

True and False Discipleship

ALL four Gospels show the different ways in which people reacted to Jesus. They reflect the variety of ways people respond to him today. They question our reaction to Christ. As in every drama, some characters play major roles, while others are bit parts, occurring in just one scene.

Mark does something very interesting. While he shows all the major characters reacting badly to Jesus, the minor characters build up a picture of what a true disciple should be like.

Take the major actors in this drama. While the Jewish religious authorities turn against Jesus and eventually crucify him, his hand-picked apostles completely misunderstand him and eventually desert him in his greatest need.

Then, in sharp contrast, we have the minor characters. In different ways they show us what a true disciple should be like. There are the children who eagerly come to Christ. While Jesus welcomes them, those who are full of their own importance dismiss the children as a nuisance. Jesus reproves the apostles and tells them they won't enter the Kingdom unless they become like little children, who, while having no status power or influence, overflow with their unfeigned love for Christ.

Next, there's the poor widow, who gave all that she had to the temple. She's an example of the total commitment Jesus expects of all his followers. Significantly, Jesus is the only one to notice and appreciate her generosity.

Finally, there's blind Bartimaeus in today's Gospel. Like most beggars, he's dismissed as an unimportant nuisance. Many tried to silence him when he shouted, begging for Christ's help. They thought Jesus should not bother with such wretches. But he was precisely the kind of person Christ had come to help and save. Bartimaeus recognised his need for Christ and appealed to him. So great was his faith in Christ that he would allow no one to prevent him from drawing close to Jesus. And Jesus appreciated the strength of his faith and cured his blindness. The climax to this story is that Bartimaeus followed Christ – he became a disciple.

Through the minor characters in his Gospel, Mark has built up a picture of how we should follow Christ. We need the openness and enthusiasm of a child, with no power, status or privilege, eagerly welcoming Christ. We require the total commitment of the poor widow who gave her all, and the perseverance of a Bartimaeus, who would allow nothing to prevent him drawing close to Christ and following him.

Finally, we should learn, from Christ's reaction to all these minor characters never to dismiss anyone as unimportant or worthless. Such as these 'little people' enter the kingdom before those who are full of their own importance.

Fr Isidore O.P.

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

25 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 Isidore	Annie Downey, RIP	Fr Thomas
8:00am	Fr Fabian	Flatley & Dixon families	Fr Isidore
9:30am Family	Fr Duncan	Mary Mulholland, RIP	Fr Duncan
11:00am Solemn	Fr Peter	Mary Collier, RIP	Fr Leon
12:30pm Old rite	Fr Thomas	Holy Souls	Fr Thomas
5:00pm Students	Fr Peter	Mass for Students in the Lady Chapel	Fr Peter
7:00pm	Fr Fabian	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Fabian

OTHER SUNDAY SERVICES	24 October	Confessions	31 October
6:00pm Rosary	Fr Peter	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Peter
9:00am Lauds	Fr Duncan	5:00 - 6:00pm	Fr Fabian
5:45pm Vespers	6:40pm Benediction		

PLEASE NOTE THE 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!

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:	Let hearts rejoice who search for the Lord. Seek the Lord and his strength, seek always the face of the Lord.
1st Reading:	Jeremiah 31: 7-9
Psalm Response:	The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad. (Ps 126)
2nd Reading:	Hebrews 5: 1-6
Alleluia:	<u>At 11:00</u> – O praise the Lord, Jerusalem! Zion, praise your God! <u>Otherwise</u> – Our Saviour Christ Jesus abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel.
Gospel:	Mark 10: 46-52
Communion Antiphon:	<u>Either</u> – We will rejoice at the victory of God and make our boast in his great name. <u>Or (but not at 11:00)</u> – Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering to God.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £854.77; SVP £26.12; Friends of Holy Cross £6.92; Holy Souls £11.03; Crib restoration £13.41. Last week's collection for the Missions came to £290.56.

This week there is a retiring collection for the Dominican Priests' Training Fund.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

First Holy Communion / Confirmation Preparation – Last call for forms to be returned. If you are interested, pick up a form from the Sacristy. Our classes are to prepare children for these sacraments (approximately 7-9 years old for First Holy Communion; and 12-14 years old for Confirmation). Classes will be conducted by Sr Angela Leydon OP on Saturdays beginning in mid-November. Further details when available.



Today's Gospel: "Master, let me see again." "Go; your faith has saved you."

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.

Handel & Purcell: Concert of sacred music to celebrate anniversaries of Purcell's birth and Handel's death, given by Ex Cathedra Choir, St James the Greater, Thursday 19 November at 7:30pm. Advance booking recommended.

Learn Latin! Beginners' classes in Latin for the Liturgy will commence on Tuesday 10 November from 7.00 to 8.30pm in Blackfriars Hall. The classes will be led by Ray Fowell and the charges are a voluntary contribution to our parish's McNabb appeal. No need to register: just turn up to the first session.

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 **TODAY, Sunday 25th October** beginning in the Lady Chapel with the student Mass at 5.00pm, followed by a 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.

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.

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 2
Monday:	SS Chad and Cedd, bishops	
Tuesday:	Feria	
Wednesday:	SS SIMON AND JUDE, APOSTLES	
Thursday:	Feria	
Friday:	BB Terence Albert O'Brien, bishop, and Peter Higgins, priest, martyrs of Ireland	
Saturday:	Saturday Mass of Our Lady - optional	
WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. This week, Fr Thomas will say Mass in the older form on Monday & Thursday at 8:30am. And there will be a sung Mass on All Souls Day at 7:30pm. All welcome, especially a server. If you would like to learn to serve this Mass, please contact Fr Thomas.		
Next Sunday – All Saints. Readings:		
Apocalypse 7: 2-4. 9-14	1 John 3: 1-3	Matthew 5: 1-12

Christmas Crib Figures. Many of you have asked about sponsoring one of the figures of our Christmas Crib, as they are being restored to their former glory. We list here a guide to what their restoration costs. Some money has already been collected to defray these costs, as well as a grant from the Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust.

The amount left to pay divided among the figures yields the following: Christ Child - £200, Our Lady and St Joseph - £350 each, the three wise men Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar - £400 each, the three shepherds Asher, Zebulun, and Justus - £300 each, Aleph the ox, and Hamor the ass - £250 each. If you wish to sponsor them, speak to any of the friars. Remember: Gift Aid it! The Christmas Crib collecting box, at Fr Isidore's request, will be changed to an appeal for Grenada. More details soon.

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	
TODAY	SPUC cake stall after 9:30 and 11:00 am Masses
TODAY	SVP1833 launch at Student Mass, 5pm
Sat 31 Oct	All Saints' Eve Music Festival, 7:30pm Holy X Centre
Tue 10 Nov	Latin classes begin, 7pm Blackfriars Hall
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
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Parish Priest:
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For home visits: 255 3856