

## Indulgences

SINCE November is the month of the holy souls, this is a good time to recall the Church's teaching on indulgences. An indulgence is defined as 'a remission, granted by the Church, of the temporal punishment that remains after a sin has been forgiven'. As baptised Christians, we ought not to sin: washed in the blood of the Lamb, we have become a new creation in Christ. But if we do sin, we can receive the sacrament of confession by which sins are taken away, if we are sorry for them. Yet unlike baptism, this sacrament doesn't take away the need to do penance for past sins: hence the 'temporal punishment that remains'. And if we die before having done sufficient penance, we must pass through purgatory after death.

Now, penance is difficult, by definition; and purgatory, which revelation describes as a 'fire', must involve suffering of a kind that we cannot imagine on earth. So to prevent us from losing heart, the Church makes available to us indulgences. These offer us an easier ascent up 'the mountain of the Lord' than we can find from penance alone.

The granting of indulgences goes back to the earliest days, to the Roman persecutions. The martyrs, before they were led off to death, would naturally promise to pray for the faithful on earth. In particular, they would promise to pray for the faithful who were performing the severe public penances that were customary in those days, for example, fasting on bread and water. And the local bishops would sometime shorten these severe penances, in view of the martyrs' prayers for the penitents.

The popes therefore teach that the sufferings and good works of the saints, joined to those of Jesus Christ, form an inexhaustible treasury of merit. Since we all belong to the mystical body of Christ, we can all benefit from these merits. When she grants an indulgence, the Church 'opens' this treasury, so that by doing some specified good work, the faithful may have their burden of temporal punishment lightened.

An indulgence is either 'partial' or 'plenary'. When we do a work with a partial indulgence attached, for example, visiting the Blessed Sacrament, the Church gives our action twice the 'value' it would otherwise have. A work with a plenary indulgence can in theory take away all our temporal punishment: only we have to be free from all affection for sin. If we have not reached that happy state, the plenary indulgence still benefits us, but to a lesser extent.

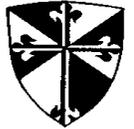
Works with plenary indulgences attached include: making the Stations of the Cross in front of the 14 stations; reciting five decades of the rosary in a church or in common with others; spending half an hour in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament; reverently reading the Scriptures for half an hour. To gain a plenary indulgence, we must go to confession and receive communion on the same day as performing the work, or a few days before or after, and also pray for the pope's intentions, perhaps by saying the *Our Father* and *Hail Mary*.

And whatever indulgences we receive, we may offer them for our dead.

Fr Thomas OP

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	Sisters' Intentions	Fr Fabian
8:00am	Fr Leon	Gerry Quigley, RIP	Fr Isidore
9:30am Family	Fr Euan	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Fabian
11:00am Solemn	Fr Thomas	M B A Francois, RIP	Fr Thomas
4:00pm Old rite	— —	(Mass on 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month)	— —
5:00pm Students	Fr Peter	(Mass for Students in the Lady Chapel)	Fr Peter
7:00pm	Fr Fabian	Irene Olszewska, RIP	Fr Leon

**THERE WILL BE CHANGES TO SOME MASS AND CONFESSION TIMES, STARTING IN ADVENT, FROM THE EVENING OF SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER. Please pick up a copy of the yellow leaflet which gives all service times from 29 November.**

Sunday Evening Services	15 November	Confessions	22 November
6:00 Rosary	Fr Leon	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Fabian
6:20 Sung Latin Compline	Fr Peter	4:00 - 5:00pm	Fr Leon
6:40 Benediction	Fr Euan	7:00 - 7:20pm	Fr Thomas

<b>Entrance Antiphon:</b>	The Lord says: my plans for you are peace and not disaster; when you call to me, I will listen to you, and I will bring you back from the place from which I exiled you.
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b>	Proverbs 31: 10-13. 19-20. 30-31
<b>Psalm Response:</b>	<b>Blessed are all who fear the Lord (Ps 127)</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b>	1 Thessalonians 5: 1-6
<b>Alleluia:</b>	<b>Abide in me, and I in you, says the Lord; he who abides in me bears much fruit. <u>At 11:00</u> - Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice!</b>
<b>Gospel:</b>	Matthew 25: 14-30
<b>Communion Antiphon:</b>	<u>At 11:00</u> - Sir, you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made. Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness. <u>Otherwise either</u> - It is good for me to be with the Lord and to put my hope in him. <u>Or</u> - I tell you solemnly, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours, says the Lord.

