

The Rhythm of Christ's ministry

IT'S fitting that what we call, 'Ordinary Time' should reflect the rhythm of our daily lives. We establish a pattern in which we can best function. Sometimes, of course, this is interrupted – when unscheduled demands are made on us. We then need to have the flexibility to adjust.

In today's Gospel Mark illustrates the rhythm of Christ's Galilean ministry. This consists of teaching in the synagogue, healing the sick, casting out demons, preaching and relaxing in solitary prayer. After a hectic day he would recharge his batteries by praying to his heavenly Father and by simply relaxing quietly. But then his tranquillity was broken by people demanding his attention, and wanting to be cured. And of course he responded to their needs.

The rhythm in our daily lives reflects much of that in Christ's. Most obviously members of the medical profession continue Christ's ministry of healing. But that is not restricted to them. In our families and religious communities we care for those who sick. Again, following from our baptism and confirmation we are all involved in Christ's preaching ministry – many as parents, others as teachers. We must all be prepared to give an account of the hope we have received.

And when we think we've established a workable pattern of life unexpected demands are made on us. A sick child needing attention may interrupt its parents' relaxation, or sleep; the hospital chaplain may receive an emergency call. I've had to get our *infirmaries* out of his bed. It's wonderful and very Christ-like the way people instinctively respond to the demands made upon them. They don't calculate the personal cost. That's a sign of their Christ-like love and compassion.

I think we can learn from Peter's mother in law. Mark wanted to make more than a wry comment on human nature and the inter-action between men and women. Like Peter's mother in law, we are freed from the evils that enslave us so that, like her, we can serve Christ and each other. Christ's ministry was largely designed to set us free from whatever evil restricted our lives – sickness, demonic powers, and above all from sin. He came to give us the fullness of life.

These various forms of liberation from evil are meant to empower us to do good. They may allow us to resume what used to be the normal pattern of our lives, or possibly give us fresh opportunities. When, for example, we are enabled to rise from our sickbed, how do we use our rediscovered health?

A final point. At the end of today's Gospel, Jesus came to preach to the 'neighbouring towns'. We, his listeners, must not just hear his word with admiration, but also do it, otherwise it's wasted on us.

Fr Isidore, O.P.

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

8 February 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 Peter	Patrick & Kath Larkin, RIP	Fr Isidore
8:00am	Fr Isidore	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Isidore
9:30am Family	Fr Euan	Connie Bennet, RIP	Fr Leon
11:00am Solemn	Fr Leon	Maria de Covilla Concalves, RIP	Fr Euan
4:00pm Old rite	Fr Thomas	Holy Souls	Fr Duncan
5:00pm Students	Fr Peter	(Mass for Students in the Lady Chapel)	Fr Euan
7:00pm	Fr Duncan	May Markley	Fr Fabian

OTHER SUNDAY SERVICES	6:00pm Rosary	7 February	Confessions	14 February
9:00am Lauds	6:20pm Compline	Fr Peter	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Euan
5:45pm Vespers	6:40pm Benediction	Fr Isidore	5:00 - 6:00pm	Fr Leon

"Come follow me" Jesus said. This weekend Fr David Cain, Vocations Director for the diocese, is leading a Vocations Promotion in the parish of the Immaculate Conception, Oadby. Please pray for Vocations this week. If you would like to have a chat with Fr David, either about the Vocation to the Priesthood, or any ways in which you would like to be involved in promoting Vocations, please ring him on 251 9370, e-mail frdavid@nrcdt.org.uk, or see www.rucalled.com.

