

LENT - A TIME OF HOPE

PERHAPS we don't think of Lent particularly as a time of hope. Penance, repentance, prayer and the other Lenten observances seem to loom larger. But when you come to think of it, Lent is a preparation for Easter, so it must be a time for looking forward. And what is hope but a looking forward to the good things we desire? So, for example, we might hope for good weather during our holiday, or success in a job application, or recovery from illness for ourselves or others. This is hope as a human disposition, and some people are more hopeful, more optimistic, than others because it is part of their natural make-up. Sadly, these hopes can all too often be disappointed.

But when we talk about the virtue of Hope, we mean one of those gifts of God which have a direct bearing on our friendship with Him. (The other two are Faith and Charity.) So Hope is a God-given disposition by which we co-operate with God's plan and providence, knowing that it is for our good. Hope makes us confident that God is working out his purpose to establish his Kingdom in his creation, even when that does not seem to be happening.

This is the objective of our Hope. But we tend to think of Hope on a narrower individual level. If you ask someone what they hope for, as a Christian, the answer is likely to be something along the lines of: 'I hope to get to heaven', or 'I hope to be with God'. In other words we tend to think first of our personal destiny, rather than of the larger scene within which we will have a place. This means that effectively we leave the resurrection out of account.

Our image of what heaven will be like may often be influenced by those parts of Scripture (the Apocalypse, the Prophet Isaiah) which speak of the angels worshipping around the throne of God. This can lead to the silly idea that, for us, heaven means sitting on clouds playing harps! But the Apocalypse ends with the vision of God's 'new heaven and new earth', the eternal city, the New Jerusalem 'coming down out of heaven from God', all of which is the outcome of the Resurrection of Jesus.

The purpose of God, towards which our hope is directed, is this new heaven and earth. It is the perfected human city, the redeemed and glorified human community living in the glorified material world in which God's purposes are at last perfectly expressed. That will be the grounds for our worship and praise of Father, Son and Spirit; but we will be living as God has created us to be, as human beings, body and soul, not as angels. Though we cannot guess what this will be like, there will be a real continuity between our present life and the life to come, in that the one is the perfection of the other, rather than its contrary. This gives us an incentive to work for God's will to be done now, to struggle for justice, peace and holiness, precisely because what we strive for now will be achieved in the future coming of the Kingdom of God. In the long run God's will cannot be thwarted. So this kind of hope cannot be disappointed.

Fr Fabian OP

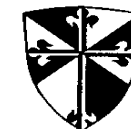
Laetare Sunday - Mother's Day

Year B

22 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 Fabian	Pauline Murphy	Fr Isidore
8:00am	Fr Duncan	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Isidore
9:30am Family	Fr Euan	Nora MacRory	Fr Euan
11:00am Solemn	Fr Peter	Maria de Gouveia Gonçalves, RIP	Fr Peter
12:30pm Old rite	Fr Thomas	Andrew Tawse, RIP	Fr Duncan
5:00pm Students	Fr Fabian	(Mass for Students in the Lady Chapel)	Fr Peter
7:00pm	Fr Duncan	Mary Ellen Hudson, RIP	Fr Euan

OTHER SUNDAY SERVICES	6:00pm Rosary	21 March	Confessions	28 March
9:00am Lauds	6:20pm Compline	Fr Peter	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Isidore
5:45pm Vespers	6:40pm Benediction	Fr Duncan	5:00 - 6:00pm	Fr Duncan

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICE TIMES are given on a yellow sheet, available by the doors. Please take as many as you need, and please do not phone the Priory for this information...

