

Feeding the multitude

TODAY'S Gospel tells us about Jesus miraculously feeding a large crowd. Certainly that was an expression of his compassion for those people who were eager to hear him and were now physically hungry.

Today's Gospel also prepares us to hear Jesus explain that he would nourish us with his word and with his own Body and Blood in the Eucharist. We need this nourishment if we are to share his eternal life. In the Mass. We are nourished by the Scripture readings, the Creed, and, hopefully, the sermon. Our response is to welcome his word with living faith. This prepares us to receive our crucified and risen Lord in Holy Communion.

But as we look at Christ feeding the multitude we realise that God does not do all the work in feeding us. Jesus first asked the disciples where they could buy bread to feed the crowd. Philip realised that they simply didn't have enough money to purchase food for such a large number of people. Although Andrew pointed to a lad who had five barley loaves and two fishes he realised that that would go nowhere in feeding the crowd. Both disciples were convinced that they had insufficient resources to feed the multitude.

But, undaunted, Jesus made the crowd sit down and prepare to be fed. He then told the disciples to distribute the little food, which the lad had. Miraculously, that proved to be more than sufficient for everyone.

Inevitably we ask, 'Why doesn't God always miraculously feed the starving people of the world?' His answer is to throw the question back at us. He asks us 'Why don't we come to their aid?' God usually provides for our needs and answers our prayers by working through our efforts. He gives us the strength and skill to develop the resources of the fertile world he has created.

Today's Gospel shows the disciples distributing the food that was already available – the boy's loaves and fishes. With these he fed the crowd. That's telling us something very important. Usually, instead of performing miracles to solve our problems, Jesus expects those of us who have to share with those who have not. This is much more than social justice in giving welfare aid. It's a question of practical love for our brothers and sisters in their need. Using our resources also means using our skills to enable people to have the dignity of being able to provide for themselves and become involved in international trade.

There are many ways of looking at today's Gospel. When Jesus fed the hungry crowd that was a sign of his compassion. At a deeper level this miracle foreshadowed his nourishing us with his teaching and his own Body and Blood. But today's Gospel incident also reminds us that God answers our prayer for our daily bread by enabling us to share and develop the resources he has already given us.

Fr Isidore O.P.

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

26 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 Thomas	Annie Downey, RIP	Fr Isidore
8:00am	Fr Isidore	Relatives & friends of Ashberry family, RIP	Fr Duncan
9:30am Family	Fr Leon	Francis & Rose Hare, RIP	Fr Peter
11:00am Solemn*	Fr Peter	Felix, David & Juliana Suzette François, RIP	Fr Leon
12:30pm Old rite	Fr Thomas	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Thomas
5:00pm Students	— —	No Mass now until next term	— —
7:00pm	Fr Peter	In honour of St Joachim & St Anne	Fr Leon

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

OTHER SUNDAY SERVICES	6:00pm Rosary	25 July	Confessions	1 August
9:00am Lauds	6:20pm Compline	Fr Thomas	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Duncan
5:45pm Vespers	6:40pm Benediction	Fr Duncan	5:00 - 6:00pm	Fr Peter

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 is in his holy dwelling; he will give a home to the lonely, he gives power and strength to his people.
1st Reading:	2 Kings 4: 42-44
Psalms Response:	You open your hand, Lord, and you satisfy us. (Ps 145).
2nd Reading:	Ephesians 4: 1-6
Alleluia:	A great prophet has arisen among us, and God has visited his people.
Gospel:	John 6: 1-15
Communion Antiphon:	<u>Either</u> – O, bless the Lord, my soul, and remember all his kindness. <u>Or</u> – Happy are those who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs. Happy are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £953.40. Over the last three weeks – SVP £44.13; Friends of Holy Cross £31.74; Holy Souls £14.70; Crib restoration £14.50.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

If you would like to join the growing and enthusiastic band of pro-life Christians based here please do get in touch! We meet every six weeks or so at Blackfriars Hall at 7pm on a Tuesday. Past events include coffee mornings, a street collection and a candle-lit Prayer Procession. Our keynote event of the year will be a half-day conference in September on end-of-life issues. We're a range of ages and professions and would be thrilled to welcome you to our group. For more info please contact Sica on 0775 88 44 918.

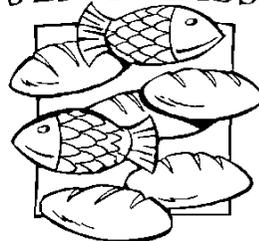
Noticeboards are situated in the New Walk and Wellington Street entrances and at the back of the church in the Narthex. If you don't see what you are looking for, please check the other boards.

Calling All Golfers - Your help is required! The SVP National Golf Day will take place on Thursday 10th September at the magnificent Kilworth Springs Golf Course at Lutterworth. All proceeds will go to support the St Vincent de Paul Society and Conferences in helping the vulnerable and disadvantaged. More and more individuals and families in need are turning to the SVP Conferences nationwide for help during this current recession and all funds and donations raised at the golf day will go towards helping the poor. Non golfers who wish to join us for dinner are also welcome and can join in the Tombola and Auctions during the evening. For bookings forms and more information, please contact Richard Hanna richardhanna1@hotmail.co.uk, or 0793 851 9203; or Terry Joyce teljoy1@aol.com.

Ride & Stride. This year's sponsored ride and walk, visiting the churches of Leicestershire, will take place on Saturday 12 September. Please make a note in your diary now! Sponsorship forms will be available nearer the time. Money raised goes jointly to Holy Cross and the Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust. You may recall that we recently received a grant of £500 from the Trust towards the restoration of our Christmas crib figures.

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 19 July, and this may be seen on the noticeboard and the Newsletter on the website given in the box on the right. Please keep giving generously to support these vulnerable people. Thank you.

JESUS FEEDS



5,000

Today's Gospel

Year I	The week ahead...	Psalter Week 1
Monday:	Bl Robert Nutter, friar, priest, martyr	
Tuesday:	Feria	
Wednesday:	St Martha, disciple	
Thursday:	St Peter Chrysologus, bishop, doctor - <i>optional</i>	
Friday:	St Ignatius of Loyola, priest, religious	
Saturday:	St Alphonsus Mary Liguori, bishop, doctor, religious	
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.		
Next Sunday – 18th Sunday per annum. Readings:		
Exodus 16: 2-4. 12-15	Ephesians 4: 17.20-04	John 6: 24-35

Holistic Care Towards the End of Life. There will be a half-day conference on Saturday 26 September from 1:30pm at St Thomas More's, Knighton. The afternoon includes speakers from Rainbows Children's Hospice, LOROS and others. Entrance is free, but places must be booked in advance. Ring Sica on 07758 844918 or Catherine on 07814 153560; also see noticeboard.

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 until 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 this week. 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.

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