

The appearance of the Risen Christ

WHY did the risen Christ appear to so few people? Why not appear to vast crowds? Why not, as Napoleon asked, work his miracles in the great city of Rome, rather than this obscure corner of the empire? One answer to this is to look at the one reference there is to an appearance of the risen Jesus to a great crowd, and this is in the first Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians. In chapter fifteen, St Paul discusses the Resurrection of the dead in general, which some denied. His argument is easy to misunderstand, if we miss out the crucial importance of preaching. Paul does not argue from the Resurrection of Jesus but from the fact that the resurrection of Christ is preached, (Chapter 15:12), to the Resurrection of the dead at the end of time. The Resurrection of Christ is preached in view of the Resurrection of the dead, because his resurrection is the way to that final Resurrection.

This is the summary of that preaching,

‘For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brethren at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.’ (Chapter 15:3-7).

Here Paul speaks of an appearance to five hundred of the brethren, which is part of the core of the original preaching, but it is not an appearance story which occurs in the Gospels. To those looking for evidence, the appearance to the five hundred might seem important, but Paul is concerned with a great deal more than just proof of the Resurrection. People have believed that Jesus rose from the dead but have not become Christians on that basis. It is the whole package that has to be received and that means a Resurrection for the sake of redemption. ‘Christ died for our sins.’

Appearances to greater and greater numbers would have obscured that truth. This is why the dominant accounts of the Resurrection, are accounts of appearances to individuals. Even the appearance to the Apostles in today’s Gospel, is illuminated by the appearance to St Thomas. The meaning of the Resurrection is always to be found in the appearance of Jesus to each individual.

The Christ of the Resurrection is, in fact, much more personal than the Christ of the earthly life of Jesus. His death and Resurrection enables him to be united to each individual.

As Pope John Paul put it, in *Redemptor Hominis*.

“We are not dealing with the ‘abstract’ man, but the real, ‘concrete’, ‘historical’ man. We are dealing with ‘each’ man, for each one is included in the mystery of the Redemption and with each one Christ has united himself for ever through this mystery.”

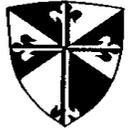
Fr. Euan Marley, O.P.

Divine Mercy Sunday

Year B

19 April 2009

The Newsletter of
HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER
Serving Leicester’s Catholics since AD 1247



It is the anniversary of the inauguration of the pontificate of Pope Benedict XVI (2005).

| Sunday Masses | This week | Mass Intentions | Next week |
|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| 6:00pm Vigil | Fr Isidore | | Fr Isidore |
| 8:00am | Fr Euan <i>Pro populo</i> | | Fr Isidore |
| 9:30am Family | Fr Duncan | | Fr Leon |
| 11:00am Solemn | Fr Fabian | Anne Potterton (welfare) | Fr Peter |
| 12:30pm Old rite | Fr Thomas | Bernadette Mary Mearees, RIP | Fr Duncan |
| 5:00pm Students | — | NO Mass today. Next Mass 3 May | — |
| 7:00pm | Fr Peter | In Honour of St Lucy (thanksgiving) | Fr Fabian |

| OTHER SUNDAY SERVICES | 6:00pm Rosary | 18 April | Confessions | 25 April |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------|-----------------|------------|
| 9:00am Lauds | 6:20pm Compline | Fr Leon | 10:30 - 11:30am | Fr Isidore |
| 5:45pm Vespers | 6:40pm Benediction | Fr Euan | 5:00 - 6:00pm | Fr Leon |

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!

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Entrance Antiphon: | Either - Like newborn children you should thirst for milk, on which your spirit can grow to strength, alleluia. Or - Rejoice to the full in the glory that is yours, and give thanks to God who called you to his kingdom, alleluia. |
| 1st Reading: | Acts 2: 42-47 |
| Psalm Response: | O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures for ever. (Ps 118) |
| 2nd Reading: | 1 Peter 1:3-9 |
| Alleluia: | You believed, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord; blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe. |
| Gospel: | John 20: 19-31 |
| Communion Antiphon: | Jesus spoke to Thomas: Put your hand here, and see the place of the nails. Doubt no longer, but believe, alleluia. |

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections: Offertory Collection: £—; Good Friday £642.35; SVP £30.51; Friends of Holy Cross £10.16; Holy Souls £14.52; Crib restoration £4.79.

Gift Aid Boxes for the new financial year are available from the table by the Wellington Street door. Please collect your box - they are in alphabetical order by surname - after Mass.

