

Lifting up the Cross

HERE'S only one reason Holy Cross Church is called 'Holy Cross'. It's because we have a relic of the True Cross. There are a number of churches that claim to have relics of the True Cross of Jesus, and we happen to be one of them. Even the container of our relic (the reliquary) is very old, and the fragment that has come down to us over the centuries is an unusually large piece. Because of this relic (still in our possession), Philip Howard OP established in 1657 the first English Dominican priory after the Reformation in Belgium, and named it 'Holy Cross Priory'. After the French Revolution, Holy Cross Priory was relocated to Leicester.

More recently, Rationalists have sought to rubbish such claims as relics, saying – in the case of the True Cross fragments – that all of these slivers of the True Cross put together would amount to something the size of Noah's Ark. It may be an amusing surmise, but is it true? In fact, all the known fragments of the True Cross make up only 2.25% of the total volume estimated of the vertical beam of the cross alone. That leaves 97.75% still unaccounted for! No grounds for mockery at all.

The fragments and slivers of the True Cross most likely go back to the cross found by the Empress Helena, early in the fourth century. Here as well, there are good reasons to believe that the cross she uncovered was the genuine article. The site of the crucifixion had been desecrated by the Romans who built a pagan temple over it, inadvertently preserving the scene of the crucifixion with the *stauroi* (vertical section of the cross) in a pit on Golgotha. In the end, the question of the authenticity of the True Cross is epistemological. How do we know anything at all? What amounts to *sufficient* evidence?

More importantly, relics remind us of the important fact: that Jesus Christ was crucified. Jesus was himself under no illusions about what the crucifixion would involve. *The Son of man will be delivered to the Gentiles, and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon; they will scourge him and kill him, and on the third day he will rise.* Yet that is not the full story. We heard in the Gospel, 'when I am lifted up I will draw all men to myself'. The lifting up of Jesus on the cross is not a mere hoisting. The word in Greek doesn't simply mean 'to lift up' but 'to raise in exaltation'.

The Cross is a *throne* for the Son of God, not raised in shame but in glory. What draws all men to the Cross is something beautiful, not something repulsive. Jesus-crucified is the King of Glory, as he says elsewhere, *When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I Am.*

In the Cross we see the Father's love for the Son, breathed down in the Holy Spirit, and the Son's total offering of himself to the Father in that same Spirit. When we kiss the relics of the True Cross we say our 'Amen' to that love, that we too wish to be part of that love, the greatest love the world ever has and ever will know, for there is nothing greater than the Love that was crucified for us.

Fr Leon Kuriakos Pereira, O.P.

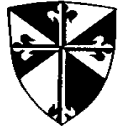
The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Year B

13 September 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	Irene Olszewska, RIP	Fr Isidore
8:00am	Fr Duncan	Relatives & friends of Ashberry family, RIP	Fr Isidore
9:30am Family	Fr Leon	Holy Souls	Fr Duncan
11:00am Solemn	Bp Malcolm	Holy Souls	Fr Fabian
12:30pm Old rite	Fr Thomas	Holy Souls	Fr Thomas
5:00pm Students	— —	No Mass now until new term (11 October)	— —
7:00pm	Fr Duncan	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Duncan

OTHER SUNDAY SERVICES	6:00pm Rosary	12 September	Confessions	19 September
9:00am Lauds	6:20pm Compline	Fr Thomas	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Thomas
5:45pm Vespers	6:40pm Benediction	Fr Duncan	5:00 - 6:00pm	Fr Peter

After the 11.00 Mass today, Bishop Malcolm will consecrate the new bells. You are invited to view the ceremony on a large screen in Blackfriars Hall, and afterwards to stay for the Parish Party.

Entrance Antiphon:	We should glory in the cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ, for he is our salvation, our life and our resurrection; through him we are saved and made free.
1st Reading:	Numbers 21: 4-9
Psalm Response:	Do not forget the works of the Lord! (Ps 78)
2nd Reading:	Philippians 2: 6-11
Alleluia:	We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you because by your Cross you have redeemed the world. <u>At 11:00</u> – O precious wood, O precious nails, bearing so precious a weight; you were uniquely honoured in supporting the Lord and King of heaven.
Gospel:	John 3: 13-17
Communion Antiphon:	<u>At 11:00</u> – O God, by the sign of the cross, save us from our enemies. <u>Otherwise</u> – When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men to myself, says the Lord.

MONEY MATTERS: The figure for last weekend's collections and the previous weekend's Offertory Collection will be available next week.

This week there will be a retiring collection for the McNabb appeal.