Entrance Antiphon:	Laetare Ierusalem! Rejoice, Jerusalem! Be glad for her, you who love her; rejoice with her, you who mourned for her, and you will find contentment at her consoling breasts.
1st Reading:	2 Chronicles 36: 14-16. 19-23
Psalm Response:	Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you. (Ps 137)
2nd Reading:	Ephesians 2: 4-10
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 should have eternal life. At 11:00 - Those who trust in the Lord will be like the mountain of Zion. He will not be disturbed for eternity, who dwells in Jerusalem.
Gospel:	John 3: 14-21
Offertory (at 11:00):	Praise the Lord for he is good. Sing a psalm to his name for he is loving. The Lord does whatever he wills, in heaven and on earth.
Communion Antiphon:	To Jerusalem, that binds them together in unity, the tribes of the Lord go up to give him praise.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections: Offertory Collection £950.82; SVP £13.24; Friends of Holy Cross £7.02; Holy Souls £62.50; Crib restoration £4.29.

There is a retiring collection this week for Easter flowers for the church.

Blackfriars Market will be on Saturday 25 April. We are starting to collect items for sale at the Market. In particular we hope for saleable items: please do not send us books or videotapes though, as these are hard to sell. 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 Euan will speak on 'Glorying in the Cross'. And, throughout Lent, there will be Stations of the Cross at 1pm on Wednesdays and Fridays.

The Dominican Pilgrimage to Walsingham is on Sunday 17 May. We need to know numbers so that we have an idea of how large a coach to hire or indeed how many coaches to hire. The coach(es) will probably leave here at 8am, and be back in the early evening. Please contact Fr Peter on 252 1512 if you would like to go.

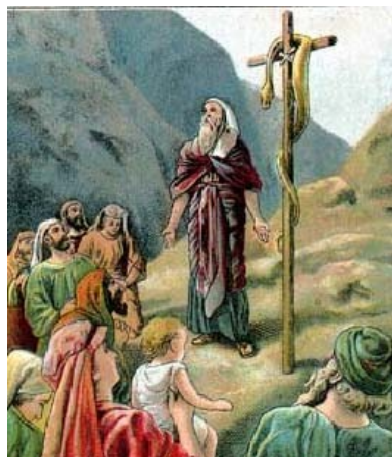
The Dominican Pilgrimage to Lourdes is from 7 to 14 August. If you would like to go, please ask for the forms which are kept in the sacristy. The cost for full board and flight is £665.

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 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.** Many Thanks.

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. Thank you for your continued support.



Today's Gospel: Moses lifts up the serpent in the desert.

Year I	The week ahead...	Psalter Week 4
Wednesday:	THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD, solemnity	
Other days:	Lenten feria	
WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. This week, Fr Thomas will say Mass in the older form daily, Monday to Friday at 8:30am. All welcome - especially a server. If you would like to learn to serve this Mass, please contact Fr Thomas.		
Next Sunday - Fifth Sunday of Lent. Prayers are recommended for candidates for the sacraments. Readings:		
Jeremiah 31: 31-34	Hebrews 5: 7-9	John 12: 20-33

St Peter's Parish, Hinckley, is 250 years old. Next Sunday at 6pm Alan Pilgrim will be speaking to them on 'The Lay Dominicans', about the spiritual life and work of ordinary Dominicans in the community. All are welcome. See noticeboard.

CQ Lyfe, the City Centre Churches' ecumenical ministry to the Cultural Quarter around the Curve theatre, will meet at the Lallie Bella bar on Queen Street on Tuesday 7 April at 7:30pm for a study on the film 'Chocolat'. All are welcome. See noticeboard.

The Leicester and District Organists' Association will have 'An Evening of Entertainment' at St Nicholas' Church on Saturday 4 April. All welcome. See noticeboard.

Christ in the Centre, the Good Friday Passion drama: we need stewards and 'Roman soldiers', so if you think you could do either please contact Fr Duncan. We can't afford massive advertising, so watch this space!

Fair Trade. There will be a talk, 'A Christian and Islamic Approach', given under the auspices of the Muslim Christian Dialogue Group at St Philip's Church, Evington Road, on 31 March at 7:30pm. See noticeboard.

PARISH FUND RAISING. Do you like walking, running, cycling? If so, why not raise funds for the parish by carrying out your own sponsored event. Information from Stephanie on 01530 249802. **Calling all cake and jam makers:** 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 cooking now!

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

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) 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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