

JESUS: Teacher or Saviour?

IN Humberstone Gate, opposite Sainsbury's, there is a smallish late-Victorian building, which you might not notice because of all the buses parked beside it. It is the premises of the Leicester Secular Society, the meeting place of those who do not hold to any faith or religion but who think human reason alone can give us all the guidance we need about how we should live our lives. The front of this building is decorated with five small stone busts of eminent men from the past, people who were no doubt respected by members of the Secular Society. The five are Robert Owen, Thomas Paine, Voltaire, Socrates – and Jesus.

Why is Jesus in this group? The other men are champions of reason, teachers of good morals and behaviour, who worked hard to rid the world of ignorance and superstition, as they saw it. Nowadays such a group might include people like Richard Dawkins and Philip Pullman. Presumably the original members of the Secular Society thought about Jesus in much the same way, as an inspired and inspiring teacher, who spoke great wisdom but who suffered persecution and died a tragic death, not unlike Socrates.

Well, we don't think of Jesus quite like that, and I think he seems rather out of place in his little niche along with the others on the façade of the Secular Society. Of course, Jesus did teach, constantly. For example, today's Gospel reading says that Jesus had pity on the crowds because 'they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he set himself to teach them at some length'. And there are all the parables, the Sermon on the Mount and his discussions and arguments with people, all of which record what Jesus taught.

None the less, Jesus is not primarily our Teacher, but our Redeemer, our Saviour. The deepest human need is to be rescued, not just from our ignorance and stupidity, but from sin: from ill will and from evil powers that are stronger than us. When we listen to Jesus, it is not the same as listening to Socrates or Voltaire, hoping for sound thought, good advice and helpful ideas about how to live well and to right wrongs. We will indeed get all this from Jesus; but that is not the heart of Jesus' message. We listen to him to hear words of salvation, to dispose ourselves to receive God's forgiveness and seek the new life he promises us. Jesus' message is Gospel, 'good news', the good news that our imprisonment in sin and evil is finished, that we now have boundless hope, not because we are wise and resourceful, but because God in human flesh has pioneered the way for us to reach what we are unable to reach by our own strength and knowledge: the new heavens and the new earth.

So we come to Mass, not primarily in order to learn something – though hopefully we do gradually learn much, week by week. We come first to express our worship and gratitude because God has chosen us to share in the divine and human life of Jesus, to be 'sons in the Son'. We are able to be by adoption what Christ is by nature, through his death on the cross. All is gift – God's gift which we gratefully accept – not our own achievement.

Fr Fabian OP

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

19 July 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	Irene Olszewska, RIP	Fr Thomas
8:00am	Fr Isidore	Geoffrey Mellor (anniversary)	Fr Isidore
9:30am Family	Fr Duncan	Margaret O'Reilly, RIP	Fr Leon
11:00am Solemn*	Fr Fabian	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Peter
12:30pm Old rite	Fr Thomas	Mrs Caitroina Morrison (intention)	Fr Thomas
5:00pm Students	– –	No Mass now until next term	– –
7:00pm	Fr Fabian	Jonny Finnegan, RIP (anniversary)	Fr Peter

* The choir is on holiday, returning on 16 August, the Feast of the Assumption

OTHER SUNDAY SERVICES	6:00pm Rosary	18 July	Confessions	25 July
9:00am Lauds	6:20pm Compline	Fr Leon	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Thomas
5:45pm Vespers	6:40pm Benediction	Fr Fabian	5:00 - 6:00pm	Fr Duncan

Our new bells will be consecrated by Bishop Malcolm after the 11:00 Mass on Sunday 13 September. The bishop will do this on the roof of Blackfriars Hall, and everyone will be able to see the action on a large screen inside the hall itself. After the consecration, there will be a party for all the parish.

