

## Mediocrity and Bananas

FR Matthew Rigney OP died seven years ago. Some of you may remember him. The young friars certainly recall him with much fondness. He was the source of many wonderful gems, such as, 'Butter. There's no nicer flavourer my dear!' and 'Do you know what Christmas means to me, my dear? Why, it's the birthday of Our Lord!' Like many young friars I used to look after him when he was unwell, going into his room fragrant with the heady aroma of bananas and ammonia (I'll say no more). During those visits, Matty would chat away, taking an interest in us, the priory, the latest ice cream in the freezer.

Matty was particularly insightful on sin. He noted that most of us are never very imaginative with our sins, that no matter how awful our sins might be, they were never clever or creative. And that's the nature of sin – it is inherently mediocre.

Goodness, on the other hand (he noted) was thwarted not by mediocrity but by perfection. When perfection is held up as a goal, it prompts feelings of can't strive, won't strive. We mustn't confuse holiness with perfection – mostly because our ideas of perfection are not perfect, and are not holy. Holiness, real holiness, lies in death. And by death Matty meant the acceptance of our limits, of our place, of our insignificance. When we have laid aside the exaltation of our name, our dignity, our talents, our contribution, our voice – then we begin to accept death.

It's not easy for us. Even when we acknowledge our weaknesses, we want respectable, decent, manageable ones. At job interviews now, when the candidate is asked to state his or her weaknesses, it's always a strength that is declared: 'I'm too zealous, I'm too hard-working, etc'. Our real weaknesses are not nice; they are pathetic, they are disgraceful. Why? Because that's what we are like. We don't like admitting it because it hurts, it feels like we're being rejected, or worse, that we're unlovable.

Only One is Good. Only One is True. Only One loves us as what we are – loves us and wants to love us into becoming what we were made to be. It is a blessing for St Paul to say that God is glorified in his weakness. Not in his nice, respectable weaknesses, but in his real ones. It is a blessing – that fact alone should shock us to the core!

Only when the glory belongs to God alone, only then is there perfection. Only then is there real holiness, and – born of pain and fire – only then is there lasting beatitude.

Fr Leon Pereira, O.P.

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

22 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 Isidore	Irene Olszewska, RIP	Fr Thomas
8:00am	Fr Euan	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Isidore
9:30am Family	Fr Fabian	Margaret O'Reilly, RIP	Fr Leon
11:00am Solemn	Fr Peter	Anne Potterton (welfare)	Fr Peter
4:00pm Old rite	Fr Thomas	Holy Souls. From next Sunday this Mass will be at 12:30pm.	Fr Thomas
5:00pm Students	Fr Peter	(Mass for Students in the Lady Chapel)	Fr Peter
7:00pm	Fr Leon	For Dominican vocations	Fr Euan

OTHER SUNDAY SERVICES	6:00pm Rosary	21 February	Confessions	28 February
9:00am Lauds	6:20pm Compline	Fr Leon	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Fabian
5:45pm Vespers	6:40pm Benediction	Fr Fabian	5:00 - 6:00pm	Fr Euan

**WEDNESDAY IS ASH WEDNESDAY.** There will be the usual Masses at 10am and 12:30pm, plus Mass in the older form at 6pm, all with imposition of ashes. Stations of the Cross will follow the 12:30 Mass, and there will be Stations of the Cross throughout Lent on Wednesdays and Fridays after the 12:30 Mass. There will also be Masses at both universities at 12:30pm on Ash Wednesday.

There will be a series of Lenten Talks after both Masses on Thursdays in Lent

Entrance Antiphon:	Lord, your mercy is my hope, my heart rejoices in your saving power. I will sing to the Lord for his goodness to me.
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading:	Isaiah 43: 18-19. 21-22. 24-25
Psalm Response:	Heal my soul, O Lord, for I have sinned against you. (Ps 41)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading:	2 Corinthians 1: 18-22
Alleluia:	The Lord has sent me to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives. At 11:00 - To my words give ear, O Lord, give heed to my groaning.
Gospel:	Mark 2: 1-12
Communion Antiphon:	Either - I will tell all your marvellous works. I will rejoice and be glad in you, and sing to your name Most High. Or (but not at 11:00) - Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into this world.

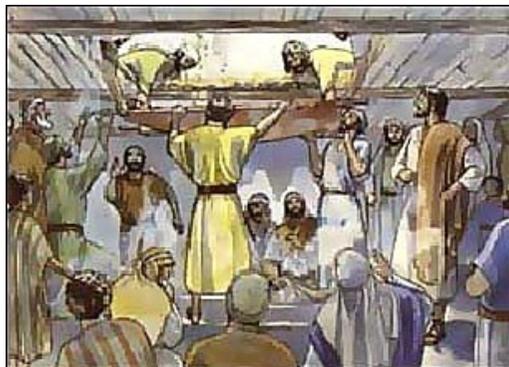
**MONEY MATTERS:** Last Weekend's collections: Offertory Collection £1218.68; SVP £7.73; Friends of Holy Cross £11.05; Holy Souls £9.55; Crib restoration £6.43.

