

Christians and the environment

I was listening to a programme on the radio this morning about the environment. The latest worry, apparently, is that Leicester could, in just a few decades, be under water if global warming keeps up at its present rate. And so there are yet more calls for us to think hard about the environment and what we can do to change things.

Christians have sometimes had a bad name in this environmental business. There is a view that the Christian attitude to the environment is partly to blame for the mess we're in. Christians have traditionally thought that the world is created for human use, and even when we have thought of ourselves as stewards of Creation, as having a responsibility to tend and care for the created order, critics have said that this is not a proper way of thinking about the relationship we ought to have with our world.

If you are a steward, caring for someone, like a parents care for their children, you are more powerful than the thing you take care of. It is certainly not a relationship of equality. If we care for dolphins but we're not cared for by the dolphins in return, then they depend on us but we don't depend on them. So the dolphins are not our equals in this relationship. And we are gradually discovering that it really isn't the case that we don't depend on the environment. If we destroy the rain forests as we are doing, we will quickly discover that we depend on the trees for the way in which they produce oxygen and get rid of carbon dioxide. So the relationship doesn't seem to be a one way thing.

On the other hand, it is just obvious that in one way we are in a position which the rest of nature doesn't occupy. Because of our understanding of nature and the extraordinary power and freedom with which we can act, we have a scope to alter the environment in ways simply not open to the other animals. A friend of mine made the point to me by telling me that he had watched a television programme about apes and how intelligent they are and suddenly it occurred to him that there was simply no possibility that he would ever see apes watching a television programme made by other apes about human beings.

You might put it by saying that no other animal could get the environment into the mess we've got it into and no other animal has the power to set things right. The world, God help it, really does depend on us if it is to survive. Whether we like it or not, we're in charge here.

With that realisation does come responsibility. We need to act well, or our planet will be irreparably harmed, if the scientists are right. The shallowest reason for being interested in the environment is that if we aren't, we'll suffer. By this, I mean that although green measures make things a bit more expensive for us now, they prevent great hardship in the future. So take the example of global warming. If we don't do something about the build-up of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in our atmosphere, temperatures will rise, sea levels will rise, and people's livelihoods will be threatened. Why do I say that this is the shallowest reason for valuing something? Well, what I am saying is that I am interested in the environment because really I am interested in myself.

But Christians have another, much more obviously important way of valuing the world: it is God's Creation. God loves it. And loving God is nothing other than loving what He loves. Our care for the world ought to be a Christian priority, yes, partly because many people's lives will be wrecked if our environment is destroyed. We ought to love the poor, who will be the ones most affected if our weather patterns change and sea levels rise. And we ought to love our world for itself, love it as God's creation, love its beauty and variety, for the way in which it reveals God our Creator to us. Fr Peter OP

All Saints

Year B

1 November 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	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Isidore
8:00am	Fr Isidore	Relatives & friends of Ashberry family	Fr Duncan
9:30am Family	Fr Duncan	Bernadette Meares, RIP	Fr Fabian
11:00am Solemn	Fr Leon	Eugeniusz Lament, RIP	Fr Peter
12:30pm Old rite	Fr Thomas	Anton & Marie Stipic, RIP	Fr Thomas
5:00pm Students	Fr Peter	Mass for Students in the Lady Chapel	Fr Fabian
7:00pm	Fr Fabian	Patrick Breen, RIP	Fr Leon

OTHER SUNDAY SERVICES	6:00pm Rosary	31 October	Confessions	7 November
9:00am Lauds	6:20pm Compline	Fr Peter	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Leon
5:45pm Vespers	6:40pm Benediction	Fr Fabian	5:00 - 6:00pm	Fr Fabian

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!

Dominican Seminar 2010: Luke-Acts and the Mission of the Church. To be held in Leeds from 3 to 5 January, and chaired by Sr Karen Marguerite d'Artois, OP. Please collect a booking form from the Sacristy and return it as soon as possible.

