

PRAYING FOR THINGS

FROM today's second reading we get a pretty bad picture of the people to whom St James was writing. He says they have conflicts and disputes arising from their cravings, and they covet things so much that they are prepared even to murder to get them. It sounds like a thoroughly dysfunctional group.

Then he goes on to challenge them: Why are you like this? And he gives his own answer: You crave for something which you cannot get; but you do not pray for it. Or if you do, you are praying simply to satisfy your own selfish desires. In other words, he is saying that the whole situation is totally self-centred.

Now, we all take it for granted that that we can pray for particular things; and sometimes we do ask God for something that is just for our personal advantage. In that case especially we know we should follow Jesus' example and add: 'Nevertheless, not my will but thine be done'. But there are real problems about praying. For example, a child has cancer, and although we pray earnestly for healing the child dies. And we have a further problem: how can God answer our prayers when they conflict with the welfare of others? You want sunshine for your holiday but the farmer wants rain for his crops. What are we really doing when we pray for something?

It would be naïve to think that we pray in order to make God give us what we want, even to change his mind. A child's pleading may cause a parent to relent, and God is our Father; so it is tempting to think that as we are his children we can persuade him in the same way. But no; God is not like that. He is the cause of everything, and we are only a very tiny part of his creation. Is it the case, then, that God's will is fixed, and there is nothing we can do about it? If so, what's the point of praying?

Everything comes under the providence of God. That means he not only wills whatever happens, but he also wills the causes of things, the means by which they will happen. And that covers all kinds of human activities, including our prayer. So we don't pray in order to change God's arrangements; we pray in order to receive from Him the things he wills should come to us through our prayers. He uses our prayers as one way in which his will is done.

It also means that when we pray it is we who are being changed, not God. When we say: 'Thy Kingdom come', we are not urging God to get on with the job, while we sit and do nothing. We are asking God to bring in his Kingdom by means of our prayers, and by our changed lives. By praying, we come more and more to fit in with his loving will, which embraces everything, even our failure, disaster and sin, and draws it all into his blissful life.

Fr Fabian OP

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

20 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 Isidore	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Peter
8:00am	Fr Isidore	Cahal Furey (ill)	Fr Isidore
9:30am Family	Fr Duncan	Veronica Kearney (sick)	Fr Fabian
11:00am Solemn	Fr Fabian	Anne Potterton (sick)	Fr Leon
12:30pm Old rite	Fr Thomas	Fr Elie-Pascal Épinoux, OP (RIP)	Fr Thomas
5:00pm Students	— —	No Mass now until new term (4 October)	— —
7:00pm	Fr Duncan	German Guerrero & Elvia Arango, RIP	Fr Fabian

OTHER SUNDAY SERVICES	19 September	Confessions	26 September
6:00pm Rosary	Fr Thomas	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Duncan
9:00am Lauds	Fr Peter	5:00 - 6:00pm	Fr Isidore
6:20pm Compline			
6:40pm Benediction			

Bishop Malcolm was delighted by the state of the church, the parish, and the priory on his recent visit to us. If this were a school inspection, we would have got an 'outstanding' in each category. So well done to the many well-wishers and helpers who have made it so! The bishop was particularly delighted with the bells, and the way the church looks now, as he pointed out, 'Looking more like it used, in the days when it was beautiful.' The *new pulpit*, a gift from two parishioners, is now located at the site the bishop himself chose for it. Once it is spruced up we can start using it, as befits the proclamation of the Word of God.

Entrance Antiphon:	I am the Saviour of all people, says the Lord. Whatever their troubles, I will answer their cry, and I will always be their Lord.
1st Reading:	Wisdom 2: 12.17-20
Psalm Response:	Behold, the Lord is the upholder of my life. (Ps 54)
2nd Reading:	James 3:16-4:3
Alleluia:	<u>At 11:00</u> – Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. <u>Otherwise</u> – God has called us through the Gospel, to obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Gospel:	Mark 9:30-37
Communion Antiphon:	<u>Either</u> – You have laid down your precepts to be faithfully kept. May my footsteps be firm in keeping your commands. <u>Or (but not at 11:00)</u> – I am the Good Shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep and mine know me.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £1326.15 (previous week £964.93). For the last two weeks – SVP £33.07; Friends of Holy Cross £11.42; Holy Souls £6.02; Crib restoration £6.92. Last week's collection for the McNabb Appeal came to £311.97. The First Friday Coffee Morning proceeds came to £19.00.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

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.

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



Today's Gospel: Jesus teaches His disciples.

Ride & Stride. Many thanks to all those who took part. Please return your sponsor forms and sponsorship money to Fr Leon.

A topical talk at St Philip's Church, Evington Road: 'Where Next for Christian Faith?', Professor John Hull tomorrow, Monday at 7:30pm.

Volunteers needed. The Holy Cross SVP Conference is looking for volunteers to join its group within the Parish. The SVP work consists of visiting the elderly and providing practical help to the homeless and asylum seekers. If you would like to join the conference or get further information, please contact Rosi Leivas on 07542 904154 or by email rosi.leivas@o2.co.uk or visit www.svp.org.uk.

A huge THANK YOU to all who helped make the *parish party* such a success! Amanda Burrell, Jeff and Suzanne Henry and helpers from the 9:30 Mass for preparing a wonderful spread; Tim Challoner for organising all the wine, most of it donated by Hugh Murphy; and the many helpers who stayed behind to clear up the hall. Thanks to Dorothy Yates and Stephen Dowell for decorating the church so beautifully with flowers. Thanks also to the parish councillors who helped in so many ways, and launched their initiative, the McNabb Appeal. Thank you also to the church cleaners and the servers. And to anyone else we may have accidentally overlooked, thank you so much!

Some dates for your diary. At *Holy Cross Centre*: Saturday 24 October Race Night in aid of the Leicester Catholic Chaplaincy Association – supporting the work of the chaplaincy of both universities; and on Sunday 6 December Parish pre-Christmas lunch party. At *the Y Theatre*: Saturday 28 November Kaine Festival of Gospel Music. Holy Cross Gospel Choir will feature...

Year 1	The week ahead...	Psalter Week 1
Monday:	ST MATTHEW, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST	
Tuesday:	Feria	
Wednesday:	St Pius of Pietrelcina, priest, religious	
Thursday:	Our Lady of Walsingham	
Friday:	Feria	
Saturday:	Saturday Mass of Our Lady or SS Cosmas and Damian, laymen, martyrs - <i>both optional</i>	
WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. This week, Fr Thomas will say Mass in the older form on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & 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 – 26th Sunday per annum. Harvest Sunday. Prayers are recommended for the harvest, all fruits of human work, and the reverent use of creation. Readings:		
Numbers 11: 25-29	James 5: 1-6	Mark 9: 38-43.45.47-48

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

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.

Room to rent in Humberstone area. Car park space available. 10 minutes from city centre. Contact Sharon on 0796 333 5367 or email colaco_sharon@yahoo.com.

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.

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