**MONEY MATTERS:** Last Weekend's collections: Offertory Collection £799.20; SVP £6.31; St. Martin's Missions £12.12; Holy Souls £8.18; Grenada £3.25.

This week there is a retiring collection for the Diocesan Quota.

200 Club. Last month's winners were: P Hastings £150, J J Fleming £100, and K Brooker £50. Congratulations!

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

The week ahead...		
Monday:	St Hugh of Lincoln, bishop, secondary patron of the diocese	
Tuesday*:	The Dedication of the Basilicas of SS Peter and Paul - <i>optional</i>	
Wednesday:	St Elizabeth of Hungary, wife and mother, secular tertiary	
Thursday*:	Feria	
Friday:	The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
Saturday:	St Cecilia, virgin, martyr 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 on Tuesday and Thursday at 8:30am. All are welcome.		
SUNDAY MASS IN LATIN. As well as the 11am Mass on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> and Last Sundays of the month, there is Mass in the older rite on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month at 4pm (each Sunday from the beginning of December). This is at the request of our bishop.		
Next Sunday - Last Sunday <i>per annum</i> , Christ the King. Readings:		
Ezekiel 34: 11-12. 15-17	1 Corinthians 15: 20-26. 28	Matthew 25: 31-46

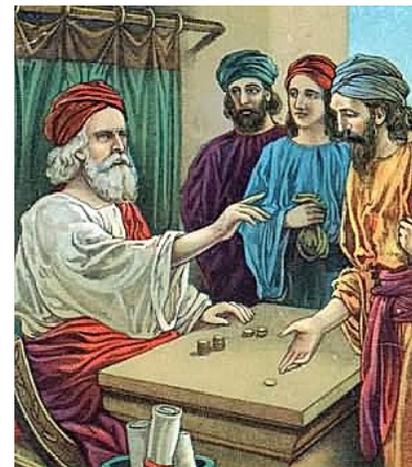
The parish Christmas lunch will be on Sunday 7 December at 1:30pm, in Holy Cross centre. It is four courses and entertainment. Tickets are priced at £10 for adults, £5 for children, and £7 concession. Family tickets are available at £25. Get your tickets at the 200 Club stand after Mass!

**BLACKFRIARS ADVENT MARKET** in St Clement's Hall THIS SATURDAY AND SUNDAY the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> November. There is a variety of stalls, including bric-a-brac, religious Christmas cards and a raffle. Please support the Market. All proceeds will go to the church refurbishment fund.

**World AIDS Day** (1 December). There is a photographic Exhibition in Leicester Cathedral daily until 29 November, and a service at the Cathedral on 29 November at 10am. More information on the noticeboard.

The Novena to Our Lady is every Saturday at 10:30 in the morning, just after the 10 o'clock Mass.

Many thanks to the priests and parishioners of Holy Cross who supported the recent cakes stall organised by the Leicester pro-life group. During this period the Human Embryology Bill was debated and although it has completed its passage through Parliament, none of the proposed abortion amendments succeeded. Please continue to remember this cause in your prayers and, if you can, attend our next meeting on Tuesday 18 November at 7pm, here at Blackfriars Hall.



**Today's Gospel:**  
The parable of the talents

A service of lessons and carols will be held on Wednesday 3 December at 7:30pm here in the church, followed by refreshments in the hall. It is an Advent service, with a strong theme of looking forward to and yearning for the coming of the Messiah, based on the ancient 'O antiphons'.

Leicester Street Pastors is a Christian project working on the streets of the city centre, to reach out to all people showing compassion, care and helping to create a positive atmosphere in our city at night time. Anyone eighteen years old or over can train to become a street pastor. There are twelve modules of training to be completed in becoming a street pastor; these involve topics such as counselling and listening skills, advice on drug and alcohol abuse, cultural sensitivity and information about the ethos of Street Pastors and how the ministry is rooted in prayer. Once trained you would be required to go out once a month in a team of four on either a Friday or a Saturday night. We meet at 9.30pm and go out at 10pm and walk the streets (having a break at around midnight) until around 3am. To find out more about becoming a Street Pastor either email [leicester@streetpastors.org](mailto:leicester@streetpastors.org) or telephone the Street Pastors Administrator on 0116 255 4111.

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](mailto: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.