

The Variety of Saints

Every celebration of the Church is really a celebration of the goodness, the love, the truth, the holiness of God. On Trinity Sunday, you might think, we focus on the doctrine of God directly, but for most of our celebrations, we look at God as it were side-on. We see his goodness reflected in Creation, we observe his relationship with Israel and most importantly of all, we see him come among us as a man, showing us divinity by showing us for the first time what it is to be really human.

We look at God obliquely because we can't look at God directly. In talking about what God is like, we feel we are groping in the dark, when really it is that we are made blind as bats by the blazing light that God is - Truth far greater than any human mind can grasp, Love more profound than any human heart can fathom. The mystery of God isn't something too complicated, a puzzle with too many pieces, for people to work it out. On the contrary, God eludes us by his beautiful simplicity, by his being beyond our human attempts to break him into pieces that we can understand and then put back together again. But when the profoundly simple God acts in our complex world, we see variety like nothing any creature could produce. God's love, God's goodness, God's truth are shown to us in an infinity of ways, like the myriad hues in a rainbow as white light is scattered.

This variety gives us a way to see God side-on, because his perfection is finally visible to us in a way we can perhaps grasp. Everything good and beautiful we can come to see as giving us a sidelong glance at the Source of all goodness, of all beauty. We see this fantastic variety hidden in the simplicity of God when we look at the natural world, but even more vividly, we see it in the work God does by grace.

Through the calendar of the Church we get to see something of the variety of the saints, God's great works of grace, and because they each reflect some particular aspects of the goodness of God, we can come gradually to understand something of this goodness. We see the fruitfulness of God's goodness in the Church and maybe we can find some inkling of what God has in store for us personally, a saint whose life inspires our own.

Some saints show us loving courage or a zealous devotion to the truth. Others preach to us God's love for the poor and afflicted. Still others are great examples of wisdom or of care for God's people. Some affect us by their simple piety or their spirit of penitence. In some we see people caught up in God's love almost from the very first moment of their lives, while in others we see a growth in holiness or even a complete conversion, a sudden turning to God from sinfulness to utter surrender. We need this variety for all sorts of reasons, and not least because the more oblique glances we get at God, the more impressive our image of what His goodness is becomes.

But one day a year it is good to see this great company of saints as a whole, gathered together. It is one of the only times in the year when we explicitly celebrate the Church. Of course, the Church is a place for sinners like you and me, as we will remember tomorrow when we pray for our dead, but we see most clearly what the Church is in the saints. We see those members of the body that work faultlessly, fit perfectly. We get to think of the whole, brilliant spectacle of God's love reflected in so many lives, and we get to thank God for it. Now isn't that something worth celebrating?

Fr Peter OP

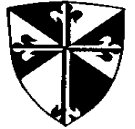
All Saints

Year A (Weekdays II)

2 November 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 Isidore	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Euan
8:00am	Fr Thomas	Ashberry family & friends, RIP	Fr Isidore
9:30am Family	Fr Fabian	Katherine & William Potterton, RIP	Fr Euan
11:00am Solemn	Fr Euan	Ann Potterton (sick)	Fr Leon
4:00pm Old rite	-	(Mass on 2 nd Sunday of each month)	Fr Thomas
5:00pm Students	Fr Peter	(Mass for Students in the Lady Chapel)	Fr Peter
7:00pm	Fr Leon	Lucrecia Guerrero Flia	Fr Fabian

THERE WILL BE CHANGES TO SOME MASS AND CONFESSION TIMES, STARTING IN ADVENT, FROM THE EVENING OF SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER. Details inside.

Sunday Evening Services	1 November	Confessions	8 November
6:00 Rosary	Fr Leon	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Isidore
6:20 Sung Latin Compline	Fr Fabian	4:00 - 5:00pm	Fr Euan
6:40 Benediction	Fr Euan	7:00 - 7:20pm	Fr Thomas

Entrance Antiphon:	Let us all rejoice in the Lord and keep a festival in honour of all the saints. Let us join with the angels in joyful praise to the Son of God.
1st Reading:	Apocalypse 7: 2-4. 9-14
Psalm Response:	Such are the men who seek your face, O Lord (Ps 23)
2nd Reading:	1 John 3: 1-3
Alleluia:	Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest, says the Lord.
Gospel:	Matthew 5: 1-12
Communion Antiphon:	Blessed are the pure of heart for they shall see God. Blessed the peacemakers; they shall be called the sons of God. Blessed are they who suffer persecution for justice's sake; the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections: Offertory Collection £963.76; SVP £17.45; St. Martin's Missions £110.26; Holy Souls £8.85; Grenada £603.65.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity, and especially the donations to St Martin's Missions and Grenada.

The week ahead...		
Monday:	COMMEMORATION OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS)	
Tuesday*:	St Charles Borromeo, bishop	
Wednesday*:	Feria	
Thursday:	BB Alphonsus Navarrete, friar, priest, Alexius Sanbashi, catechist, lay Dominican, and Companions, martyrs of Japan	
Friday*:	ALL SAINTS OF THE ORDER OF PREACHERS	
Saturday*:	COMMEMORATION OF OUR DECEASED DOMINICAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS 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 Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday at 8:30am, and Saturday at 8:15am. All are welcome.		
SUNDAY MASS IN LATIN. As well as the 11am Mass on the 2 nd and Last Sundays of the month, there will be Mass in the older form on the 2 nd Sunday of the month at 4pm.		
Next Sunday: The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica. <i>Next Sunday is also Remembrance Sunday, and the 11am Mass will be a solemn Requiem Mass for the dead of all wars.</i> The Readings will be the same at all Masses:		
Ezekiel 47: 1-2, 8-9, 12	1 Corinthians 3: 9c-11, 16-17	John 2: 13-22

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 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.

CQ Lyfe. Another evening of jazz and conversation at CQ Lyfe in the Lallie Bella bar on Queen Street this Tuesday at 7:30 pm. All are welcome. See noticeboard.

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.

Churches Together in Leicester City Centre will meet on Thursday 6 November at 12:30pm at the Central Baptist Church, Charles Street. All are welcome.

With the new liturgical year beginning with the season of Advent on the evening of Saturday 29 November, there will be **a few changes to certain service times**. The section of parishioners most likely to be affected have been consulted, and the vast majority are in favour of these proposals. The changes are:

- From Monday 1 December, the 12:40pm **weekday Mass** (Monday to Saturday) shifts to the slightly earlier time of **12:30pm**. This will help Mass-goers, keeping the Eucharistic fast, to grab a quick lunch after Mass before returning to work.
- From the evening of Saturday 29 November,
 - the afternoon **Confession** slot (4-5pm) shifts an hour to **5-6pm**. The later time for Confession (7-7:20pm) is cancelled;
 - the **Vigil Mass** (7:30pm Saturday night) shifts to the earlier time of **6pm**. This will increase the range over which parishioners may fulfil their Sunday obligation, by having an earlier evening Mass on a Saturday and a later evening Mass on a Sunday.
- On **Holydays**, the Vigil Mass (the day before the Holyday) will be at 6pm (just like Saturdays), and on the Holyday itself, the daytime Masses will be 10am and 12:30pm (like any weekday), and the evening Mass at 7pm (just like Sundays).

Thank you for your understanding! We hope that you will be able to make these adjustments without too much upheaval to your routine & sacramental observance. The notice boards will be updated in time for Advent to reflect these changes.

Refugees and Asylum Seekers. The donations taken on 11/12, 18/19 and also 25/26 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.



All Saints

The Leicester pro-life group have a **cake & information stall** after the 9:30 and 11am Masses **this Sunday**, and look forward to your support and prayers.

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.