

Winter Festivals

As the winter comes, so comes the spate of winter festivals. What puzzles me is why anyone would want to celebrate the winter. The next logical step would be to start sending each other cards, saying, 'Congratulations on your first winter cold'. Along with winter festivals come the usual baseless claims about how Christian festivals were based on pagan festivals. Last week we had Halloween, supposedly based on a Celtic festival of the dead. The word 'Halloween' might suggest otherwise, being a contraction of 'Hallow evening', the evening before the feast of All Saints, or All Hallows. The feast developed in Rome firstly as a feast of Martyrs and then all the saints. Pope Gregory the 3rd consecrated a basilica to all the saints on November the 1st in the 8th century; it was extended to the whole church by Gregory the 4th in the ninth century. The idea that a Roman feast would be chosen to coincide with a Celtic feast of the dead, is patently absurd. There is little evidence to link Christmas to any particular pagan celebration either.

What is strangest of all about this modern worship of winter, is that it fails to understand the point not just of Christian feasts but of the pagans. Pagan religion was largely about warding off evil. They didn't delight in the cold and the dark, they were afraid of the cold and the dark. Their purpose was to keep the evil that the cold and dark represented from overwhelming them. Christianity too saw the cold and the dark as symbols of evil. The difference was that Christian feasts do not simply try to hold back the dark. They celebrate in different ways the fact that evil has been definitively defeated in Christ. Christian festivals take us beyond fear, filled with a spirit of triumph. It is true that evil still flourishes in the world, but the defeat of evil is assured. As St Paul puts it, 1 Corinthians, 15:54 'When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory"', and in verse 57, 'But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.'

Fr Euan Marley. O.P.

The Dedication of the Lateran
Basilica - Remembrance Sunday

Year A (Weekdays II) 9 November 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 Euan	Book of Prayer intentions	Fr Isidore
8:00am	Fr Isidore	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Leon
9:30am Family	Fr Euan	Marie Mortimer	Fr Euan
11:00am Solemn	Fr Leon	Sharon & David Ballard's intentions	Fr Thomas
4:00pm Old rite	Fr Thomas	(Mass on 2 nd Sunday of each month)	-- --
5:00pm Students	Fr Peter	(Mass for Students in the Lady Chapel)	Fr Peter
7:00pm	Fr Fabian	Mr & Mrs Grant (sick)	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	8 November	Confessions	15 November
6:00 Rosary	Fr Isidore	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Leon
6:20 Sung Latin Compline	Fr Euan	4:00 - 5:00pm	Fr Peter
6:40 Benediction	Fr Thomas	7:00 - 7:20pm	Fr Euan

The 11am Mass will be a solemn Requiem Mass for the dead of all wars. The texts are in *Emmanuel*, Mass 15. Readings will be those given below.

Entrance	Greatly to be feared is God in his sanctuary; he, the God of
Antiphon:	Israel, gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be God!
1 st Reading:	Ezekiel 47: 1-2, 8-9, 12
Psalm	There is a river whose streams make glad the City of God, the
Response:	holy habitation of the Most High. (Ps 46)
2 nd Reading:	1 Corinthians 3: 9c-11, 16-17
Alleluia:	I have chosen and consecrated this house, says the Lord, that
	my name may be there for ever.
Gospel:	John 2: 13-22
Communion	You are the temple of God, and God's spirit dwells in you. The
Antiphon:	temple of God is holy; you are that temple.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections: Offertory Collection £1027.52; SVP £14.62; St. Martin's Missions £8.60; Holy Souls £8.10; Grenada £6.54.

Next week there will be a retiring collection for the Diocesan Quota.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

The week ahead...	
Monday:	St Leo I the Great, pope, doctor
Tuesday:	St Martin of Tours, bishop
Wednesday:	St Josaphat, bishop, martyr
Thursday:	Feria
Friday:	Feria
Saturday:	ST ALBERT THE GREAT, FRIAR, BISHOP, DOCTOR 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, but at the time of going to press the days were undecided. Please see the noticeboard in the Wellington Street transept. 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 each month at 4pm.	
Next Sunday - 33 rd Sunday <i>per annum</i> . Readings:	
Proverbs 31: 10-13. 19-20. 30-31	1 Thessalonians 5: 1-6 Matthew 25: 14-30

Please note that the price of *The Universe* has gone up to £1.20.

“Hugh Aston of the Newarke: Composer and Mayor of Leicester”. Hugh Aston was one of Leicester's more remarkable characters in the 16th century, having been the last Director of Music of the Choral College and Hospital of The Newarke, and serving at different times as Coroner, Mayor and MP for the Borough. This month sees the 450th anniversary of his death, and there will be a commemorative service at St Margaret's Church (by the bus station of the same name) on Saturday 15 November at 12 noon. This will include some of Aston's compositions, and a group of singers from our Choir will be singing some of the Chant that would have been used at Aston's funeral. Further details are on the noticeboard and the Choir's website.



Lest we forget...

At the 11am Mass the choir Coro Nostro will be singing appropriate motets by Elgar, Lassus and Mendelssohn.

BLACKFRIARS ADVENT MARKET in St Clement's Hall NEXT 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.

Plastic bags will be distributed after all Masses today. Please fill them with suitable gifts and return them during the week, either after any Mass, or to the Priory. All proceeds will go to the church refurbishment fund.

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 - Leicester City of Sanctuary. The Red Cross remain 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.

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