

The evil of assisted suicide

Recent weeks have brought a spate of news reports about 'assisted suicide'. We have heard of an old man who took his sick wife to Switzerland so that both might kill themselves; of another woman who wants English law to give her husband the right to have her killed when she asks. And we have seen certain organs of the media, not knowing what spirit they are of, seek to turn such isolated events into a widespread desire for 'the right to die'. So it may be opportune to recall the teaching of natural law and revelation on the ending of human life.

No private person may seek to take another's life. All alike made in the image of God, we do not have such authority over one another (the State may by capital punishment take the life of a gravely guilty criminal: but it must then take great pains to secure the salvation of his soul. It may also commission men to fight in a just war, though it must not encourage hatred of an enemy.)

Nor may any person take his own life. That is a sin first of all against oneself. If it is foolish to mutilate oneself by cutting off an arm or leg, how much more to cut one's very substance in two, severing flesh and spirit? It is a sin, next, against society. There is no such thing as a 'useless member of society', since whatever our condition, we can benefit our neighbour. A person confined to bed by sickness brings down graces upon those around him, if he can abandon himself to God's will; a person in a coma is offering to others the occasion of growing in likeness to Christ, by serving him in love.

And suicide is a sin, finally, against God Himself; for just as God created our soul from nothing, so He alone may command it to go forth from our body. The Lord gives death and he gives life, said Anna the mother of Samuel, more than three thousand years ago. The Gentiles, at their best, understood this, when they compared the man who takes his own life to the soldier who deserts the post where his lord has placed him.

Therefore no one may aid another to take his own life. This is a double sin: murder, since one would be killing another human being; and formal participation in suicide. Still worse would be the sin if the one killed were father or mother. Parricide and matricide were crimes that made the very pagans shudder.

We know that God's mercy can reach even those who brought about their own death but repented before the very moment of dying; or those who took their own lives while not of sound mind. But of itself, suicide is an act that separates a soul from God, and forever. To encourage or enable another to commit suicide is thus akin to an act of hatred, even if it should dress itself as an act of love.

We need to use supernatural means to resist this evil, to make life prevail over death: prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, the rosary, acts of penance. If you haven't started yet, start now – tomorrow may be too late.

Fr Thomas O.P.

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

9 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 Peter	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Isidore
8:00am	Fr Fabian	Relatives & friends of Ashberry family, RIP	Fr Isidore
9:30am Family	Fr Peter	Nancy Martin, RIP	Fr Fabian
11:00am Solemn*	Fr Fabian	Anne Potterton (sick)	Fr Leon
12:30pm Old rite	– –	– –	Fr Thomas
5:00pm Students	– –	No Mass now until next term	– –
7:00pm	Fr Isidore	Jimmy Moran, RIP	Fr Duncan

* The choir is on holiday, returning next Sunday, the Solemnity of the Assumption

OTHER SUNDAY SERVICES	6:00pm Rosary	8 August	Confessions	15 August
9:00am Lauds	6:20pm Compline	Fr Peter	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Leon
5:45pm Vespers	6:40pm Benediction	Fr Isidore	5:00 - 6:00pm	Fr Fabian

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.

St. Thérèse of Lisieux's relics arrive at Nottingham Cathedral on Monday 5 October. A coach will leave from Holy Cross. For more information please contact Kath on 234 0103.

Entrance Antiphon:	Lord, be true to your covenant, forget not the life of your poor ones for ever. Rise up, O God, and defend your cause; do not ignore the shouts of your enemies.
1 st Reading:	1 Kings 19: 4-8
Psalm Response:	O taste and see that the Lord is good! (Ps 34).
2 nd Reading:	Ephesians 4: 30 - 5: 2
Alleluia:	I am the living bread which came down from heaven, says the Lord; if any one eats of this bread, he will live for ever.
Gospel:	John 6: 41-51
Communion Antiphon:	<u>Either</u> – Praise the Lord, Jerusalem; he feeds you with the finest wheat. <u>Or</u> – The bread I shall give is my flesh for the life of the world, says the Lord

MONEY MATTERS: There are no figures yet available for last week's collections. Details next week.

200 Club. Last month's winners were: 53, K. Carney £150; 181, W. Andrade £100; and 70, A. E. Collins £50. Congratulations!

Next week there will be a retiring collection for the Diocesan Quota.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

Communion 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.



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).

Vandals, Visigoths and other barbarians – The church has been vandalised three times in as many days this past week. The most serious damage has been to the heavy bronze crucifix above the tabernacle, which is now severely bent, and the corpus is left hanging by one nail. The CTS money box was also wrenched from its moorings. The police have been and found one of the culprits, but please keep a vigilant eye when in church or even immediately outside. If you see anything untoward, please let the friars or Tim (in the hall) know. This does mean that among our re-building priorities, security cameras now take pole position.

First Holy Communion / Confirmation Preparation – Our classes in preparation for these sacraments for children (approximately 7-9 years for First Holy Communion; and 12-14 years for Confirmation) are set to begin in the autumn, conducted by Sr Angela Leydon OP. Please take an application form from the sacristy and return it (completed!) to Fr Leon before October. More details soon.

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.

Year 1	The week ahead...	Psalter Week 3	
Monday:	ST LAWRENCE, DEACON, MARTYR		
Tuesday:	St Clare, virgin, religious		
Wednesday:	St Jane Frances de Chantal, wife and mother, religious – <i>optional</i>		
Thursday:	SS Pontianus, pope, and Hippolytus, priest, martyrs – <i>optional</i>		
Friday:	St Maximilian Mary Kolbe, priest, religious, martyr		
Saturday:	Saturday Mass of Our Lady – <i>optional</i>		
<p>WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. This week, Fr Thomas will say Mass in the older form on Tuesday and Friday at 8:30am, and on Saturday, for the feast of the Assumption, at 8:15am. All welcome, especially a server. If you would like to learn to serve this Mass, please contact Fr Thomas.</p>			
<p>Next Sunday – The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Readings:</p>			
Vigil:	1 Chr 15: 3-4, 15-16; 16: 1-2	1 Cor 15: 54b-57	Luk 11: 27-28
Day:	Rev 11:19a; 12: 1-6a; 10	1 Cor 15: 20-27	Luk 1: 39-56

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.

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.

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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