

Providence

WHEN I was in the Edinburgh priory, I remember a conversation about providence, the belief that God has a plan for all of us and is taking care of each of us, giving us what we need. I said that I thought a preacher had to have a very strong belief in providence: if we were relying on our own skill and learning for the words we preach, where would we be? Instead, the experience of preaching is definitely of being given the words to say, and even of people hearing not necessarily what you said, but what they needed to hear. God is so very obviously present in the whole process. Anyway, when I said how important providence was to preaching, an old friar, Bede Bailey, who loved to argue with me, spoke up. "That's the first time I think I've ever agreed with you," he said.

I was reminded of the conversation during Blackfriars Market, because on the book stall was a book, edited by this same Bede, of the letters of another Bede - Bede Jarrett - who was our Provincial from 1916 to 1932. Whoever bought the book, it is a treasure. The letters show the pastoral kindness of a very good man, but above all, they show his tremendous faith in God's providence.

In a number of cases, he has people writing to him, anxious about what to do about this or that. He gives sensible and kind advice in some cases, or at least helps the people writing to think clearly about what is involved in their making the right decision, but he always says something like, "Try not to worry. It's not your job to worry. God has this in His hands." The letters show again and again his strong belief in God's providence.

It's very hard sometimes not to worry. Our papers are full of stories to make us worry. Some editors even, I think, sell their newspapers by filling them with stories that feed on and confirm our fears, which is wicked, but there is enough to worry about even without that. The latest story of course is the swine flu. Newspapers are already running columns alongside their report of the spread of the disease advising us about what to do to avoid getting it and what to do if we're worried we already have it.

Belief in providence shouldn't make us ignore this kind of advice. I have one friend who thinks going to the doctor shows a lack of trust in God. She thinks Christians should just expect God to heal them directly. But God has given us the ability to understand our bodies and to learn how to heal ourselves. After all, by tradition, St Luke was a doctor! Used properly, medical care can be as much part of God's providence, of how He takes care of us and heals us, as when He cures someone miraculously.

What providence should help with, though, is the sense of being powerless in the face of a threat we can do very little about. The main reason the papers give us advice about what to do in order not to get ill is that we quite correctly respond to a threat by trying to avoid it. We deal with our anxiety by feeling there is something we can do. The reason anxiety remains is that we are left with a nagging feeling that even if we do the best we can for ourselves and for our families we may still be affected. A belief in providence helps us see that whatever comes, God will be with us, holding us in His hands, that, though we should do our best, ultimately we don't have to depend on ourselves.

And that leaves us with a very important thing to do in times of crises: we can pray. A very important part of the kind of prayer that asks things of God is that it shows our faith in God's providence. It says, "I can't do this alone, but I know I am not alone. I have you, God, for my help."

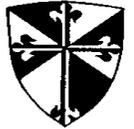
Fr Peter OP

4th Sunday of Easter

Year B

3 May 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 Thomas	Rita Cox, RIP	Fr Thomas
8:00am	Fr Duncan	Margaret O'Reilly, RIP	Fr Isidore
9:30am Family	Fr Peter	Madeleine McCann & missing children	Fr Fabian
11:00am Solemn	Fr Duncan	Maria de Gouveia Gonçaves, RIP	Fr Peter
12:30pm Old rite	Fr Thomas	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Thomas
5:00pm Students	Fr Peter	Mass for students in the Lady Chapel	Fr Leon
7:00pm	Fr Euan	Hugh Marley, RIP	Fr Duncan

OTHER SUNDAY SERVICES	6:00pm Rosary	2 May	Confessions	9 May
9:00am Lauds	6:20pm Compline	Fr Thomas	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Thomas
5:45pm Vespers	6:40pm Benediction	Fr Euan	5:00 - 6:00pm	Fr Isidore

Tomorrow, Monday, is a Bank Holiday, so there will be only one Mass, at 10am, after which the church will be closed.

The Prior and Community cordially invite you to the 2009 HOLY CROSS LECTURE on Friday at 7:30pm in Blackfriars Hall. This year's speaker is Mr James Mawdsley, human rights activist who spent 14 months in prison in Burma for pro-democracy protests, and he will speak on 'The Joy of Being Crucified'. He is the author of *The Heart Must Break*. **DO PLEASE COME ALONG** and hear this engaging young man speak about the Cross and its blessings in his life. Please take an invitation card as a reminder.

