

Marriage

THE first book of Sacred Scripture tells us of the origin of many things: musical instruments, cities, slavery, vine-growing. All these began after the Fall of man, to ease or exacerbate our human condition. Only one human thing do we find already established in Eden: marriage. This was made before sin ever came into the world, when our first parents walked with God and were unashamed.

Marriage was made 'from the beginning', as our Lord tells the Pharisees, when God cast the man into a deep sleep and formed Eve from his side 'to be a help like unto himself'. Its properties and laws are God-made, not man-made. Those people today who would 're-define' marriage might as well try to re-define water, or the air.

Christ, when he came on earth as man, sought out the work he had done in the beginning with the Father and the Holy Spirit. And as an old painting may recover its original, vivid colours under the skilled hand of a art restorer, so Christ's words returned marriage to its pristine state: a union until death of one man with one woman.

He also gave marriage a new and supernatural value. Between Christians, matrimony is a sacrament. Provided those who enter upon it are in a state of grace, they are sanctified simply by exchanging their vows in God's presence. As they go through life, they will also be offered the actual graces needed to fulfil the obligations of marriage, great and small.

Holy Scripture speaks in many places about these obligations. Here, for example, is St Paul: 'Husbands, love your wives, as Christ also loved the Church, and delivered himself up for her'. And again, 'Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord'. Or again (though to all Christians), 'Outdo one another in showing honour'. All these inspired words form part of the New Testament, which can never grow old.

We pray, and rightly, for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. We should also pray, I believe, for 'vocations' to the sacrament of matrimony. The Bible shows us that prayer can produce marriages. In the Book of Tobit, 'the holy angel of the Lord, Raphael', is sent in answer to Sarah's prayer and makes a match between her and Tobias (Tob. 3). It's not just aspiring spouses or parents-in-law who should pray for happy unions. Without Christian marriage, there can be no Christian civilisation; and without Christian civilisation, the road to heaven for all of us becomes rougher and more drear.

So during October, the month of the rosary, spare a decade or even a whole chaplet for the intention of happy and holy marriages. Please pray in particular for those in this parish who are preparing to enter the marital state. Ask God to bless them with the three great 'goods' of marriage: children, mutual love and faithfulness, and the grace of the sacrament.

Fr Thomas OP

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

4 October 2009

The Newsletter of
HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER
Serving Leicester's Catholics since AD 1247



| Sunday Masses | This week | Mass Intentions | Next week |
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| 6:00pm Vigil | Fr Fabian | Irene Olszewska, RIP | Fr Duncan |
| 8:00am | Fr Peter | Relatives & friends of Ashberry family, RIP | Fr Isidore |
| 9:30am Family | Fr Duncan | <i>Pro populo</i> | Fr Duncan |
| 11:00am Solemn | Fr Leon | Anne Potterton (sick) | Fr Leon |
| 12:30pm Old rite | Fr Thomas | Levis Lawrence, RIP | Fr Thomas |
| 5:00pm Students | Fr Peter | Mass for Students in the Lady Chapel | Fr Peter |
| 7:00pm | Fr Fabian | Barbara Fowell, RIP (1 st anniversary) | Fr Leon |

| OTHER SUNDAY SERVICES | 6:00pm Rosary | 3 October | Confessions | 10 October |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------------|------------|
| 9:00am Lauds | 6:20pm Compline | Fr Leon | 10:30 - 11:30am | Fr Peter |
| 5:45pm Vespers | 6:40pm Benediction | Fr Thomas | 5:00 - 6:00pm | Fr Fabian |

DON'T FORGET: St. Thérèse of Lisieux's relics arrive at Nottingham Cathedral TOMORROW, Monday 5 October, at 5pm, and depart at noon on Tuesday. A coach will leave from Holy Cross. Please contact Kath on 234 0103.

Autumn (Ember Day) Fast. The second collection is for CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development. This harvest, CAFOD is appealing for our urgent help to support millions of people who are being pushed deeper and deeper into poverty. The human cost of this is immense. Please use the gift aid envelopes provided.

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| Entrance Antiphon: | O Lord, you have given everything its place in the world, and no one can make it otherwise. For it is your creation, the heavens and the earth and the stars: you are the Lord of all. |
| 1st Reading: | Genesis 2: 18-24 |
| Psalm Response: | May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives. (Ps 128) |
| 2nd Reading: | Hebrews 2: 9-11 |
| Alleluia: | <u>At 11:00</u> – When Israel came forth from Egypt, Jacob's sons from an alien people. <u>Otherwise</u> – If we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us. |
| Gospel: | Mark 10: 2-16 |
| Communion Antiphon: | <u>At 11:00</u> – I will yearn for your saving help; I hope in your word. When will you judge my foes? Help me when lies oppress me, O Lord my God. <u>Otherwise either</u> – The Lord is good to those who hope in him, in those who are searching for his love. <u>Or</u> – Because there is one bread, we, though many, are one body, for we all share in the one loaf and in the one cup. |

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £922.13; SVP £24.72; Friends of Holy Cross £5.30; Holy Souls £6.73; Crib restoration £12.17.

