

The Rosary

WHEN you love someone, everything they send you or say to you, every little detail of their lives, becomes important to you. And similarly, their joys and their sorrows, their successes and their failures become your own. The more we love someone, the more we identify with their lives and conversely: the more we learn to share in - as our own - the life of another, the more our love for them grows. That's how love works. We mustn't be surprised, then, if that's exactly how things are with our love for Jesus. If we want our love for Jesus to grow, then we will want to share in his life, to know intimately his time on earth with us.

The most important way to do that is by learning to love the Scriptures, where we can read the inspired accounts of Jesus' life but, to help our relationship grow, we'll want to pray about and contemplate the events we read about there. One special way of doing that is to use the rosary.

Perhaps you'll find that surprising: isn't the rosary a Marian devotion? After all, the prayer that gets repeated most often by far when we say the rosary is the Hail Mary. That's true, but we have to remember that true devotion to Our Lady never gets in the way of, but rather fosters, devotion to Christ. Just like in those beautiful medieval paintings of the Madonna and Child, Mary is always showing us Jesus, helping us to love her son just as much as she loves him. So, far from being a distraction from learning about the life of Jesus, Mary takes us by the hand, as it were, and guides us in learning about him, and learning to love him. She was the first one for whom Jesus' joys and sorrows and ultimate triumph were her own, and she is therefore the best person to accompany us in learning to make them ours too.

As you know, the rosary is traditionally made up of fifteen 'decades', groups of ten Hail Marys, introduced by an Our Father and concluded with a Glory Be. During each of the decades, we meditate on an event in the life of Christ, a mystery which is part of the story of our salvation. There are five joyful mysteries, remembering events surrounding Jesus' birth and young life. There are five sorrowful mysteries, remembering his suffering and crucifixion. And there are five glorious mysteries, celebrating Jesus' triumph over sin and death, and also Mary's sharing in her son's victory. In 2002, Pope John Paul II encouraged the faithful to add a further five mysteries, the mysteries of light, focussed on important moments of Jesus' preaching ministry. So the repeated prayers form a background; the real point of the rosary is to spend time contemplating these mysteries.

And what we find as we do so is that Christ's life becomes part of our own. As our love grows, we identify more with the life of Christ and can share, as Mary did, in his joys and sorrows. And we also come to see that the joys and sorrows of our own life are something Jesus came to share in a special way. The most amazing part of coming to love Jesus is to find ourselves already loved, to see how God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, reaching out in love to share in our humanity, so that we can share his life.

Fr Peter OP

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A (Weekdays II)

5 October 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	Peter Phillipps, RIP	Fr Isidore
8:00am	Fr Isidore	Ashberry family & friends, RIP	Fr Thomas
9:30am Family	Fr Fabian	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Euan
11:00am Solemn	Fr Thomas	Anne Potterton (sick)	Fr Leon
5:00pm Students	Fr Peter	(Mass for Students in the Lady Chapel)	Fr Peter
7:00pm	Fr Euan	Miriam Jones (sick)	Fr Fabian

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

Entrance Antiphon:	O Lord, you have given everything its place in the world, and no one can make it otherwise. For it is your creation, the heavens and the earth and the stars: you are the Lord of all.
1st Reading:	Isaiah 5: 1-7
Psalm Response:	The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel. (Ps 79)
2nd Reading:	Philippians 4: 6-9
Alleluia:	I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. <i>At 11:00</i> - When Israel came forth from Egypt, the House of Jacob from an alien people (Judah became his sanctuary and Israel his domain).
Gospel:	Matthew 21: 33-43
Communion Antiphon:	<i>At 11:00</i> - I will yearn for your saving help; I hope in your word. When will you judge my foes? Help me when lies oppress me, O Lord my God. <i>Otherwise either</i> - The Lord is good to those who hope in him, in those who are searching for his love. <i>Or</i> - Because there is one bread, we, though many, are one body, for we all share in the one loaf and in the one cup.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections: Offertory Collection £869.24; SVP £12.94; St. Martin's Missions £8.67; Holy Souls £6.09; Grenada £3.50.

Today there is a retiring collection for Aid to the Church in Need.

Gift Aid envelopes are available for this week's retiring collection, which is for the autumn fast day. The collection will be sent to Aid to the Church in Need. If you pay income tax in the UK, using the gift aid envelopes will increase your donation by 20% without any extra cost to you personally. This means if you give five pounds, the charity will get six pounds. The extra money comes from what the government has already taken from you. Please take the time therefore to fill in these envelopes.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

The week ahead...		
Monday:	St Bruno, priest, religious - <i>optional</i>	
Tuesday:	OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY	
Wednesday:	Feria	
Thursday:	St Louis Beltrán, friar, priest	
Friday:	St Paulinus of York, bishop, and the Anglo-Saxon saints of the diocese	
Saturday:	Saturday Mass of Our Lady - <i>optional</i> Novena to Our Lady at 10:30am. Books for recording your petitions and thanksgiving are in the Lady chapel.	
Next Sunday: 28 th Sunday <i>per annum</i> . Readings:		
Isaiah 25: 6-10	Philippians 4: 12-14. 19-20	Matthew 22: 1-14

The Dominican Order in Britain has had some very good news in the last couple of weeks:

- ◆ On 14 September in Cambridge: Tom Angier and Nick Crowe received the habit of the Order.
- ◆ Also on 14 September in Cambridge, fr Graham Hunt OP, fr Mark Davoren OP and fr Gregory Pearson OP made their simple vows.
- ◆ On 13 September in Oxford, fr Thomas Skeats OP and fr Robert Gay OP made their solemn vows.
- ◆ On 20 September in Edinburgh, fr Bruno Clifton OP was ordained to the priesthood.
- ◆ On 27 September in London, fr Benedict Jonak OP and fr Alistair Jones OP were ordained to the priesthood.
- ◆ On 4 October in Cambridge, fr Dominic Ryan OP was ordained to the priesthood.

We commend these and all the friars to your prayers! Thank you!

“Who is my Neighbour? Who is your neighbour?” If you have seen the posters inside the church door you will now know that SVP is running an awareness campaign. Please read the insert to this Newsletter for details about its work and an insert next week about the Holy Cross conference.

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.

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 this Tuesday at 7pm. All are welcome. The group will also have a cake & information stall after the 9:30 and 11am Masses over three Sundays, starting on 19 October, and look forward to your support and prayers.

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

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.



Today's Gospel:
Jesus teaches - the Parable of the Bad Tenants

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.

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.