

Slobbering Zealots?

SO Councillor Tim Cheetham thinks Catholics who have been queuing up around the country to venerate the relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux are “slobbering zealots”. Most reporting of the event has been more restrained than that, but many reports have shown a barely disguised hostility to the Catholic cult of relics.

Even amongst our fellow Christians, there is general incomprehension, not to say criticism, of the practice. In the Leicester University chaplaincy, a place dominated by the fashionable watchwords of tolerance and inclusion, there was open derision of the whole idea of relics. One chaplain could barely speak for laughing.

The irony is that the conversation went on without a pause into a discussion of the fall of the Berlin Wall, and how several of the chaplains had pieces of the wall. “And mine is a real piece, because I picked it up...”. Now it was my turn to laugh. None of them could see, even when I pointed it out, that they were all involved in a distorted, secular version of the Catholic practice they all ridiculed.

Human beings have a natural desire for a physical connection to the important events in their lives. We keep physical keepsakes of things, people or events which have affected us profoundly. What we believe as Catholics is that God, knowing our nature because He created us, can work with us, gracing us, in and through the physical world we inhabit.

The Gospels record the event of a woman with a haemorrhage who came to Jesus, saying to herself, “If I can just touch the hem of his cloak, I will be well.” She touched, and God worked through her touch, because of her faith, to make her well. In the Acts of the Apostles, we’re told that the apostles became too busy to visit everyone who was sick, but people came and touched cloths to the apostles and then brought them to the sick, who recovered.

The cult of relics is arises out of a belief that this is how God can and does act. Indeed, God’s action is so powerful that He can even act through what is naturally a sign of decay and death, the physical remains of His saints, to make them the very opposite, a place where the faithful find healing and help.

That, I think, is what drew so many to come to venerate the relics around the country. I went with a small group of my students. We arrived almost an hour before Mass at the Cathedral in Nottingham to find a crowd so great that the Cathedral was already full, as was the Cathedral hall, and we were made to stand in the garden.

Looking around me, I didn’t see slobbering zealots. I saw a local Leicester restaurateur with his wife and children, the cheerful chaplain of a local school, the young and the old, the rich and the poor, Catholics and some non-Catholics too, standing together, praying, in devotion to St Thérèse and in love of the God who made her, confident in their hope that He could act as He has in the past, to heal and help them.

Fr Peter, OP

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

18 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
6:00pm Vigil	Fr Thomas	Annie Downey, RIP	Fr Isidore
8:00am	Fr Isidore	Marsh & Mould family	Fr Fabian
9:30am Family	Fr Peter	Margaret O’Reilly, RIP	Fr Duncan
11:00am Solemn	Fr Fabian	Enrique Mariflor, RIP	Fr Peter
12:30pm Old rite	Fr Thomas	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Thomas
5:00pm Students	Fr Leon	Mass for Students in the Lady Chapel	Fr Peter
7:00pm	Fr Duncan	Marcin Wojtak, RIP	Fr Fabian

OTHER SUNDAY SERVICES	6:00pm Rosary	17 October	Confessions	24 October
9:00am Lauds	6:20pm Compline	Fr Peter	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Peter
5:45pm Vespers	6:40pm Benediction	Fr Duncan	5:00 - 6:00pm	Fr Duncan

Race Night in aid of the Leicester Catholic Chaplaincy Association – supporting the work of the chaplaincy of both universities. Saturday 24 October in Holy Cross Centre. Tickets are £5, £3 concession and £10 family, including a baked-potato supper. You can sponsor a horse for £5 and a race for £25. See noticeboard.

October: the month of the Rosary. Every day, Monday to Saturday, the rosary will be recited in church at 12 noon, beginning with the Angelus. On Sundays the usual rosary group meets at 6pm. A Plenary Indulgence is granted every day that you take part.

Entrance Antiphon:	I call upon you, God, for you will answer me; bend your ear and hear my prayer. Guard me as the pupil of your eye; hide me in the shade of your wings.
1st Reading:	Isaiah 53: 10-11
Psalm Response:	Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you. (Ps 33)
2nd Reading:	Hebrews 4: 14-16
Alleluia:	<u>At 11:00</u> – My soul, give praise to the Lord; I will praise the Lord all my days, make music to my God while I live. <u>Otherwise</u> – The Son of man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.
Gospel:	Mark 10: 35-45
Communion Antiphon:	<u>At 11:00</u> – How great is your name, O Lord our God, through all the earth! <u>Otherwise either</u> – See how the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those who hope in his love, that he may rescue them from death and feed them in time of famine. <u>Or</u> – The Son of Man came to give his life as a ransom for many.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £913.61; SVP £12.24; Friends of Holy Cross £13.80; Holy Souls £11.89; Crib restoration £6.30.

