

Reflections of an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

I MUST confess a dark secret. I am a hesitant Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. Perhaps hesitant is the wrong word, because it suggests a lagging behind in the pews when one is called upon to help. Maybe 'uncertain' is better. This uncertainty increased up to the training weekend at Crich and remained after it. It was the usual - how can I be good enough for this (I wasn't), am I getting in the way of the priests (probably), am I causing any scandal? Controversially, chiefly, how is it that non-ordained people can be allowed to distribute the Sacred Species, the Most Holy Body and Blood of our Saviour, as though we were ourselves priests? Though I grew up with it, I've increasingly found it hard to understand - hence my uncertainty at taking on this role.

We can, of course, because the Church has declared that we can. It is not because we are priests or a strange hybrid of priest and laity. We remain laity, but we are called to our own special ministry. Our dignity does not consist in imitating the life and vocation of consecrated religious, or in trying to do what priests and deacons do. But still, by the grace of our baptism, we can assist others in the Church, to collaborate with them in the Church's mission.

There are a number of changes going on in our church. Actually they are not changes: they merely reflect the current norms of the Church, allowing us to express the faith and love with which we must all regard the Eucharist, the 'Sublime Sacrament'. *Redemptionis Sacramentum* states, "The Eucharist is too great a gift to tolerate ambiguity or depreciation. It is therefore necessary that some things be corrected or more clearly delineated so that in this respect as well the Eucharist will continue to shine forth in all its radiant mystery."

The extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion collaborate in the ministry of the clergy. Our vocation here is to be Christ's hands and feet, to serve Christ in the sick and housebound. We are not different from the other baptised laity, but are commissioned for a time for a specific ministry. We receive Communion the same as everyone else, and not with the priests; we don't give Communion to ourselves; we take Communion straight from the Mass to the sick, making them share in the Mass that was just celebrated.

Our lay vocation is oriented outwards, from the liturgy away to those removed from it. We laity are the yeast in the dough, bringing the fruits of the Mass to those who cannot be there.

Sica Martinez

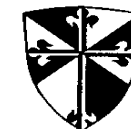
3rd Sunday of Lent

Year B

15 March 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	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Fabian
8:00am	Fr Isidore	Michael Harrington, RIP	Fr Duncan
9:30am Family	Fr Duncan	Nora MacRory, RIP	Fr Euan
11:00am Solemn	Fr Fabian	Evelyn Dixon, RIP	Fr Peter
12:30pm Old rite	Fr Thomas	Holy Souls	Fr Thomas
5:00pm Students	Fr Peter	(Mass for Students in the Lady Chapel)	Fr Fabian
7:00pm	Fr Leon	Thomas (Mac) McHale, RIP	Fr Duncan

OTHER SUNDAY SERVICES	6:00pm Rosary	14 March	Confessions	21 March
9:00am Lauds	6:20pm Compline	Fr Duncan	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Peter
5:45pm Vespers	6:40pm Benediction	Fr Fabian	5:00 - 6:00pm	Fr Duncan

Entrance Antiphon:	<u>Either</u> - My eyes are ever fixed on the Lord, for he releases my feet from the snare. O look at me and be merciful, for I am wretched and alone. <u>Or</u> - I will prove my holiness through you. I will gather you from the ends of the earth; I will pour clean water on you and wash away all your sins. I will give you a new spirit within you, says the Lord.
1st Reading:	Exodus 20: 1-17
Psalm Response:	Lord, you have the words of eternal life. (Ps 19)
2nd Reading:	1 Corinthians 1: 22-25
Verse before Gospel (Tract at 11:00):	Glory and praise to you O Christ. ✠ God so loved the world that he gave his only Son; that whoever believes in him shall have eternal life. <u>At 11:00</u> - I have lifted up my eyes to you, who dwells in the heavens. Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us.
Gospel:	John 2: 13-25
Offertory (at 11:00):	The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart, and sweeter are they than honey, than honey from the comb. So in them your servant finds instruction.
Communion Antiphon:	The sparrow even finds a home, the swallow finds a nest wherein to place her young, near to your altars, Lord of hosts, my King, my God! How happy are they who dwell in your house! For ever they are praising you.