BLACKFRIARS MARKET is NEXT SATURDAY 25 April, from 10:30am till 3:00pm. Food, games, bric-a-brac, plants, bargains galore! Come along, and bring your family and friends! All proceeds to the church refurbishment fund.

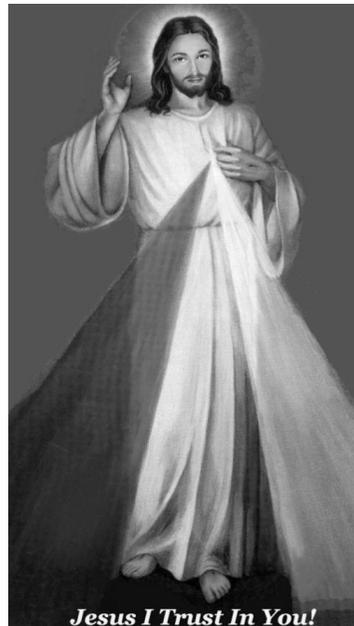
PLEASE TAKE ONE OF THE LEAFLETS BY THE DOORS AS A REMINDER. Thank you.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

THE HOLY CROSS LECTURE is on Friday 8 May 7:30pm. This year's speaker is Mr James Mawdsley, human rights activist who spent 14 months in prison in Burma for pro-democracy protests. He is the author of *The Heart Must Break*. Come along and hear this engaging young man speak about the Cross and its blessings in his life.

STATUES — The statue of *St Therese* is now located on a plinth on the third pillar in the nave, on the left side (Wellington St). She is balanced on the right side by a new statue of *St Anthony*. Memorial plaques will be set up under both statues in memory of the loved ones of benefactors who made this possible. Other plinths are already set up. The idea is to balance *St Patrick* with *St George*, and also to honour *St Michael* (our 1st post-Reformation church in Leicester). That leaves one plinth empty — perhaps for a female saint like *St Anne*. Ideas, suggestions welcome.

Challenging Talks from a Catholic Perspective — On Saturday 9 May at Westminster Cathedral Hall, London, Family Life International is hosting a conference on the challenges of preserving the dignity of every individual from conception to natural death. For more information, please call 0208 857 9950 or visit www.flionline.org.



Jesus I Trust In You!

“Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe”

| Year 1 | The week ahead... | Psalter Week 1 |
|---|--|----------------|
| Monday: | St Agnes of Montepulciano, virgin, nun | |
| Tuesday: | St Anselm of Canterbury, bishop, doctor | |
| Wednesday: | Weekday of Easter | |
| Thursday: | ST GEORGE, LAYMAN, MARTYR, PATRON OF ENGLAND, solemnity | |
| Friday: | St Fidelis of Sigmaringen, priest, martyr or St Adalbert, bishop, martyr or The Conversion of St Augustine, bishop, doctor - <i>all optional</i> | |
| Saturday: | ST MARK, EVANGELIST, feast | |
| WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. This week, Fr Thomas will say Mass in the older form on Monday at a time to be announced. All welcome, especially a server. If you would like to learn to serve this Mass, please contact Fr Thomas. | | |
| Next Sunday - 3rd Sunday of Easter. Readings: | | |
| Acts 2:14. 22-28 | 1 Peter 1:17-21 | Luke 24:13-35 |

GAP YEAR OPPORTUNITY - ALL EXPENSES PAID!! *Challenge Team UK* trains young adults (18-28) and sends them to schools with a prepared presentation. The team explains to pupils why saving sex for marriage is so important and presents chastity as a realistic and positive option. *Challenge* is currently looking for new volunteers from September 2009 to Easter 2010 in term times. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Debs on 07749 440 110. For further info, see noticeboard or visit the website www.challengeteamuk.org.

WE STILL NEED SOME HELP PLEASE. Have you got an hour to spare during the week? Do you own a car (especially one you already bring into the city centre)? The SVP Conference is looking for someone 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 are able 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.

Absolute Beginners' Parish Salsa Evening — an evening of entertainment and dancing. No partner needed, no previous experience required! 7.30pm, Friday May 8, Holy Cross Centre. For tickets, please contact Jeff on jeffhenry@btinternet.com or 2431289. £8 (£5 concession).

| 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 | |
| CONTACT DETAILS | |
| Holy Cross Priory | |
| 45 Wellington Street, LE1 6HW | |
| Priory phone: (0116) 255 3856 | |
| Fax/recorded times of services: 255 5552 | |
| Parish Priest: | |
| Fr Leon Pereira: 252 1501 | |
| leon.pereira@english.op.org | |
| For home visits: 255 3856 | |