

## St Paul, Convert & Priest

THEY say that in every age, the Church draws her stability from cradle Catholics, and her cutting edge from converts. Whether that be true or not, the conversion of St Paul was so important an event in her early history that the Church sets aside a day in its honour each year, 25<sup>th</sup> January. A Sunday would normally take precedence; but we are in the middle of a 'Year of St Paul', and so we are celebrating his feast today.

In one sense, all the apostles were converts. They all had to turn, to convert themselves, from the prophecies to the One of whom the prophets spoke. But St Paul was the convert *par excellence*. Intent on maintaining the special status of the old Israel, 'he was breathing threats and murder' against the infant Church (Acts 9:1). He even set out for Damascus with search-warrants in his saddle-bag, ready to chain up all the Christians he might find there. But instead, he found Christ: he saw the sky illuminated by an unknown light: and he heard the words that struck him to his heart, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" In a moment, the enemy of Christ was converted into the apostle. He believed and was baptised.

It is common to think of St Paul as a great preacher, a great theologian, a great missionary. Of course he was all those things. But it is good to remember, sometimes, that he was like the other apostles, also a priest: a man of the sacraments, and not only of words: 'a dispenser of the mysteries of God' (1 Cor. 4:1). The other apostles, we believe, were ordained by Christ himself at the Last Supper. St Paul seems to have received the grace of the priesthood some years after his conversion (see Acts 13: 2-3).

The body and blood of our Lord, therefore, about which he wrote so often in his epistles, were no mere abstractions for him. They were what he offered up, day by day, in the holy sacrifice. Surely it was of the Mass he was thinking when he wrote, 'Christ our pasch is sacrificed; therefore let us feast...with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth' (1 Cor. 5:7-8). Nothing marked out more publicly than the Mass, the difference between his old life and his new: 'we have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle [in the Jewish Temple] have no right to eat' (Heb. 13:10).

How I should like to have assisted at a Mass said by St Paul! The Bible alludes to one, in the Acts of the Apostles. A young Christian had died accidentally; St Paul embraced him, then went to the altar and offered the sacrifice, no doubt on behalf of the deceased. And the young man returned to life, to the great joy of all (Acts 20:7-12). Interestingly, St Dominic – who carried a copy of St Paul's epistles wherever he went – worked a similar miracle some eleven and a half centuries later.

It is above all through the Mass that graces of conversion are poured out upon the world. As we honour St Paul, let us ask that this holy sacrifice, which he brought to so many countries and cities, may bear fruit in our lives, and bring about the conversion of the whole world to Christ.

Fr Thomas OP

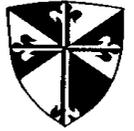
The Conversion of St Paul the Apostle

Year B

25 January 2009

### 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 Duncan	Irene Olszewska, RIP	Fr Isidore
8:00am	Fr Isidore	Alec McGowan, RIP	Fr Fabian
9:30am Family	Fr Fabian	Holy Souls	Fr Leon
11:00am Solemn	Fr Leon	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Peter
4:00pm Old rite	Fr Thomas	Thanksgiving	Fr Duncan
5:00pm Students	Fr Peter	(Mass for Students in the Lady Chapel)	Fr Peter
7:00pm	Fr Fabian	Holy Souls	Fr Thomas

OTHER SUNDAY SERVICES	6:00pm Rosary	24 January	Confessions	31 January
9:00am Lauds	6:20pm Compline	Fr Fabian	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Thomas
5:45pm Vespers	6:40pm Benediction	Fr Thomas	5:00 - 6:00pm	Fr Peter

<b>Entrance Antiphon:</b>	I know whom I have believed. I am sure that he, the just judge, will guard my pledge until the day of judgment.
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b>	Acts 22: 3-16
<b>Psalm Response (not 11:00):</b>	<b>Go into all the world and preach the Gospel (Ps 117)</b>
<b>Gradual (at 11:00):</b>	He who wrought in Peter to the apostleship, wrought in me also among the Gentiles, and they knew the grace of God which was given to me. The grace of God in me has not been void; but his grace always remains in me.
<b>Alleluia:</b>	<b>I chose you from the world that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, says the Lord.</b> <u>At 11:00</u> - The great St Paul, the vessel of election, is indeed worthily to be glorified; for he also deserved to possess the twelfth throne.
<b>Gospel:</b>	Mark 16: 15-18
<b>Communion Antiphon:</b>	<u>At 11:00</u> - Amen I say to you, that you who have left all things, and followed Me, shall receive a hundredfold, and shall possess life everlasting. <u>Otherwise</u> - I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and sacrificed himself for me.

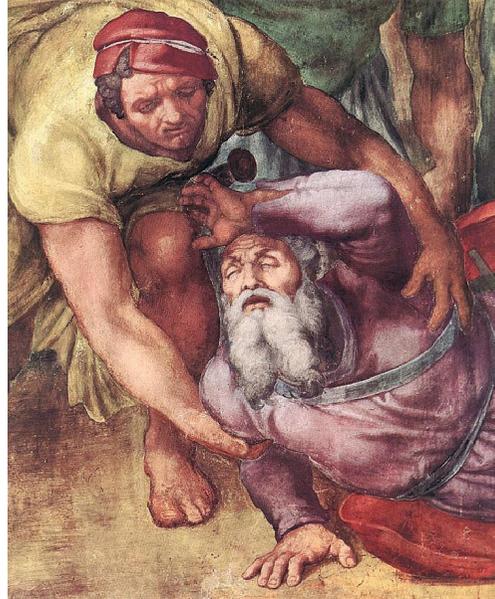
**MONEY MATTERS:** Last Weekend's collections: Offertory Collection £978.36; SVP £13.18; Friends of Holy Cross £6.39; Holy Souls £6.51; Crib restoration £12.26.

