

## The message of Fatima

**T**HIS Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, we keep the memorial of our Lady of Fatima. Sometimes people can be a bit embarrassed about apparitions, as if it were all right to contemplate Jesus Christ and the blessed Virgin as historical figures, but somehow naïve to think of them as alive and acting here and now. But indeed they are alive, as our faith teaches – and why should they not speak words of encouragement and warning to us, as we make our journey here below?

Of course, we have to be cautious about alleged apparitions. *Test the spirits, to see whether they are of God*, St John says (1 Jn. 4:1). For example, I should not myself recommend anyone to go to Medjugorje, since successive local bishops have stated that there is no sufficient ground to believe in the heavenly origin of the messages claimed there (I hope this will not upset any readers.) But when a site, such as Fatima, is incorporated into the Church's calendar, then we can have confidence about the messages associated with it. Especially is this true if the seers are beatified, as Blessed Francisco and Jacinta were beatified by Pope John Paul II.

There were six apparitions at Fatima, from May to October 1917. Three Portuguese peasant children, aged 7, 8 and 10, were selected by heaven to hear our Lady's words. *God chose what is foolish in the world, to shame the wise*, says St Paul (1 Cor. 1:27). Mary, of course, did not come to teach any new doctrines, but to remind us of truths already revealed, which were in danger of being forgotten by Catholics of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

What did our Mother come to remind us of? First of all, that heaven and hell are real places, real destinations. 'Where do you come from?', Lucia asked, when the children first saw the Lady. 'I come from heaven', she replied, pointing to the sky. At another time, the Lady showed them a vision, beneath their feet, 'as it were a sea of fire', with shapes moving about within it. 'You have seen hell, where the souls of poor sinners go'.

Next she came to remind us of the need for reparation. 'Are you willing to offer yourselves to God, as an act of reparation for the conversion of sinners?' Thus did Mary speak to the three little children, on that May morning. And when Lucia answered that they were willing, she replied, 'then you will have much to suffer, but the grace of God will be your comfort.'

And she came to remind us of the power of prayer. On each of her six visits to Fatima, she told the children to pray the rosary, not just now and again, but every day. And she spoke to them of devotion to her immaculate heart, as a devotion which our Lord wishes to establish throughout the world. She even prophesied that evil times were coming for the Church and especially for the Popes, but that 'in the end my immaculate heart will triumph'.

There is much else one could say about Fatima, but space is short. One book I'd recommend to those interested is *Marian apparitions, the Bible and the Modern World*, by Donal Foley. It is published by Gracewing, and has a foreword by Fr Aidan Nichols.

Fr Thomas, OP

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Year B

10 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	Irene Olszewska, RIP	Fr Euan
8:00am	Fr Isidore	Isabel O'Reilly, RIP	Fr isidore
9:30am Family	Fr Fabian	Margaret & Lee Steinbourn, RIP	Fr Euan
11:00am Solemn	Fr Peter	Hilda Qrakumey, RIP	Fr Leon
12:30pm Old rite	Fr Thomas	Teresa Walsh, RIP	Fr Duncan
5:00pm Students	Fr Leon	Mass for students in the Lady Chapel	Fr Peter
7:00pm	Fr Duncan	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Fabian

OTHER SUNDAY SERVICES	6:00pm Rosary	9 May	Confessions	16 May
9:00am Lauds	6:20pm Compline	Fr Thomas	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Euan
5:45pm Vespers	6:40pm Benediction	Fr Isidore	5:00 - 6:00pm	Fr Isidore

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. Tomorrow, Monday, 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.**

Nottingham Diocesan Yearbooks are on sale at £3 each. Please pay in the newspaper slot by the Wellington Street doors. Only a few remain. Buy now!

Entrance Antiphon:	Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous deeds; he has revealed to the nations his saving power, alleluia.
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading:	Acts 9: 26-31
Psalm Response:	From you comes my praise, Lord, in the great congregation. (Ps 22)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading:	1 John 3: 18-24
Alleluia:	Abide in me, and I in you, says the Lord; he who abides in me bears much fruit. <u>At 11:00</u> - Christ, having been raised from the dead, will never die again. Death has no power over him any more.
Gospel:	John 15: 1-8
Communion Antiphon:	I am the true vine and you are the branches; he who lives in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit.

**MONEY MATTERS:** Last Weekend's collections: Offertory Collection: £891.02; SVP £5.16; Friends of Holy Cross £5.20; Holy Souls £3.48; Crib restoration £0.86. The collection for the diocesan Clergy Formation Fund came to £205.97, and the contribution from the First Friday coffee morning was £21.50.

