

'The greatest suffering of the Church is the sin of her priests'

WITH these words, the Holy Father began the Year for Priests on the feast of the Sacred Heart, 19 June 2009, set to end 19 June 2010. This Year marks the 150th anniversary of the death of St John Mary Vianney, the patron saint of priests. The Holy Father desires through this that 'all priests may be increasingly strengthened in fidelity to Christ with devout meditation, spiritual exercises and other appropriate actions.'

Especially now, when the whole world has been scandalized by the actions of certain priests with regard to the abuse of children, the Pope's words resonate all the more for us: 'The greatest suffering of the Church is the sin of its priests.' The fact that the majority of paedophiles and child abusers are married men is not the issue. It is utterly scandalous that priests (and brothers and nuns) from whom we might reasonably expect a living icon of the merciful and caring Jesus, have been involved in such deplorable sins against the innocent and vulnerable, who looked to them for care and protection.

And so our Holy Father reminds us that 'The Church needs holy priests, ministers to help the faithful experience the merciful love of the Lord and to be convinced witnesses.' The mission of priests, so necessary for the Church and the world, 'demands complete fidelity to Christ and an incessant union with him; that is to say, it demands that we constantly seek the holiness of St. John Mary Vianney.' The Pope tells us all,

How to forget, regarding this, that nothing makes the Church, Body of Christ, suffer so much as the sins of her shepherds, above all of those who turn into "robbers of sheep" (John 10.1), either because they misguide them with their private doctrines, or because they suffocate them within snares of sin and of death? For us priests, the call to conversion and to recourse to Divine Mercy holds true, and we ought also to present with humility to the Heart of Jesus the request that He preserves us from the terrible risk of harming those whom we are bound to save.

This Year for Priests then is dedicated to sanctifying priests, to strengthen them in their resolve to serve Christ's flock, to pursue in their own lives that holiness 'without which no one can see God' (Hebrews 12.14).

I ask you all therefore, not to get bogged down with distractions about 'oppressive male patriarchies' etc, or remotely to be tempted to feel marginalised by this. That would be as mistaken as thinking Fathers' Day denigrates Mothers' Day. Instead, take this in the way the Holy Father intends – as emphasising what is truly important. We all want to see holy priests. And we priests want to be holy, even if we don't remember it some of the time. To help encourage this, the Church is offering indulgences (more details inside!). Pray for your priests. And as our former Provincial used to say, 'Love your priests!' Treat them as human beings, not as doormats or as demi-gods. Love them and pray for them.

Fr Leon Pereira O.P.

Ss Peter & Paul, Apostles

Year B

28 June 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 Thomas
8:00am	Fr Isidore	Holy Souls	Fr Duncan
9:30am Family	Fr Duncan	Palfreyman family intentions	Fr Leon
11:00am Solemn	Fr Leon	David Perkins, RIP	Fr Duncan
12:30pm Old rite	Fr Thomas	Holy Souls	Fr Thomas
5:00pm Students	– –	No Mass now until next term	– –
7:00pm	Fr Fabian	Anne Downey, RIP	Fr Leon

OTHER SUNDAY SERVICES	6:00pm Rosary	27 June	Confessions	4 July
9:00am Lauds	6:20pm Compline	Fr Duncan	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Thomas
5:45pm Vespers	6:40pm Benediction	Fr isidore	5:00 - 6:00pm	Fr Leon

The 250th anniversary of St Peter's parish in Hinckley, the oldest in the diocese, is being celebrated tomorrow, Monday. There will be celebrations at St Peter's, with Mass at 7pm, and all are invited. Dominicans will be coming from all over the country – come and meet them!

Entrance Antiphon:	<u>Vigil:</u> Peter the apostle and Paul the teacher of the Gentiles brought us to know the law of the Lord. <u>Day:</u> These men, conquering all human frailty, shed their blood and helped the Church to grow. By sharing the cup of the Lord's suffering, they became the friends of God.
1st Reading:	<u>Vigil:</u> Acts 3: 1-10. <u>Day:</u> Acts 12: 1-11.
Psalm Response:	<u>Vigil:</u> Their voice goes out through all the earth (Ps 18). <u>Day:</u> The Lord delivers me from all my fears (Ps 33).
2nd Reading:	<u>Vigil:</u> Galatians 1: 11-20. <u>Day:</u> 2 Timothy 4: 6-8. 17-18.
Alleluia:	<u>Vigil:</u> Lord, you know everything: you know that I love you. <u>Day:</u> You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
Gospel:	<u>Vigil:</u> John 21: 15-19. <u>Day:</u> Matthew 16: 13-19.
Communion Antiphon:	<u>Vigil:</u> Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these? Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you. <u>At 11:00:</u> You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church. <u>Otherwise:</u> Peter said, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus answered, You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £1051.07; SVP £8.05; Friends of Holy Cross £5.94; Holy Souls £15.06; Crib restoration £3.55. Special donation for Crib restoration :£100, for which especial thanks.