Entrance Antiphon:	God himself is my help. The Lord upholds my life. I will offer you a willing sacrifice. I will praise your name, O Lord, for its goodness.
1st Reading:	Jeremiah 23: 1-6
Psalm Response:	The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. (Ps 23).
2nd Reading:	Ephesians 2: 13-18
Alleluia:	My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; and I know them, and they follow me.
Gospel:	Mark 6: 30-34
Communion Antiphon:	<u>Either</u> – The Lord keeps in our minds the wonderful things he has done. He is compassion and love; he always provides for his faithful. <u>Or</u> – I stand at the door and knock, says the Lord. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and sit down to supper with him, and he with me.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collection – Offertory Collection £1078.93 (previous week £1155.26). Figures for the various boxes in the church will be available next week. Last week's collection for the Apostleship of the Sea came to £345.34, and the previous week's collection for the Day for Life came to £340.50.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

Red Cross Appeal for Refugees & Asylum Seekers. 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: sanitary towels, shaving equipment, toothpaste, tooth brush, soap, moisturiser, shampoo, conditioner, toilet paper;
- ◆ Others: Tin openers, pans, cutlery, towels and sleeping bags.

Please leave these items at any Mass. Thank you.



Today's Gospel: The crowds flock to Jesus.

Brother Graham, whom we welcomed last week, is a clerical student of the English Province based at Oxford, and will be resident with the community at the Priory until the 5th August. He will be working principally with the Leicester Prison Chaplaincy and the chaplaincy team at the Royal Infirmary as well as undertaking some general parish work. Br Graham is also making a pilgrimage from Ely to Walsingham this weekend.

Celebrating New Walk. Two events will be taking place to mark the 40th anniversary of New Walk becoming a conservation area. There is an exhibition at New Walk Museum from 25 July to 24 September. Over 100 students on a wide variety of arts courses have spent several months developing artwork for this exhibition facilitated by local artists and tutors. This includes a group which meets in St Clement's Hall. Each group has produced a collective piece of art for the exhibition and there are individual artworks too – paintings, drawings, and poems. Many of the students are people with learning difficulties. All have been inspired by the architecture, environment, and history of New Walk. And there are 6 guided walks covering different aspects of New Walk during the week 25 July to 1 August. All walks are free and start from New Walk Museum. For more information see the notice board or contact Martin Hyams on 255 6614 or mhyams@wea.org.uk.

Old-Time Music Hall. The Kirby Muxloe Players will be performing from Thursday 6 to Saturday 8 August at 7:30pm in the Village Hall, Kirby Muxloe. Tickets cost £6 (including table seating and service). Ring 07804 435 235.

<i>Year 1</i>	The week ahead...	<i>Psalter Week 4</i>
Monday:	St Apollinaris, bishop, martyr - <i>optional</i>	
Tuesday:	St Lawrence of Brindisi, priest, doctor, religious - <i>optional</i>	
Wednesday:	St Mary Magdalene, disciple, secondary patroness of the Order of Preachers	
Thursday:	ST BRIDGET OF SWEDEN, WIFE AND MOTHER, RELIGIOUS, PATRON OF EUROPE. <i>Prayers are recommended for Europe.</i>	
Friday:	St Sharbel Yūsuf Makhlūf, priest, hermit - <i>optional</i>	
Saturday:	ST JAMES, APOSTLE	
WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. This week, Fr Thomas will say Mass in the older form on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 8:30am. All welcome, especially a server. If you would like to learn to serve this Mass, please contact Fr Thomas.		
Next Sunday – 17th Sunday per annum. Readings:		
2 Kings 4: 42-44	Ephesians 4: 1-6	John 6: 1-15

If you are a teacher, parent or school governor (or concerned other) and would like to make your views on sex education at school known to the Government, please pick up and complete the consultation questionnaire from the tables by the doors. This is our last chance to make a difference – the deadline is this Friday, 24 July.

The Parish Council met during the week and will be reporting to the parish on various building works. They were pleased to note that the new choirstalls and communion rails, and the bells, have been generously donated and have come at no cost to the parish.

Our Lady Queen of Peace – the Annual Pilgrimage to Walsingham will take place on Monday 31 August, led by Fr Danko Perutina, OFM, from the parish of St James, Medjugorje. A coach will go from St Patrick's. Ring 234 0103.

Please join us in the Parish Hall after the 9:30am and 11:00am Sunday Masses for tea, coffee, fruit-juice etc. 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
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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