of the passing of the Abortion Act. The new Leicester pro-life group meets in Blackfriars Hall every six weeks or so. The next meeting is on 7 October at 7pm. All are welcome. The group will also have a cake & information stall after the 9:30 and 11am Masses over three Sundays in October/November, and look forward to your support and prayers.

Ratcliffe College is having an Open Morning on Saturday 11 October for those contemplating sending their children (ages 3 to 18) to the school. There is a bursary scheme for children joining Year 7. See the noticeboard for details.

Blanchard Mbey, from the Congo, a new member of our congregation, is looking for accommodation until Christmas. Please speak to Fr Thomas if you can help.

Churches Together in Leicester City Centre will meet on Thursday 2 October at 12:30pm at Bishop Street Methodist Church, Town Hall Square. All are welcome.

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.



Today's Gospel:
"My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today."

Posters on the Noticeboard. If you wish to display a poster, you must have the Parish Priest's permission. Posters which are not authorised will be removed.

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 newly-arrived students and other visitors to our Parish.

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.