

WAITING - EXPECTING - PREPARING

ADVENT comes at the beginning of the Church's year. But its message is not just a message for the four weeks of Advent or even the rest of the year. Somehow it embraces the whole of our lives, past, present and future, the whole of our existence. That may sound a strange thing to say. But I think it's true.

We all know that in so many ways our world is in a mess. It's not just a matter of our personal sin and imperfection. There is, and always has been, so much injustice and suffering all over the world, which **ought** not to be. But God promised, in the Old Testament, that he would set things right, that he personally would rescue us from our sin and suffering. So in today's reading from the Prophet Isaiah he says: 'Give comfort to my people, because their time of misery is over and their sin is forgiven'. Those words were first spoken about the return of the Jews from exile into their own land; but they are echoed in the reading at the beginning of St Mark's Gospel, when John the Baptist is preparing the people for the coming of Jesus. He speaks of Jesus as the one 'who is more powerful than I am, who will baptise you with the Holy Spirit'.

Advent makes us think back to that Coming, God sharing our life in the humility of the stable, in the intimacies of family life, in his being like us in all things but sin. His life, death and resurrection manifested the forgiving love of God, and now, together with the Father and the Holy Spirit he lives with us, in a hidden way in our hearts, and by visible signs in the Church and the sacraments.

But the story is not yet complete. We do not yet enjoy the face-to-face sight of God which we are promised. So we still look forward to the moment when this will come, when we shall see him as he is, in the 'new heavens and the new earth'. Just how or when this will happen we do not know. In the second reading St Peter says that God is not delaying but being patient with us, though to us he may seem slow. But one thing is certain: his coming will be with judgement, because to see God face-to-face is to know ourselves as we really are. And that sight will make us long to be with him, but also to welcome the purgatory that will make us ready for that vision.

We must never lose sight of this. No matter how wearisome life may be, or however much we might wish for the end of it all, we should look forward to the future, keeping the Advent spirit. We are awaiting the fulfilment. We are expecting the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. So we prepare for this by living lives of justice, love and peace.

Fr Fabian OP

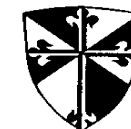
2nd Sunday of Advent

Year B

7 December 2008

The Newsletter of **HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER**

Serving Leicester's Catholics since AD 1247



Sunday Masses	This week	Mass Intentions	Next week
6:00pm Vigil	Fr Euan	Irene Olszewska, RIP	Fr Isidore
8:00am	Fr Leon	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Thomas
9:30am Family	Fr Fabian	Michael & Amy Lawrence, RIP	Fr Peter
11:00am Solemn	Fr Peter	The souls of those who died in Auschwitz & Treblinka	Fr Leon
4:00pm Old rite	Fr Thomas	Margaret O'Reilly, RIP	Fr Duncan
5:00pm Students	Fr Peter	Today's Mass is the last for this term	— —
7:00pm	Fr Euan	Séan Murphy, RIP	Fr Fabian

OTHER SUNDAY SERVICES	6:00pm Rosary	6 December	Confessions	13 December
9:00am Lauds	6:20pm Compline	Fr Euan	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Peter
5:45pm Vespers	6:40pm Benediction	Fr Thomas	5:00 - 6:00pm	Fr Duncan

There is a series of short Advent talks on 'The Poetry of Christmas' being given after both Masses on Fridays in Advent, apart from the last one.

This week Fr Isidore will speak on 'Rorate Coeli' - 'Rain Down You Heavens'.

Please note that the new timetable is in effect. See the new noticeboards outside the church, or leaflets available within. **Full details of services over Christmas and the New Year are given on a card, available by the doors. Please take as many as you need (and please don't ring the Priory for this information...).**

Entrance Antiphon:	People of Zion, the Lord will come to save all nations, and your hearts will exult to hear his majestic voice.
1st Reading:	Isaiah 40: 1-5. 9-11
Psalm Response:	Show us your merciful love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation. (Ps 84)
2nd Reading:	2 Peter 3: 8-14
Alleluia:	Prepare the way for the Lord, make his paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God. <u>At 11:00</u> - I rejoiced when I heard them say: Let us go to God's house.
Gospel:	Mark 1: 1-8
Offertory (at 11:00):	Will you not restore again our life that your people may rejoice in you? Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.
Communion Antiphon:	Rise up, Jerusalem, stand on the heights, and see the joy that is coming to you from God.

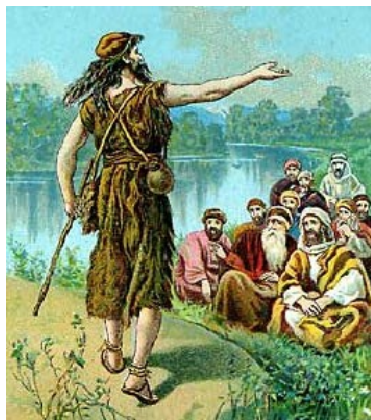
MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections: Offertory Collection £870.30; SVP £16.12; St. Martin's Missions £7.11; Holy Souls £9.52; Grenada £5.50.