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

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

The Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity concludes today, and Bishop Malcolm will preach at Choral Evensong at Leicester Cathedral at 4pm today. Everyone is invited.

The parish is embarking on a project to collect a 'parish necrology', that is an easy reference to when (date and year) parishioners here have died - this is for people who worshipped and died here, and not simply for our own loved ones. This way we will have a handier access to whose anniversaries occur in any given week of the year - and can mention their names in the bidding prayers if need be. If you remember the anniversaries of any parishioners, please write them down and give them to Fr Leon.



Paul was on the road to Damascus when a bright light from heaven shone round him, and he heard a voice saying: "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

A Mass for Gay (LGBT) Catholics, their families and friends will be celebrated here on Saturday 7 February 2009 at 3:30pm. This will be followed by refreshments in the parish centre. All are welcome.

**CQ Lyfe does Film!** Conversations on Film, Faith and Life. Socialising, Reflection and Film. Tuesday 3rd February at 7:30 pm at the Lallie Bella, Queen Street, Leicester. CQ Lyfe is the City Centre Churches' ecumenical ministry to the Cultural Quarter around the Curve theatre. See the website: [www.cqlyfe.co.uk](http://www.cqlyfe.co.uk). All are welcome.

Holy Cross would like to collect the memories of the church and priory, especially before these memories are lost! Many of you remember what the church and priory were like before the church was extended in 1953. Having said that, the project is to get glimpses of various eras and epochs in our history. If you have memories of coming to Mass here, what it looked like, and if you have photographs or pictures of this priory and church - or remember things you were told as a child about the OLD Holy Cross, please do let us have these.

Year 1	The week ahead...	Psalter Week 3
Monday:	SS Timothy and Titus, bishops	
Tuesday:	St Angela Merici, virgin, religious, teacher - optional	
Wednesday:	ST THOMAS AQUINAS, FRIAR, PRIEST, DOCTOR	
Thursday:	Feria	
Friday:	Feria	
Saturday:	St John Bosco, priest, religious, teacher	
WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. This week, Fr Thomas will say Mass in the older form on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 8:30am, and on Saturday at 8:15am. All welcome - especially a server. If you would like to learn to serve this Mass, please contact Fr Thomas. There will be a sung Mass on the evening of 2 February, Candlemas, at 7:30pm.		
<b>Next Sunday - Fourth Sunday per annum. Readings:</b>		
Deuteronomy 18: 15-20	1 Corinthians 7: 32-35	Mark 1: 21-28

**New SVP President.** Rosi Leivas has recently been appointed the President of the Holy Cross SVP conference. If you need to contact her, please ring 07542 904154. The collection of goods for the Red Cross to pass to asylum seekers and refugees continues, and we particularly need the basic items of food and toiletries which have appeared in lists in previous Newsletters. Items may be handed in after any Mass.

**Please pray** for the repose of the soul of Veronica Savage who died last week. **Please also pray** for Brother Anselm (Liam) Carpenter who will make his Simple Profession of Monastic Vows at St Augustine's Abbey, Ramsgate, on the feast of St Scholastica, 10 February. Please also keep John McGinley, and the people of Holy Trinity Church, in your prayers as he will be licensed as their new vicar this week.

**VACANCY.** A cleaner is required for Holy Cross Primary School on Stonesby Avenue. Two hours per day (pm). Closing date 4 February. See noticeboard and call 283 3135 for more details.

*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 opportunity for a chat with members of the Dominican Community and with parishioners. We particularly welcome newly-arrived students and other visitors to our Parish.*

<p><b>REGULAR SERVICE TIMES</b></p> <p><b>MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS</b></p> <p>8.00 Lauds 10.00 Mass 12.30 Mass 17.45 Vespers</p> <p>Old Rite Masses as announced. The church is open from 8.00 to 15.30 (winter) / 16.00 (summer)</p> <p><b>WEDNESDAYS</b></p> <p>10.30 Exposition until 12.30 11.45 Divine Mercy Chaplet, Rosary &amp; Benediction</p> <p><b>SATURDAYS</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>HOLIDAYS</b></p> <p>18.00 (previous day) Vigil Mass 8.00 Lauds 10.00 Mass 12.30 Mass 17.45 Vespers 19.00 Mass</p> <p><b>BANK HOLIDAYS</b></p> <p>8.00 Lauds 10.00 Mass, after which the church is closed</p> <p><b>SUNDAYS</b></p> <p>8.00 Mass 9.00 Lauds 9.30 Mass (Family) 11.00 Mass (Solemn: Latin on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 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</p> <p><b>Leicester Royal Infirmary Catholic Chaplaincy:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Website for past Newsletters:</b> <a href="http://holycrosschoirleicester.co.uk">holycrosschoirleicester.co.uk</a></p> <p><b>CONTACT DETAILS</b></p> <p>Holy Cross Priory 45 Wellington Street, LE1 6HW Priory phone: (0116) 255 3856</p> <p>Fax/recorded times of services: 255 5552</p> <p>Parish Priest: Fr Leon Pereira: 252 1501 <a href="mailto:leon.pereira@english.op.org">leon.pereira@english.op.org</a> For home visits: 255 3856</p>
---