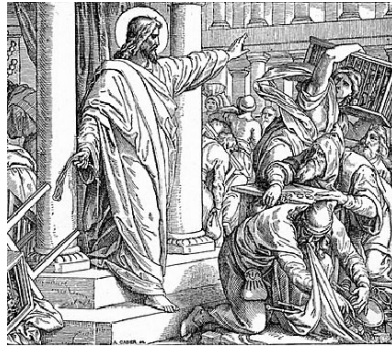
MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections: Offertory Collection £1579.62; SVP £15.93; Friends of Holy Cross £15.46; Holy Souls £6.51; Crib restoration £5.57. The retiring collection for the Lenten Fast Day (proceeds to LOROS for their hospice) came to £372.03.

There will be a retiring collection next week for Easter flowers for the church.

The end of the financial year is approaching. If any tax-payers would like to start paying by Gift Aid, could they please speak to one of the friars. If you no longer wish to use the weekly envelopes, please also let one of the friars know as this will free up a number for a new donor. Thank you.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

THIS WEEK'S LENTEN TALK on 'Aspects of St Paul' will be given after both Masses on Thursday, and Fr Fabian will speak on 'Paul and Women'. And, throughout Lent, there will be Stations of the Cross at 1pm on Wednesdays and Fridays.



Today's Gospel: The Cleansing of the Temple.

Twinclarke's Blog. How do we meet God in a giant toad, a vision of loveliness, a kitten and crab, the joys, sorrows and ridiculous moments of life? Have a look at the weekly blog created by Peter and Isidore Clarke OP. The blog address: <http://mywaygodsway.blogspot.com>.

VACANCY. St Joseph's Primary and Nursery School, Newark, requires a Head Teacher. See noticeboard. Closing date is 23 March.

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society is organising a national campaign to address the injustices experienced by asylum seekers, one of the most marginalised, impoverished and misrepresented groups of people in our society. The SVP is asking people to sign a petition (next week) which John Battle, Member of Parliament for Leeds West, will present in the House of Commons. The petition asks for rights and services for asylum seekers in order to prevent destitution and social exclusion. **Please sign the petition on your way out after Mass next Sunday.** Many Thanks.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Have you got an hour to spare during the week? Do you own a car? The Holy Cross SVP Conference is looking for some volunteers to collect food parcels from the Parish and drop them off at the British Red Cross offices on London Road. The food parcels are then distributed to destitute asylum seekers and refugees. If you would like to volunteer or require further information, please contact Rosi Leivas by phone on 07542 904154 or by email at rosi_leivas@o2.co.uk. Many Thanks.

Year 1	The week ahead...	Psalter Week 3
Monday:	Lenten feria	
Tuesday:	ST PATRICK, BISHOP, APOSTLE OF THE IRISH, PATRON OF IRELAND	
Wednesday:	Lenten feria	
Thursday:	ST JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, solemnity	
Friday:	Lenten feria	
Saturday:	Lenten feria	
WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. This week, Fr Thomas will say Mass in the older form on Monday, Thursday and Friday at 8:30am, and on Tuesday at 5pm. All welcome - especially a server. If you would like to learn to serve this Mass, please contact Fr Thomas.		
Next Sunday - Laetare Sunday. Prayers are recommended for candidates for the sacraments. Mother's Day. Readings:		
2 Chronicles 36: 14-16. 19-23	Ephesians 2: 4-10	John 3: 14-21

St Peter's Parish, Hinckley, is 250 years old. Next Sunday at 6pm Sr Louis Bertrand will be speaking to them on 'The Dominican Sisters', recalling how St Dominic's first house was for sisters rather than friars! All are welcome. See noticeboard.

WANTED VOLUNTEERS. Do you like walking, running, cycling? If so, why not raise funds for the parish by carrying out your own sponsored event. You choose the time, date and event, and get your family, friends and colleagues to sponsor you. Information from Stephanie on 01530 249802 - all monies raised will go towards the fabric fund.

Building Works. There is a message from the Parish Council on a separate flyer. Please take one.

Calling all cake and jam makers. In an effort to raise vital funds for our parish fabric (eg, toilets and security), a group of parishioners are going to start selling home made jam and cakes after the 9:30 and 11:00 Masses on the last Sunday in every month. Please start now. More details next week.

Legio Mariae. A consecration of members to Our Lady. St Patrick's Church, 27 March from 6:45pm. All are welcome. See noticeboard.

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.
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) 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
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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