**Blackfriars Market:** the takings on the day came to £1150.28. The proceeds from the draw will not be known until all the tickets are sold.

There will be a retiring collection today for the second instalment of our diocesan quota.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

**A date for your diary – An Evening with St Paul:** to commemorate the Pauline Year, a lecture will be given by Fr Richard Ounsworth OP and music provided by David Cowen, on the evening of Wednesday 24 June, midsummer day.

**Win a one-week trip to Rome for two!** Tim Challoner will be selling tickets after Sunday Masses. There are just 300 tickets @ £10. The draw will be on 14 June.

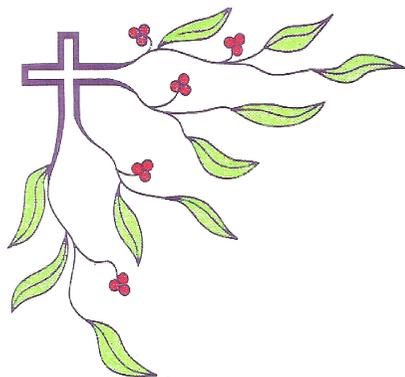
**Flat still available:** 3 rooms in quiet family home, Western Park. Would suit professional lady/female student. Tel: 0116 285 6998.

**Pilgrimages to Medjugorje** (*pace* the author of this week's back page) – 13 to 20 May (hurry, there is just time) from Birmingham Airport and 16 to 23 September from Doncaster Airport. For information please contact Kath on 234 0103.

**The SVP Mablethorpe camp** provides a break for disadvantaged children from Leicester, Derby, Nottingham and Mansfield. This year the boys' camp will take place from 25th July to 1st August and the girls' camp from 15th August to 22nd August. Age limit: 9-14 years old. For more information, please see noticeboard or contact Monica Mitchell on 0116 278 2375. Booking forms can be obtained from Rosi Leivas on 07542 904 154 or email [rosi\\_leivas@o2.co.uk](mailto:rosi_leivas@o2.co.uk).

**Chavagnes International College**, a Catholic boys' boarding school (11 to 18 years, and 'highly competitive' fees) in western France, is having an Open Week from 4 - 9 June. Cost is £75. For further information tel +33 (0)2 51 42 39 82; fax +33 (0)2 51 42 39 83; Website [www.chavagnes.org](http://www.chavagnes.org); Email [office@chavagnes.org](mailto:office@chavagnes.org).

**Apologies** for the shortage of Newsletters last week. The copier ground to a halt part-way through the print run and we were unable to get it fixed before the weekend.



**"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser."**

<i>Year 1</i>	The week ahead...	<i>Psalter Week 1</i>
Monday:	Easter feria	
Tuesday:	SS Nereus and Achilleus, laymen, martyrs <i>or</i> St Pancras, layman, martyr - <i>both optional</i>	
Wednesday:	Our Lady of Fátima	
Thursday:	ST MATTHIAS, APOSTLE	
Friday:	THE DEDICATION OF OUR PRIORY CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, solemnity. A plenary indulgence is granted to those who visit the church and piously recite an Our Father and a Creed.	
Saturday:	St Simon Stock, priest, religious - <i>optional</i>	
WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. This week, Fr Thomas will say Mass in the older form on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 8:30am, and on Saturday at 8:15am. All welcome, especially a server. If you would like to learn to serve this Mass, please contact Fr Thomas.		
<b>Next Sunday - 6th Sunday of Easter. Readings:</b>		
Acts 10: 25-26. 34-35. 44-48		1 John 4: 7-10     John 15: 9-17

**A Catholic Church is God's House.** Please take and use a copy of the (A5) prayer card from one of the tables by the doors.

**Do you need help after an abortion?** Contact British Victims of Abortion – details on the noticeboard.

**Come to an evening of song and dance in aid of the British Red Cross** on Friday 15th May at 7.30pm, at the Ukrainian Social Club, corner of Fosse Road South and Hinckley Road. Hosted by the Red Leicester Choir, and dancing to the Greenshoots Ceilidh Orchestra. Licensed bar. Tickets £6/£4. Tel 0116 270 3143 to reserve.

**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>.

**Please join us in the Parish Hall after the 9:30am and 11:00am Sunday Masses for tea, coffee, fruit-juice etc.** The Hall is in Wellington Street. There is the opportunity for a chat with members of the Dominican Community and with parishioners. We particularly welcome newly-arrived people and other visitors to our Parish.

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>HOLIDAYS</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>		
<b>CONTACT DETAILS</b>		
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		
<a href="mailto:leon.pereira@english.op.org">leon.pereira@english.op.org</a>		
For home visits: 255 3856		