There will be a retiring collection today for new and poor parishes, and next week for Christmas flowers for the church.

200 Club. Last month's winners were: K Brooker £150, E Curley £100, and M Wortley £50. Congratulations! The 200 club has always had a few spare places available. If you would like to help the parish fabric fund in this way, and risk winning prize money along the way, please give your name and phone number at the 200 Club desk. It would be marvellous to have a 300 Club!

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

Christmas Tree Star Appeal for Asylum Seekers & Refugees: After its outstanding success for the last two years, this is being repeated this year during Advent. The tree will carry stars, each star having the name of a gift, some cheap, others a little more expensive. You choose a star, or more than one if you wish, buy and wrap the gift(s) named and return it (them) to the church with the stars attached. Your star gifts will go to someone in need, and arrangements will be made to deliver them. Presents must be ready please by **NEXT SUNDAY** 14th December.



Today's Gospel: St John the Baptist preaching.

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

Music for Christmas 2008. Coro Nostro, the Chamber Choir which sang at the Requiem Mass on Remembrance Sunday, will have their next concert on Tuesday 9 December at 7.30pm at the Church of St John the Baptist, Clarendon Park Road. Tickets available from the Richard Attenborough Centre or the Tourist Information Bureau, Town Hall Square, and on the door (including mulled wine and mince pie).

City of Sanctuary 'Seasonal Celebration' - this is planned for Monday 22 December, 12 noon till 6pm, at Trinity Life Church Hall (Tichborne St). It is an attempt to help asylum seekers and refugees and their children have a Happy Christmas; BUT there seems nothing but fun and games and no presentation of Christmas at all. Do you have any ideas about presentations of who Santa Claus is (Saint Nicolas) and why we give presents (the Magi)? If you can help, please contact Fr Duncan.

Missed last week's Newsletter and want to catch up? Back copies of last week's Newsletter, and many older ones, are generally available on the Choir's website <http://holycrosschoirleicester.co.uk/> on the 'Links' page.

Year 1	The week ahead...	Psalter Week 2
Monday:	THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, solemnity. There will be a Sung Mass in the older form at 7:30pm	
Tuesday:	St John Didacus Cuauhtlatotzin, husband and father, hermit - <i>optional</i>	
Wednesday:	Feria	
Thursday:	St Damasus I, pope - <i>optional</i>	
Friday:	Our Lady of Guadalupe - <i>optional</i>	
Saturday:	St Lucy, virgin, martyr	
WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. This week, Fr Thomas will say Mass in the older form on Tuesday at 8:30am.		
Next Sunday - Gaudete Sunday (3 rd of Advent). Readings:		
Isaiah 61: 1-2. 10-11	1 Thessalonians 5: 16- 24	John 1: 6-8. 19-28

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 or telephone the Street Pastors Administrator on 0116 255 4111.*

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.

SERVICE TIMES
MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS 8.00 Lauds 10.00 Mass 12.30 Mass 17.45 Vespers Old Rite Masses as announced. The church is open from 8.00 to 15.30 (winter) or 16.00 (summer)
WEDNESDAYS 10.30 Exposition until 12.30 11.45 Divine Mercy Chaplet, Rosary & Benediction
SATURDAYS 9.00 Lauds 10.00 Mass 10.30 Novena to Our Lady 10.30 Confessions until 11.30 12.30 Mass 17.00 Confessions until 18.00 17.45 Vespers 18.00 Vigil Mass for Sunday Old Rite Masses as announced.
HOLYDAYS 18.00 (previous day) Vigil Mass 8.00 Lauds 10.00 Mass 12.30 Mass 17.45 Vespers 19.00 Mass
BANK HOLIDAYS 8.00 Lauds 10.00 Mass, after which the church is closed
SUNDAYS 8.00 Mass 9.00 Lauds 9.30 Mass (Family) 11.00 Mass (Solemn: Latin on 2 nd , 4 th and 5 th Sundays) 16.00 Mass (Old rite in Latin) 17.00 Mass (for Students, term time only) 17.45 Vespers 18.00 Rosary 18.20 Sung Latin Compline 18.40 Benediction 19.00 Mass
Leicester Royal Infirmary Catholic Chaplaincy: For urgent visits, ask ward staff to bleep the Roman Catholic Chaplain. For non-urgent visits leave message at the Priory or the LRI Chaplains' Office. Messages may not be picked up until the end of the day.
Website for past Newsletters: holycrosschoirleicester.co.uk
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