

Invitation to Wedding Banquet

A WEDDING banquet is a vivid image of the kingdom of heaven. It suggests the celebration of God's love for us and ours for him, as we rejoice in each other's company.

Today's Gospel contains two related parables on the theme of the heavenly wedding banquet. The first concerns the invitation, the second the mysterious wedding garment as a condition of our being welcome at the banquet.

Firstly, the invitation, which some refuse. The host, God, naturally feels rejected, since the guests he invites consider they've got more important things to do, which may well be good, but they are not the best thing to do. The Gospel tells us they were not interested in accepting God's invitation.

For each of us that raises the question of our priorities in life. Do we seek first the kingdom of God? If so, God will certainly make us welcome. But if we're not interested, he won't force himself upon us. And we would be miserable for having refused eternal life and happiness with him.

When those who were first invited refused, God welcomed those who were despised - who were written off as worthless sinners. Jesus frequently tells us that notorious sinners would enter the kingdom before self-righteous people who think God owes them a favour. He doesn't owe anybody anything. His invitation to the heavenly banquet is a free gift of his love.

Because he welcomes sinners that doesn't mean sin doesn't matter. It does, because when it's serious it means deliberately rejecting God's will, wanting nothing to do with him.

That brings us to the wedding garment, which we must wear if we are to enter the kingdom of heaven. This is something like the tie required by certain posh clubs - which I don't frequent! I believe one is supplied when necessary. That's what God does with the wedding garment in this parable. Here it represents our repentance and God's forgiveness, which he freely offers to the sinner.

But there was one who wanted to enjoy the heavenly banquet, without welcoming God's mercy. He was excluded from God's wedding reception because he was determined to remain wedded to his sins. The two simply can't go together; we have to make a choice between life with God or death through sin.

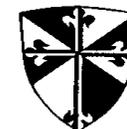
Today's Gospel is a joyful celebration of the generosity of God's love for us. This reaches out to the repentant sinner. But if we are to enjoy the happiness God offers us we must accept his invitation, making it the priority in our lives. That means wearing the garment of our repentance and God's forgiveness.

Isidore O.P.

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A (Weekdays II) 12 October 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 Isidore	Irene Olszewska, RIP	Fr Leon
8:00am	Fr Thomas	Sisters' intentions	Fr Isidore
9:30am Family	Fr Euan	Michael Kelly, RIP	Fr Leon
11:00am Solemn	Fr Leon	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Fabian
5:00pm Students	Fr Peter	(Mass for Students in the Lady Chapel)	Fr Peter
7:00pm	Fr Fabian	Miriam Jones (sick)	Fr Thomas

Sunday Evening Services	11 October	Confessions	18 October
5:45 Rosary	Fr Isidore	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Peter
6:15 Sung Latin Compline	Fr Fabian	4:00 - 5:00pm	Fr Thomas
6:40 Benediction	Fr Euan	7:00 - 7:20pm	Fr Peter

Entrance Antiphon:	If you, O Lord, laid bare our guilt, who could endure it? But you are forgiving, God of Israel.
1st Reading:	Isaiah 25: 6-10
Psalm Response:	In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. (Ps 22)
2nd Reading:	Philippians 4: 12-14. 19-20
Alleluia:	The Word was made flesh and lived among us; to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God. <i>At 11:00</i> - You who fear him, trust in the Lord; he is their help and their shield.
Gospel:	Matthew 22: 1-14
Communion Antiphon:	<i>At 11:00</i> - Relieve me from scorn and contempt: for I do your will, O Lord. Your will is my delight. <i>Otherwise either</i> - The rich suffer want and go hungry, but nothing shall be lacking for those who fear the Lord. <i>Or</i> - When the Lord is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections: Offertory Collection £1070.67; SVP £15.48; St. Martin's Missions £8.47; Holy Souls £6.15; Grenada £3.56. The collection for Aid to the Church in Need came to £250.45.

Next week there is a retiring collection for Mission Sunday.

200 Club. Last month's winners were: Mrs Bailey £150, Maggie Kelly £100, and Joan Craggs £50. Congratulations!

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

The week ahead...		
Monday*:	St Edward the Confessor, husband, king - <i>optional</i>	
Tuesday*:	St Callistus I, pope, martyr - <i>optional</i>	
Wednesday:	St Teresa of Ávila, virgin, religious, doctor	
Thursday*:	St Hedwig, wife and mother, religious <i>or</i> St Margaret Mary Alacoque, virgin, religious - <i>both optional</i>	
Friday:	St Ignatius of Antioch, bishop, martyr	
Saturday:	ST LUKE, EVANGELIST Novena to Our Lady at 10:30am. Books for recording your petitions and thanksgiving are in the Lady chapel.	
* WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN		
Fr Thomas will say Mass in the older form at around 8:30am, this week on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. All are welcome (especially a server).		
Next Sunday: 29 th Sunday <i>per annum</i> . Readings:		
Isaiah 45:1. 4-6	Thessalonians 1: 1-5	Matthew 22: 15-21

CHERISHING LIFE. Please take a copy of the leaflet, which is a message from the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, about the Government's proposed amendments to the law on abortion.

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, to which all are welcome. The group will 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.

Rosary Sunday. To commemorate the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary:

- ◆ **Rosaries will be blessed at every Mass.** If you haven't got a Rosary, you may take one for free whilst stocks last. Please only take one for yourself.
- ◆ **Blue leaflets on how to say the Rosary** and what it's all about are available.
- ◆ **Rosary plaques** are displayed on the pillars in the nave depicting all twenty mysteries of the Rosary. These can be used in the same way as the Stations of the Cross. They are a gift from a pious benefactor.

HOLY CROSS SVP CONFERENCE. Our conference has six members under the guidance of Fr Isidore, our spiritual director. Most of our work consists of "befriending" as described last week. We also organize the collections of food and essentials for refugees and asylum seekers and we are represented on the Inter-Faith Asylum Seekers Support Committee in Leicester. From collections raised from our members we "twin" the SVP in St Matthew's parish Vakathanam, Kerala, India with financial support and from contributions made to the collection box in the church we "twin" St Joseph's Manaldi, another parish in Kerala. With our funds we have responded to appeals for SVP work in the Sudan.

As to "befriending" we have visited people in their homes, in residential homes and in hospitals, either in the parish, or outside its boundaries when they have a connection with Holy Cross. We do practical work such as shopping, the giving of lifts and helping people who visit hospital for treatment and, of course, helping people to get to Mass and the sacraments. "No work of charity is foreign to the Society" as our rule says. We visit Catholics and people of other faiths, or none alike.

Last year we carried out 944 visits and 90 other works; this was slightly lower than the previous year because we lost the services of one member. We need more members.

Would you be interested in helping us? If so the first step is to have a chat with our president, Bernard Hawcroft on 0777 2525327 or give your name to him via e mail on b-hawcroft1@ntlworld.com, or speak to any member of the community who will put you in touch.

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:
The king welcomes outcasts to his banquet.

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.