Entrance Antiphon:	Come, let us worship the Lord. Let us bow down in the presence of our maker, for he is the Lord our God.
1st Reading:	Job 7: 1-4, 6-7
Psalm Response:	Praise the Lord who heals the brokenhearted. (Ps 147)
2nd Reading:	1 Corinthians 9: 16-19, 22-23
Alleluia:	Christ took our infirmities and bore our diseases. At 11:00 - O praise the Lord, all you nations, acclaim him all you peoples!
Gospel:	Mark 1: 29-39
Communion Antiphon:	At 11:00 - A great crowd of people with diseases and tormented by unclean spirits came to him, because power came out of him, and he cured them all. Otherwise either - Give praise to the Lord for his kindness, for his wonderful deeds towards men. He has filled the hungry with good things, he has satisfied the thirsty. Or - Happy are the sorrowing; they shall be consoled. Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right; they shall be satisfied.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections: Offertory Collection £734.28; SVP £6.52; Friends of Holy Cross £11.08; Holy Souls £11.67; Crib restoration £14.70. The collection for Sick and Retired Priests came to £283.52.

Please do not put foreign coins in the collection, as our counting machine cannot cope with them! Thank you.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

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.

Lourdes this summer: three opportunities to go. The Diocesan Pilgrimage will run from 19 to 26 July, and there will be a pilgrimage from St Mary's, South Wigston, and St John Bosco's, Eyres Monsell, (including Nevers and Paris) running from 31 July to 7 August. BUT there will also be a Dominican Pilgrimage too - details soon.

The Leicester Theological Society, founded in 1959, is an ecumenical organisation aiming to provide a platform for serious theological debate which is both challenging to those with theological training and intelligible to the thinking lay person. The next talk this season will be given by Richard Gill, local historian and presenter of the 'Lead Kindly Light' CDs on the life and thought of Cardinal Newman, on "English Newman or Jane Austen's High Catholic Ethos" on Friday. All are welcome. Meetings are held at Christchurch, Clarendon Park Road (near Queens Road) at 7:30pm. Cost is £5 (students no charge).

If you have a mobile phone you no longer require, then there is someone who can take it to send to Zimbabwe, where it is much needed. Please telephone 0116 210 0532 or Mob. 0782 892 3157 to arrange collection.

We 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 other memorabilia such as service sheets or newsletters - or remember things you were told as a child about the OLD Holy Cross or St Michael's - please do let us have these.



Today's Gospel: Jesus heals the sick.

Year 1	The week ahead...	Psalter Week 1
Monday:	Feria	
Tuesday:	St Scholastica, virgin	
Wednesday:	Our Lady of Lourdes. World Day of Prayer for the Sick. Prayers are encouraged for the healing of the sick, and the support of those who care for them.	
Thursday:	Bl Reginald of Orléans, friar, priest	
Friday:	Bl Jordan of Saxony, friar, priest. Prayers for Dominican vocations are encouraged today.	
Saturday:	SS CYRIL, MONK, AND METHIDIUS, BISHOP, PATRONS OF EUROPE. Prayers are recommended for Europe.	
WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. This week, Fr Thomas will say Mass in the older form on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday at 8:30am. All welcome - especially a server. If you would like to learn to serve this Mass, please contact Fr Thomas. The 4pm Sunday Mass will move to 12:30pm from the First Sunday of Lent.		
Next Sunday - Sixth Sunday per annum. Readings:		
Leviticus 13: 1-2. 45-46	1 Corinthians 10:31 - 11:1	Mark 1: 40-45

VACANCY: The Diocese's Justice and Peace Commission is looking to employ a fieldworker. The work is based in Derby. See the noticeboard.

'Crosses and Resurrections in El Salvador - The Wider North-South Divide and Our Vocation to Solidarity'. This event, involving Mass, lunch, a lecture and discussion will take place at the Cathedral in Nottingham on Saturday 14 February. Details on the noticeboard.

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 see the list in previous Newsletters or, for more information, please email rosi_leivas@o2.co.uk.

Religious Diversity in Health Care. There will be a talk by Rev Mark Burleigh, Head of Chaplaincy, University Hospitals NHS Trust, at St Philip's Centre, Stoughton Drive North, on Tuesday 10 February at 7:30pm. More details on the noticeboard or from Clare Downing, telephone 273 3459, or clare.downing@stphilipscentre.co.uk.

REGULAR 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) / 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.
HOLIDAYS 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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