200 Club. Last month's winners were: B Lyons £150, B Marriott £100, and J Craggs £50. Congratulations!

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

**Dominican Pilgrimage to Lourdes.**

This will take place from 7 to 14 August, and the cost will be £665, with reductions for children. There will be processions, time for quiet prayer, a programme of talks, sung liturgies and our warm and friendly Dominican atmosphere. Photos of last year's pilgrimage appear on the Godzdogz website. Please see Fr Leon for details and a booking form.



**Today's Gospel: Jesus cures and forgives the man lowered through the roof.**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Aelred Gregory ('Greg') West. His funeral will be on Friday at 12:30pm with Latin Requiem Mass.

A few parishioners are considering a pilgrimage to Fatima this October and we might even be lucky enough to have one of the Dominican community join us. If you would be interested in taking part please email Sica (sica.martinez@yahoo.co.uk) or Rosi (rosita@netcourrier.com) or call on 0775 88 44 918. Or talk to us after the 11am Mass on Sundays!

**A LIGHT IN THE HEART OF LEICESTER.** Light Bearers Ministries provides Christian based prayerful support, guidance and encouragement to people in their time of need. Are you in need of Prayer? Would you like somebody to talk to? Would you like to place a Prayer Request? Please contact our Prayer Line (0784 727 9141) 8pm - 11pm daily. Text A Prayer and FREE ring-back service available. Alternatively, email jessielightbearer@hotmail.co.uk or visit: www.light-bearers-ministries.webs.com.

**What's the point of theology - today?** To find out, come to the Catholic Studies Lent Talk on Monday 2 March at 8pm in Holy Cross Centre. The talk will be given by Timothy McDermott, former Dominican, retired professor of computer science and author/editor of several books on St Thomas Aquinas. Parking will be available in the gated car park above the Priory.

**St Patrick's Day.** Bishop Malcolm will celebrate Mass at St Patrick's Church, Beaumont Leys Lane, at 11am, followed by refreshments and music. There will be a Jubilee Dance in St Patrick's Parish Centre on Saturday 14 March. Admission by ticket £7. For details, ring 235 3329.

Year 1	The week ahead...	Psalter Week 3/4
Monday:	St Polycarp, bishop, martyr	
Tuesday:	SS Ethelbert of Kent, king, and Edwin of Northumbria, king, martyr - <i>optional</i>	
Wednesday:	ASH WEDNESDAY. Details of services appear on the front page.	
Thursday:	Thursday after Ash Wednesday	
Friday:	SS Margaret Clitherow, wife and mother, Anne Line, widow, and Margaret Ward, virgin, martyrs - <i>optional</i> . Stations of the Cross after the 12:30pm Mass.	
Saturday:	Saturday after Ash Wednesday	
WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. This week, Fr Thomas will say Mass in the older form on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and 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 next Sunday, the First Sunday of Lent.		
<b>Next Sunday - First Sunday of Lent. Readings:</b>		
Genesis 9: 8-15	1 Peter 3: 18-22	Mark 1: 12-15

**St Peter's Parish, Hinckley is 250 years old!** They are marking the occasion with a series of talks for Lent on Dominican themes on Sunday evenings at 6pm. All are welcome. See noticeboard.

**Retreat and Healing Services.** Rev Dr Augustine Vallooran from the Divine Retreat Centre, Kerala, will be at Sacred Heart Church on Sunday 1 March from 2pm to 7pm. See noticeboard.

**Red Cross Appeal for Refugees & Asylum Seekers.** Rice, cooking oil and cereal bars are urgently needed. The full list of items needed to support these destitute and vulnerable people is:

- ◆ Dried items: rice, pasta, cous-cous, maize mealie-meal, sugar, salt, porridge, cooking oil, flour (self-raising), spices, palenta, mashed potato (Smash), tea, coffee, powdered milk, water, fruit juice, semolina;
- ◆ Tins: fish, meat, pulses, baked beans, soup, fruit, rice pudding, sauces, vegetables;
- ◆ Pre-prepared food: cereal bars, chocolate, biscuits, nuts, crisps, pot noodles;
- ◆ Baby items: nappies (sizes 2-4), baby wipes, food, milk, lotion, talc, clothing, equipment;
- ◆ Toiletries: toothpaste, tooth brush, soap, moisturiser, shampoo, conditioner, toilet paper.

Please leave these items at any Mass. We thank you for your continued support.

REGULAR SERVICE TIMES
<b>MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS</b> 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)
<b>WEDNESDAYS</b> 10.30 Exposition until 12.30 11.45 Divine Mercy Chaplet, Rosary & Benediction
<b>SATURDAYS</b> 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.
<b>HOLYDAYS</b> 18.00 (previous day) Vigil Mass 8.00 Lauds 10.00 Mass 12.30 Mass 17.45 Vespers 19.00 Mass
<b>BANK HOLIDAYS</b> 8.00 Lauds 10.00 Mass, after which the church is closed
<b>SUNDAYS</b> 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) 12.30 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
<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.
<b>Website for past Newsletters:</b> <a href="http://holycrosschoirleicester.co.uk">holycrosschoirleicester.co.uk</a>
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