This week there is a retiring collection for CAFOD (see front page).

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

Roses. Blessed roses are given out at every Mass this Sunday, in honour of Our Lady of the Rosary. This is an ancient Dominican custom. Please take the roses to the sick and housebound, and to those who would be surprised by this grace from Our Lady.



Today's Gospel: What God has joined together let no one set asunder.

The Holy Cross Lay Dominican Fraternity will have one First Profession and two Admissions on Saturday 10 October at the 12:30pm Mass. The Fraternity will, of course, be delighted to welcome members of the usual congregation, and any others, who wish to join them for this very happy occasion. It is anticipated that the Mass will be extended by fifteen to twenty minutes.

Pulpit. A few of you have been asking questions about its purpose and location. The pulpit is for the proclamation of the Word of God, and its 'loftiness' has nothing to do with the person of the priest, but with the dignity of God's Word. Situated down the nave, it directs our attention to the middle of the congregation, an unmissable symbol of "the Word among us". The dynamic of the liturgy is not focussed on the sanctuary alone, but is something living and active among us. The difficulty in getting used to it is partly due to pews, which have become part of Christian worship only in more recent times. Pews of course turn congregations into passive spectators. The pulpit will help to stir everyone out of passivity. If you find the pulpit unsettling, well and good! You're meant to. The panels will hopefully bear images of Dominican saints (Order of Preachers and pulpit – it all makes sense!) so that it will always act as an instrument of preaching, even when not in use.

October: the month of the Rosary. Every day, Monday to Saturday, the rosary will be recited in church at 12noon, beginning with the Angelus. On Sundays the usual rosary group meets at 6pm. Please feel free to come at 12 on weekdays and join in.

All Saints Eve Music Festival – Saturday October 31st, from 7.30 - 11.00pm in the Holy Cross Centre. An 'open-mike' session with performances from Holy Cross Gospel Choir, Bella Acapella, WhoLaHoops? and many more..... Halloween fancy dress not essential but welcome – a prize for the best. Entrance £3 on the door (advance tickets - £2) to include pumpkin soup and a hot-dog.

One of our parishioners will be going to the Divine Mercy Shrine in Krakow in October. There will be an Intention Book available for all to write their intentions in near the Divine Mercy Icon in the church. The book will then be taken to the Divine Mercy Shrine. The sisters have a Mass every Thursday for the intentions. The recent day at Westminster Cathedral was a great success. We had a full coach and the cathedral was full too. There were over 1500 people from all over the country.

The Way of confidence and Love. A day of prayer and reflection following the visit of the relics of St Thérèse. Saturday 10 October, Mount St Bernard. See noticeboard.

| Year 1 | The week ahead... | Psalter Week 3 |
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| Monday: | BB Robert Sutton, Anthony Turner, George Douglas, priests, and Companions, martyrs of Leicestershire or Bl Raymond of Capua, friar, priest - <i>both optional</i> | |
| Tuesday: | St Bruno, priest, religious - <i>optional</i> | |
| Wednesday: | OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY. There will be an extra, sung, Mass in the older form at 7:30pm. | |
| Thursday: | Feria | |
| Friday: | St Louis Beltrán, friar, priest | |
| Saturday: | St Paulinus of York, bishop, and the Anglo-Saxon saints of the diocese | |
| WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. This week, Fr Thomas will say Mass in the older form on Monday, Thursday & Friday at 8:30am, and on Saturday at 8:15am. See also above. All welcome, especially a server. If you would like to learn to serve this Mass, please contact Fr Thomas. | | |
| Next Sunday – 28th Sunday per annum. Readings: | | |
| Wisdom 7: 7-11 | Hebrews 4: 12-13 | Mark 10: 17-30 |

In June the Holy Cross-based Leicester SPUC branch submitted a detailed response to the public consultation on whether abortion adverts should be shown on TV. We were among 400 consultation respondents. As a result of the opposition the ASA has delayed its decision until Spring. We must continue to oppose a proposal which would give free rein to abortion providers such as FPA and Brook. They have money to spend on ads – pro-life charities don't. Please help us by signing the petition on the table by the Wellington Street entrance.

Last Saturday the Leicester SPUC branch (working with Leicester LIFE) held its first conference at St Thomas More Church on the subject of care towards the end of life. The event was hugely successful with inspirational speakers and a lively, well-turned out audience. Our events diary is already filling up. If you would like to be part of this young success story why not join us? Contact Sica on 0775 88 44 918 or Catherine on 07814 153560.

The next biannual Mass for Lesbian and Gay Catholics, families and friends will take place here on Saturday 17 October at 3pm. Pastoral provision is given by Holy Cross priory to be sensitive to the pastoral needs of homosexual Catholics. Nothing contrary to the Catholic faith is intended or promoted by such care, and indeed, such care is mandated by the Catechism.

Stop Press: 200 Club winners will be announced next week.

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| <p>REGULAR SERVICE TIMES</p> <p>MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS</p> <p>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)</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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