This week there is a retiring collection for Mission Sunday, and next week there will be a retiring collection for the Dominican Priests' Training Fund.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE: *Blackfriars Advent Market* is on **21 & 22 November** (Saturday AND Sunday). *Donations required*: any bottles (wine/spirits), toys/stocking fillers, quality gifts, quality bric-a-brac, unwanted teddy bears, chocolate, home made cakes, Christmas cakes, mince pies, new candles, pot pourri, etc. Please avoid donating the following items, as they can't be sold or are difficult to sell: clothes, books, video cassettes and electronic equipment. Thank you for your support!

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

There will be a **Dominican Study Weekend** for young adults on 'Purgatory: the Fire of Divine Love', at Stone Convent, Staffs, from 13 to 15 November, led by Fr Thomas Crean and Sr Valery Walker. Suggested donation: £30. Please see Fr Thomas for more details.



Today's Gospel: "Can you drink the cup I shall drink?."

SVP Drop In on Saturday 24th October from 10.30am to 12.00 noon at the Holy Cross Centre, Wellington Street. There will be an opportunity to find out more about the SVP work in the Parish and discuss ways we can help you. If you think you may benefit from a visit from us or need some help, please pop into the centre on Saturday 24th for a coffee and a chat.

Vocation Discernment Afternoons. The Franciscan Sisters Minoress are having monthly vocation discernment afternoons at their convent at Clay Cross, Derbyshire, starting on 31 October. See noticeboard for details.

Calling all Young adults (18-30+) to reach out to people in need in Leicester. We are setting up a new group and are looking for some volunteers to bring Christ's love to those in need. **SVP 1833 offers a way to get involved**, make new friends and turn concern into action. Join us for our introductory meeting on **Sunday 25th October** at Holy Cross. Programme includes student Mass at 5.00pm, meal at 5.45pm and presentation at 7.00pm. For further information please visit www.svp1833.org.uk or contact Rosi Leivas on 07542 904154.

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.

Please pray for our benefactors (mostly anonymous) who have donated or paid for the following items for the parish: bells, pulpit, statues of Ss Anne, George, Rita, Michael, & Anthony, sanctuary curtains, choir stalls, eight chasubles, mysteries of the rosary plaques, icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, altar rails for Lady Chapel, repairs to altar crucifix, and Martyrs' shrine (yet to be built). Thanks to their generosity, all these items have not cost the parish a single penny, and the church looks far more beautiful and as it ought. Pray for their intentions and welfare please.

Year 1	The week ahead...	Psalter Week 1
Monday:	SS John de Brébeuf, Isaac Jogues, priests, religious, and Companions, martyrs of Canada <i>or</i> St Paul of the Cross, priest, religious - <i>both optional</i>	
Tuesday:	Feria	
Wednesday:	Feria	
Thursday:	Feria	
Friday:	St John of Capestrano, priest, religious - <i>optional</i>	
Saturday:	Saturday Mass of Our Lady <i>or</i> St Anthony Mary Claret, bishop - <i>both optional</i>	
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. All welcome, especially a server. If you would like to learn to serve this Mass, please contact Fr Thomas.		
Next Sunday – 30th Sunday per annum. Readings:		
Jeremiah 31: 7-9	Hebrews 5: 1-6	Mark 10: 46-52

Christ in the Centre. Next year's Good Friday pageant is being planned now. Meeting on 31 October. Details from Fr Duncan or jesusmacbeth@hotmail.com.

Light in the Darkness. Aid to the Church in Need event at the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Great Billing, Northampton from 10am on Saturday 24 October. Details from www.acnuk.org or 020 8642 8668.

The Leicester SPUC branch will be a holding a cake stall in Blackfriars Hall on Sunday 25 October after the 9.30am and 11am Masses. Please do come along and help to support pro-life work in Leicester.

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 (20 September) on the website given for past Newsletters. Please keep giving generously to support these vulnerable people. Thank you.

Forthcoming events for your diary	
Sat 24 Oct	SVP Drop-In, Holy X Centre, 10:30am to 12noon
Sat 24 Oct	Race Night in aid of Chaplaincy to Universities, at Holy Cross Centre, 7pm. First Race 7:30pm
Sun 25 Oct	SPUC cake stall after 9:30 and 11:00 am Masses
Sun 25 Oct	SVP1833 launch at Student Mass, 5pm
Sat 31 Oct	All Saints' Eve Music Festival, 7:30pm Holy X Centre
Sat 21 Nov	AND Sunday - Blackfriars Advent Market, Holy X Centre
Sat 28 Nov	SPUC Piano Recital, 7:30pm Holy Cross Centre
Sat 28 Nov	Kaine Festival of Gospel Music, Y Theatre
Sun 6 Dec	Parish Lunch, Holy Cross Centre

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