

LOVE IN A COLD CLIMATE

THE pub quiz is popular form of evening entertainment. And it has the advantage that you can take part in it and not merely watch, like a TV quiz. But of course it is a friendly competition, to see who has the best stocked memory of fascinating but useless information. The people who set the questions are not trying to get at you, and there is no acrimony against the winner.

The part of St Matthew's gospel we are reading today and last Sunday seems a bit like a quiz too, but it is a far from friendly one. First the Pharisees and Herodians ask Jesus about paying taxes to Caesar. Then the Sadducees have their question, about marriage and the afterlife. And in today's reading a lawyer from the Pharisees asks him which is the most important commandment. The atmosphere is hostile. They are trying to catch him out, to score a point, to find some way to overcome him.

No doubt the lawyer who asked today's question had in mind the 613 Commandments in the Law of the Old Testament. With such a wide range of Commandments they can hardly all be of the same importance; so which is the greatest? In reply Jesus gives two, not one: Love God with all your heart; and love your neighbour as yourself. These, he says, contain the whole message of the law and the Prophets.

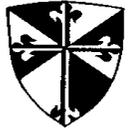
Does that make it sound easy: two commandments instead of 613? We all know it is not that simple. With some of the Old Testament laws it was clear if you had fulfilled them or not. But can we ever say we have fulfilled the law of love? Love is not conforming to a rule, but living a life, a life that is a share in the life of God. And Jesus shows what this is like by his own life, and death. He came to seek and to save those who were lost: the needy, the stranger, the poor, all who are mentioned in today's first reading. They are our neighbours, and we are to love them as ourselves because that is what he has done.

'He came to his own, and his own received him not', says St John. It was because he loved that he was ready to suffer and die at the hands of his own people. That was indeed love in a cold climate, a climate of rejection. And in our own struggles to follow him in love, we may have to experience something of this too.

Fr Fabian OP

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A (Weekdays II) 26 October 2008

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



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 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	Samantha Sexton, RIP	Fr Isidore
8:00am	Fr Isidore	Evelyn Dixon, RIP	Fr Thomas
9:30am Family	Fr Euan	Samantha Sexton, RIP	Fr Fabian
11:00am Solemn	Fr Thomas	Ann Potterton (sick)	Fr Euan
5:00pm Students	Fr Peter	(Mass for Students in the Lady Chapel)	Fr Peter
7:00pm	Fr Leon	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Leon

Please note that All Saints' Day is transferred to next Sunday, 2 November, and All Souls' Day is transferred to Monday 3 November. The feast of St Martin de Porres is impeded this year.

Sunday Evening Services	25 October	Confessions	1 November
6:00 Rosary	Fr Euan	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Leon
6:20 Sung Latin Compline	Fr Isidore	4:00 - 5:00pm	Fr Fabian
6:40 Benediction	Fr Peter	7:00 - 7:20pm	Fr Euan

Entrance Antiphon:	Let the hearts rejoice who search for the Lord. Seek the Lord and his strength, seek always the face of the Lord.
1st Reading:	Exodus 22: 20-26
Psalm Response:	I love you, Lord, my strength. (Ps 17)
2nd Reading:	1 Thessalonians 1: 5-10
Alleluia:	Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. <i>At 11:00</i> - O praise the Lord, Jerusalem! Zion praise your God!
Gospel:	Matthew 22: 34-40
Communion Antiphon:	<i>Either</i> - We will rejoice at the victory of God and make our boast in his great name. <i>Or (but not at 11:00)</i> - Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering to God.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections: Offertory Collection £835.65; SVP £11.13; St. Martin's Missions £6.50; Holy Souls £9.65; Grenada £1.50. Last week's retiring collection for Mission Sunday came to £313.29.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

The week ahead...		
Monday:	Feria	
Tuesday:	SS SIMON AND JUDE, APOSTLES	
Wednesday*:	Feria	
Thursday*:	BB Terence Albert O'Brien, bishop, and Peter Higgins, priest, martyrs of Ireland	
Friday:	Feria	
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.	
* WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. Fr Thomas will say Mass in the older form, this week on Wednesday and Thursday at 8:30am. All are welcome (especially a server).		
Next Sunday: All Saints. Readings:		
Apocalypse 7: 2-4. 9-14	1 John 3: 1-3	Matthew 5: 1-12

BLACKFRIARS ADVENT MARKET in St Clement's Hall on Saturday and Sunday the 15th and 16th November. There will be a variety of stalls, and you are asked please to bring saleable gifts, bric-a-brac, religious Christmas cards and prizes for a raffle. All proceeds will go to the church refurbishment fund.

A booklet called **MAGNIFICAT** is available free of charge. It is an aid to daily prayer, and the issue available is for November. If you would like to pray more deeply and attend Mass more frequently, please take a copy and use it, and if interested, begin a subscription to it. More details are in the booklet itself.

A **volunteer is needed** please to bring Katie McCarthy, at the Dawn Centre, near the station, to Holy Cross for Mass, on Sundays and perhaps on the occasional weekday as well. Please let Fr Leon know if you would like to help Katie.

Sunday Evening Services. Please note the new times for the Rosary and Compline given on the front page.

At Walsingham there will be an **all-night vigil of reparation and reconciliation** led by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, from 10pm to 6am starting on the evening of Friday 31 October. For transport details please contact Kath on Leicester 234 0103 as soon as possible.

Hassocks Galore! Last year we were very fortunate to obtain about 150 hassocks from the disused church of St Paul on Glenfield Road. These will be used to replace the uncomfortable kneeling stools in the side aisles, and fill any gaps in the nave. BUT they are rather dirty, and need a clean-up. We started this work some months ago, but it has now ground to a halt, only half complete. If you are able to spend some time on this work, please see Tim Challoner, the Holy Cross Centre manager (or phone him on 252 1519), and he will be able to suggest times when you could do this work in the Centre. We will provide cleaning materials. If you prefer to do the work at home, please take a few, clean them, and then return them to the weekday chapel. They are stored in black bags in the alcove next to St Joseph's altar on the Wellington Street side of the church. As the proverb goes: Many hands make light work! After cleaning, they will be fitted with eyelets so that they can hang on hooks on the backs of the chairs.

Refugees and Asylum Seekers. The donations taken on 11/12 and 18/19 October were enormous! A heartfelt thanks to all who gave; please show this to any donor who might be a friend or acquaintance who does not take this newsletter so our thanks can be conveyed. Please keep the donations coming, they are needed more than ever.



Today's Gospel:
"Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?"

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 **this Sunday and next Sunday**, and look forward to your support and prayers.

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.

Mondays to Fridays in winter (except Bank Holidays) the church is open from 8am until 3:30pm.