

After almost twenty years away, I've had the opportunity to visit my home country of South Africa twice this year. Both have been difficult in various ways, and both have also been eye-opening.

When I left South Africa, it laboured under the awful regime of Apartheid, with the largest part of the country's population kept out by law from government and from the best the country had to offer. A scared white minority clung onto power and enjoyed a prosperity they denied to others.

It might seem that white South Africans in those days had it good, but they didn't really benefit from the situation. There were all sorts of indicators that the society was diseased. South Africa was, for example, the worst place in the world for "family suicides" where one family member – usually, but not always, the father – kills the rest of the family and then himself. My father remembers, when we landed in Heathrow to begin our life in Britain, feeling like a weight had lifted from his shoulders. The reason for that terrible sense of tension in people who seemed to have it all is simple. They had no real hope, only a fear that one day their privileged position would be taken from them.

South Africa today is still a very troubled place. The biggest spectre which haunts South African society and threatens to destroy so much that is good there is AIDS. By some estimates, more than a third of the population is HIV positive. One of my friends told me that of the 30-odd people in her class when she finished school, only eight are still alive.

Crime is a terrible problem in some areas. It's not all that hard to see why. Some parts of the country are desperately poor, with more than 70% unemployment. I found it painful to see that when we put out rubbish out for collection, groups of men would sift through it, looking for scraps of food or things that they could use or sell.

It's still a politically volatile place, too. Every night on the television, another demonstration or strike would be reported. That might make other people feel really unsettled. To me, though, it was a sign of something much more positive. Yes, the people were unhappy, and they didn't always demonstrate peacefully. But they showed something that white South Africa never knew, and that I rarely see in Britain either. They have hope.

Hope is an extremely uncomfortable virtue. True hope doesn't make you contented with your current lot. On the contrary, hope is about a sense that things should be different, that this world is not the just and loving place it should be, along with the trust in God that He will transform things, make all things new. Hope, then, is the virtue of the person who hungers and thirsts after justice, knowing that that hunger, that thirst, will be satisfied.

So the impressive thing that I found in South Africa, that I always found there once I escaped from the little "whites only" bubble that most South Africans lived in when I was growing up, is that the people have a great sense of hope. They may have all kinds of troubles, but they believe that things can be different, that justice and right can be achieved with God's help.

The United Kingdom may be a far less troubled society, but it is a long way from being a truly just one. What is sad is that people have so little hope. I'm not saying I'd like to see demonstrations in Leicester on the BBC news every night, but we could all do with being more aware of the troubles in our city and in our country, and being more passionate about doing something about them. God will transform Leicester too!

Fr. Peter Hunter OP

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

2 August 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 Isidore	Annie Downey RIP	Fr Peter
8:00am	Fr Duncan	Evelyn Dixon, RIP	Fr Fabian
9:30am Family	Fr Peter	Mary Cross, RIP	Fr Peter
11:00am Solemn*	Fr Leon	Anne Potterton (sick)	Fr Fabian
12:30pm Old rite	Fr Thomas	Holy Souls	Fr Peter
5:00pm Students	— —	No Mass now until next term	— —
7:00pm	Fr Leon	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Isidore

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

OTHER SUNDAY SERVICES	6:00pm	1 August	Confessions	8 August
9:00am Lauds	Rosary	Fr Duncan	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Peter
5:45pm Vespers	Compline	Fr Peter	5:00 - 6:00pm	Fr Isidore
	Benediction			

Please pray for the Pope's intentions this month. *General:* That public opinion may be more aware of the problem of millions of displaced persons and refugees and that concrete solutions may be found for their often tragic situation. *Mission:* That those Christians who are discriminated against and persecuted in many countries because of the name of Christ may have their human rights, equality and religious freedom recognized, in order to be able to live and profess their own faith freely.