Entrance Antiphon:	The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.
1st Reading:	Acts 4: 8-12
Psalm Response:	The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. (Ps 118)
2nd Reading:	1 John 3: 1-2
Alleluia:	I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my own and my own know me.
Gospel:	John 10: 11-18
Communion Antiphon:	<u>At 11:00</u> – I am the good shepherd, alleluia; I know my sheep and my own know me, alleluia, alleluia. <u>Otherwise</u> – The Good Shepherd is risen! He who laid down his life for his sheep, who died for his flock, he is risen, alleluia.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections (previous week in brackets): Offertory Collection: £916.79 (£868.40); SVP £8.02 (£27.30); Friends of Holy Cross £2.79 (£7.42); Holy Souls £16.53 (£6.55); Crib restoration £4.30 (£4.97). The Blackfriars Market collection came to £602.60. The takings at the Market itself are still being assessed - more news when it's available.

There will be a retiring collection today for the Clergy Formation Fund, and *next week* there will be one for the second instalment of our diocesan quota.

If you have not yet taken this year's Gift Aid envelopes (now in the sacristy), *please do so today*. They are in numerical (not alphabetical order). If you are a higher-rate taxpayer, did you know that you can claim back the difference between the tax you have paid and the money which the parish reclaims? Details on request.

200 Club. Last month's winners were: 160, S Brucciani £150; 102, A E Collins £100; and 21, J Webb £50. Congratulations!

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

Win a one-week trip to Rome for two! Tim Challoner will be selling tickets after the 9:30 and 11:00 Masses (and after the other Masses on other Sundays). There are just 300 tickets @ £10. The draw will be on 14 June.

The Church's policies about safeguarding (i.e. child protection) say that anyone who has a ministry with children, young people, or vulnerable adults should have basic safeguarding training before and during the time they exercise their ministry. On Monday 11 May at 7:00 pm at St Clement's Hall, John Creedon, the diocesan safeguarding co-ordinator, would like to meet all those so involved (extraordinary ministers, children's liturgists, etc) to lead this training for the parish. **Please make a special effort to attend.**

Flat available: 3 rooms in quiet family home, Western Park. Would suit professional lady/female student. Tel: 0116 285 6998.

Nottingham Diocesan Yearbooks are on sale at £3 each. Please pay in the newspaper slot by the Wellington Street doors. The books are on the table there.

Supporting the Alzheimer's Society. Tomorrow Liz Scarborough is doing a 'sprint' Triathlon at Mallory Park. Please let her know if you would like to sponsor her for this worthwhile cause. Email lizscarb@hotmail.com. Thank you.



"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep."

Year 1	The week ahead...	Psalter Week 4
Monday:	Martyrs of the English Reformation	
Tuesday:	St Vincent Ferrer, priest	
Wednesday:	Easter feria	
Thursday:	Easter feria	
Friday:	The Patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary over the Order of Preachers	
Saturday:	Easter feria	
WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. This week, Fr Thomas will say Mass in the older form on Monday, Wednesday, 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.		
Next Sunday - 5th Sunday of Easter. Readings:		
Acts 9: 26-31	1 John 3: 18-24	John 15: 1-8

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mary Cullen who died on 25 April. She was a member of the choir for over 40 years, retiring last year at the age of 88, saying that it was time to move on. Her body will be received into the church on Tuesday at 5pm, and her funeral Mass will be on Wednesday at 12:30pm. Fr Leon regrets that he has a prior engagement with the Young Dominicans (who will celebrate the 10am Mass that day). Instead Fr Peter will celebrate the funeral Mass.

Absolute Beginners' Parish Salsa Evening – this Friday. See noticeboard.

Please pray for the Pope's intentions for the month of May. General: That the laity and the Christian communities may be responsible promoters of priestly and religious vocations. Mission: That the recently founded Catholic Churches, grateful to the Lord for the gift of faith, may be ready to share in the universal mission of the Church, offering their availability to preach the Gospel throughout the world.

Fr Euan Marley is being reassigned to the Dominican house in Glasgow. It is the nature of the friars' lives that we are itinerant, and a healthy aspect that we are moved around frequently before we put down too many roots (or get too old or too sick to move!). Fr Euan expects to complete his move towards the end of May. We, his brothers, wish him every joy, and we know you will not delay in making your own best wishes known to him, and in supporting him with your prayers.

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.
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