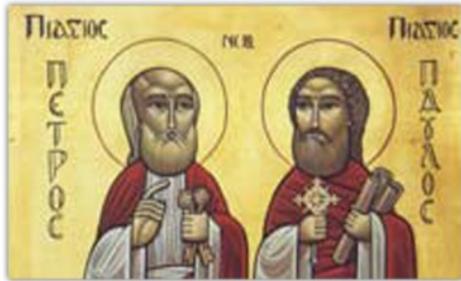
This week there is a retiring collection for Peter's Pence, 'a practical and symbolic expression of the participation of all the faithful in the charitable initiatives of the Bishop of Rome in favour of the universal Church'.

Next week there will be a retiring collection for the Day for Life.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

First Friday Coffee Morning:

This coming Friday, at 10:30am in the Church Hall. Tea & scones or coffee & cake, a chance to chat with other weekday Mass-goers and members of the Community; and, of course, a raffle. Money raised goes towards the care and maintenance of the church fabric. Volunteers welcome.



Ss Peter & Paul - the principal pillars of the Church

A date for your diary. On Sunday 13 September, our patronal feast, the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Bishop Malcolm will preside at the 11:00 Mass, after which he will consecrate our new bells. This will be followed by a Parish Party. More details in due course.

The British Red Cross is in urgent need of food donations to respond to the emergency needs of destitute asylum seekers in Leicester. To help, please leave your gifts after any mass – non perishable goods such as tinned and dried foods are mostly wanted. A full list of items is published in the Newsletter every month. The last time the list appeared was on 7 June, and this may be seen on the website given in the box on the right. Please keep giving generously to support these vulnerable people. Thank you.

Copies of 'The Black Friars', the newsletter of the English Dominican Province (Summer issue), are available by the church doors. Please pick up a copy to keep abreast of everything that's going on in the Province.

Blessed Cyprian Tansi, a monk of Mount St Bernard, who died in the Royal Infirmary in 1964, is one of four saints or *beati* of the Cistercian Order. There is a small card with their details available on the table by the Wellington Street door.

Pilgrimage (walking) to Santiago de Compostela, Spain: simple accommodation, good food, true rest, low cost. 135 miles or join me en route. August 10-24. Contact Angela Bailey (tel: 285 6998) a.s.a.p.

Year 1	The week ahead...	Psalter Week 1
Monday:	Feria	
Tuesday:	The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church	
Wednesday:	St Oliver Plunkett, bishop, martyr	
Thursday:	Feria	
Friday:	ST THOMAS, APOSTLE	
Saturday:	Saturday Mass of Our Lady or St Elizabeth of Portugal, wife and mother, queen, secular tertiary or Bl Peter George Frassati, lay Dominican - all optional	
WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. This week, Fr Thomas will say Mass in the older form on Monday (for the feast of Ss Peter & Paul), Tuesday, Wednesday & 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 - 14 th Sunday <i>per annum</i> . Day for Life. Prayers are recommended for the protection and cherishing of human life. Readings:		
Ezekiel 2: 2-5	1 Corinthians 12: 7-10	Mark 6: 1-6

Indulgences for the Year of Priests (see back page). A Plenary Indulgence is granted to all the faithful (on the first Thursday of the month) who are truly repentant who, in church or in chapel, devoutly attend the divine Sacrifice of Mass and offer prayers to Jesus Christ the Eternal High Priest, for the priests of the Church, and any other good work which they have done on that day, so that He may sanctify them and form them in accordance with His Heart. The Plenary Indulgence will likewise be granted to the elderly, the sick and all those who for any legitimate reason are confined to their homes who, at home or wherever their impediment detains them, provided that they (on the first Thursday of the month) recite prayers for the sanctification of priests and confidently offer the illnesses and hardships of their lives to God through Mary Queen of Apostles. A Partial Indulgence is granted to all the faithful every time they devoutly recite five times the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Glory Be, or another expressly approved prayer, in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to obtain that priests be preserved in purity and holiness of life.

Churches Together in Leicester City Centre will meet here in the Narthex this Thursday at 12:30pm. It will be a service of Catholic Devotion to the Precious Blood. All are welcome.

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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