Entrance Antiphon:	Let us all rejoice in the Lord and keep a festival in honour of all the saints. Let us join with the angels in joyful praise to the Son of God.
1st Reading:	Apocalypse 7: 2-4. 9-14
Psalm Response:	Lord, this is the generation of those who seek your face. (Ps 24)
2nd Reading:	1 John 3: 1-3
Alleluia:	Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest, says the Lord.
Gospel:	Matthew 5: 1-12
Communion Antiphon:	Blessed are the pure of heart for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers; they shall be called the sons of God. Blessed are they who suffer persecution for justice's sake; the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £1109.60; SVP £8.22; Friends of Holy Cross £15.36; Holy Souls £11.81; Crib restoration £6.87. Last week's collection for the Dominican Priests' Training Fund came to £226.04.

The McNabb Appeal fund now stands at £3131.97. Last week's Race Night – an excellent evening – in aid of the Leicester Catholic Chaplaincy Association raised almost £500.

Our 200 Club is currently a 92 Club! There is room for 108 new members. Membership is £5 a month, with prizes of £150, £100 and £50 per month. All proceeds to the Church Restoration Fund. Membership forms are available from the 200 Club desk by the Wellington Street door. Last month's winners were: 149, M Shaw £150; 10, P Manjoro £100; and 147, M Wortley £50. Congratulations!

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

'The Sacraments and the teaching of St Thomas Aquinas'. There will be a discussion morning in St Clement's Hall on Saturday 14 November, from 10.15, finishing with Mass at 12.30, led by Fr Joseph Vnuk, OP, who is a member of the Australian Province, currently researching at Nottingham University. All very welcome. See noticeboard.



The Communion of Saints

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.

Churches Together in Leicester City Centre will meet at the Bishop Street Methodist Church, Town Hall Square, at 12:30pm on Thursday. All are welcome.

Do you have accommodation for someone just after Christmas? An Indian student has his father visiting who is looking for accommodation from 26 December to 2 January. If you able to offer this, please contact Fr Peter.

First Friday Coffee Morning: This coming Friday, at 10:30am in the Church Hall. Tea & scones or coffee & cake, a chance to chat with other weekday Mass-goers and members of the Community; and, of course, a raffle. Money raised goes towards the care and maintenance of the church fabric. Volunteers welcome.

Choral Workshop Day – Saturday 7 November at St Mary's, Derby. Includes singing technique, the liturgy, traditional and modern Catholic music, plainsong and part singing. Music to be rehearsed and sung at the evening Mass. See noticeboard.

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.

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 3
<i>On any and each day from 1 to 8 November inclusive, a plenary indulgence is granted (applicable only to the souls in Purgatory) for devoutly visiting a cemetery and praying, if only mentally, for the deceased</i>		
Monday:	COMMEMORATION OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS). <i>There will be an extra Mass, sung and in the older form, at 7.30pm.</i>	
Tuesday:	ST MARTIN DE PORRES	
Wednesday:	St Charles Borromeo, bishop	
Thursday:	Feria	
Friday:	BB Alphonsus Navarrete, friar, priest, Alexius Sanbashi, catechist, lay Dominican & Companions, martyrs of Japan	
Saturday:	ALL SAINTS OF THE ORDER OF PREACHERS	
WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. This week, Fr Thomas will say Mass in the older form on Monday at 7:15 & 8:30am, and 7:30pm, and on 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 – 32nd Sunday per annum. Readings:		
1Kings 17: 10-16	Hebrews 9: 24-28	Mark 12: 38-44

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.

Please pray for the Pope's intentions this month. *General:* That all the men and women in the world, especially those who have responsibilities in the field of politics and economics, may never fail in their commitment to safeguard creation. *Mission:* That believers in the different religions, through the testimony of their lives and fraternal dialogue, may clearly demonstrate that the name of God is a bearer of peace.

Leicester – City of Sanctuary. Next bi-monthly get-together is on Monday. Contact Gill Buttery at leicester@cityofsanctuary.org.

Forthcoming events for your diary	
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
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