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, come to my help. Lord, quickly give me assistance. You are the one who helps me and sets me free: Lord, do not be long in coming.
1st Reading:	Exodus 16: 2-4. 12-15
Psalm Response:	The Lord gave them the bread of heaven. (Ps 78).
2nd Reading:	Ephesians 4: 17.20-24
Alleluia:	Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.
Gospel:	John 6: 24-35
Communion Antiphon:	<u>Either</u> – You gave us bread from heaven, Lord: a sweet-tasting bread that was very good to eat. <u>Or</u> – The Lord says: I am the bread of life. A man who comes to me will not go away hungry, and no one who believes in me will thirst.

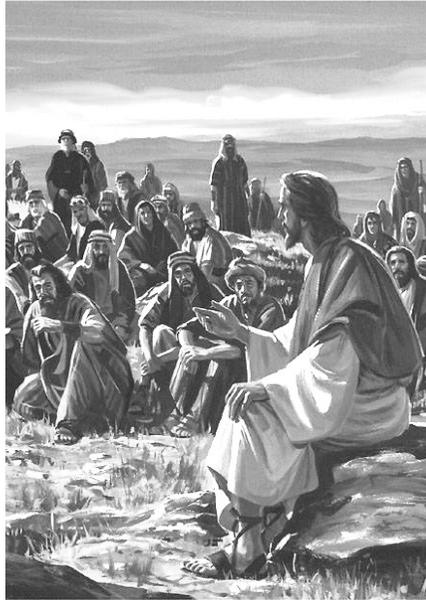
MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £1029.41. Over the last three weeks – SVP £28.39; Friends of Holy Cross £9.74; Holy Souls £6.88; Crib restoration £4.22.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

Agape in a time of Swine Flu: To reduce the risk of spreading infections,

1. Please stay at home if you have flu-like symptoms;
2. The chalice will not be offered to non-celebrants;
3. Shaking hands at the sign of peace is suspended.

These measures will remain only for the time being. Do please note that you receive the whole Christ - Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity - when you receive the Host alone. So remember to wash your hands, and also wash your souls with Confession. That advice applies even when there's no Swine Flu.



Today's Gospel

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. More volunteers would be appreciated.

Being busy on a Sunday morning with Mass, we friars would appreciate volunteers to cook lunch for us on Sundays. It needn't be anything fancy, all the ingredients are provided, and your turn wouldn't come round more than once a month. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Fr Peter (Tel. 252 1512).

Churches Together in Leicester City Centre will meet at St Margaret's Church of England this Thursday at 12:30pm. All are welcome.

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.

The Dowry of Mary – a pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, on Sunday 6th September, to celebrate the truly universal character of the Church in England. Please see noticeboard.

A Rosary Rally to pray for world peace and the young people of our diocese will take place on Sunday, 16th August. Please see noticeboard or call (01530) 834446.

Pilgrimage to the Oberammergau Passion play from 24th - 31st July 2010 led by Fr James Cahill. See noticeboard for more information or call 0116 279 2198.

Year 1	The week ahead...	Psalter Week 2
Monday:	Feria	
Tuesday:	St John Mary Vianney, priest	
Wednesday:	The Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major	
Thursday:	THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD	
Friday:	SS Xystus II, pope, and Companions, martyrs & St Cajetan, priest - <i>both optional</i>	
Saturday:	Our Apostolic Father St Dominic, friar, priest	
WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. This week, Fr Thomas will say Mass in the older form on Monday and Thursday at 8:30am, and on Tuesday at 7:30pm. The Mass on Tuesday will be a Sung Mass, for the feast of St Dominic. All welcome, especially a server. If you would like to learn to serve this Mass, please contact Fr Thomas.		
Next Sunday – 19th Sunday per annum. Readings:		
1 Kings 19: 4-8	Ephesians 4: 30 - 5: 2	John 6: 41-51

Calling All Golfers – 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.** 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.

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.

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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Parish Priest:	
Fr Leon Pereira: 252 1501	
leon.pereira@english.op.org	
For home visits: 255 3856	