WARNING. There have been attempts made to steal people's belongings at weekday Masses. Please keep your belongings with you at all Masses. If you see anything suspicious, alert the priest or servers immediately, even during Mass.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

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, Prostate Cancer Care and others. Entrance is free, but places must be booked in advance. ALL WELCOME! Ring Sica on 07758 844918 or email holistic1care@googlemail.com

Divine Mercy Day at Westminster Cathedral – Mass, talks, Holy Hour, Benediction, Confessions and healing service, on Saturday 19 September. There will be a coach going from Leicester (only £10). There are still some seats available on the coach. Please book now with Mary Sage (210 2025 or 0773 649 7834) or Mary Cosgrove (291 2103). Details are on the noticeboard in the Wellington St porch.

Two topical talks at St Philip's Church, Evington Road: 'Our One World Future', Sir Peter Soulsby, tomorrow, Monday; and 'Where Next for Christian Faith?', Professor John Hull on Monday 21 September. Both 7:30pm.

Last week's insert on the Holy Cross SVP Conference. We hope this has inspired you to think about assisting the SVP. Please do contact Rosi Leivas on 07542 904154.

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.

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.

Handel and Leicestershire: talk by Professor Patrick Boylan, a member of our choir. The talk, with musical illustrations including David Cowen on the organ, and in the 250th anniversary year of Handel's death, marks the first ever performance of Handel's *Messiah* in a church: St Peter's Parish Church, Church Langton, near Market Harborough, in 1759. Admission free: collection by Rotary Club of Leicester for the Rotary Foundation's Polio Plus campaign to achieve the final eradication of polio throughout the world, and for the church. Saturday 19 September at 7pm at Church Langton Parish Church.



The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Year I	The week ahead...	Psalter Week 4
Monday:	Feria	
Tuesday:	Our Lady of Sorrows. There will an extra (sung) Mass, in the older form, at 7.30pm	
Wednesday:	SS Cornelius, pope, and Cyprian, bishop, martyrs	
Thursday:	St Robert Bellarmine, bishop, doctor	
Friday:	St John Macías, friar	
Saturday:	Saturday Mass of Our Lady or St Januarius, bishop, martyr or St Theodore of Tarsus, bishop - <i>all optional</i>	
WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. This week, Fr Thomas will say Mass in the older form on Tuesday at 7:30pm. All welcome, especially a server. If you would like to learn to serve this Mass, please contact Fr Thomas.		
Next Sunday – 25th Sunday per annum. Readings:		
Wisdom 2: 12.17-20	James 3:16-4:3	Mark 9:30-37

Light Bearers Ministries UK APPEAL. We are URGENTLY in need of Bibles, Rosaries and donations to send both spiritual and material resources to those in need around the world. We are also in need of baby clothes in good condition, sachets of Calpol, Ibuprofen, melts, Karvol, ear drops, eye drops and children's plasters to send to an orphanage in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. These are items they can't get hold of easily. Please contact Jessica Pandya on 0784 727 9141 OR email; jessielightbearer@hotmail.co.uk or visit our website www.light-bearers-ministries.webs.com – Come And See How You Can Help... Thank you for your prayerful support and generosity.

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 may be seen on the noticeboard and in the Newsletter (23 August) on the website given in the box on the right. Please keep giving generously to support these vulnerable people. Thank you.

First Holy Communion / Confirmation Preparation – Our classes in preparation for these sacraments for children (approximately years 7-9 for First Holy Communion; and years 12-14 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.

<p>REGULAR SERVICE TIMES</p> <p>MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS</p> <p>8.00 Lauds 10.00 Mass 12.30 Mass 17.45 Vespers</p> <p>Old Rite Masses as announced. The church is open from 8.00 to 15.30 (winter) / 16.00 (summer)</p> <p>WEDNESDAYS</p> <p>10.30 Exposition until 12.30 11.45 Divine Mercy Chaplet, Rosary & Benediction</p> <p>SATURDAYS</p> <p>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.</p> <p>HOLIDAYS</p> <p>18.00 (previous day) Vigil Mass 8.00 Lauds 10.00 Mass 12.30 Mass 17.45 Vespers 19.00 Mass</p> <p>BANK HOLIDAYS</p> <p>8.00 Lauds 10.00 Mass, after which the church is closed</p> <p>SUNDAYS</p> <p>8.00 Mass 9.00 Lauds 9.30 Mass (Family) 11.00 Mass (Solemn: Latin on 2nd, 4th and 5th 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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Website for past Newsletters: holycrosschoirleicester.co.uk</p> <p>CONTACT DETAILS</p> <p>Holy Cross Priory 45 Wellington Street, LE1 6HW Priory phone: (0116) 255 3856</p> <p>Fax/recorded times of services: 255 5552</p> <p>Parish Priest: Fr Leon Pereira: 252 1501 leon.pereira@english.op.org</p> <p>For home visits: 255 3856</p>
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