

## Lex iniusta non est lex – ‘an unjust law is no law’

THE New Testament often reminds us that we must respect those who wield political power since, whether they know it or not, they are ‘ministers of God’ (Rom. 13:4). However, if they command us to act wrongly, we must disobey, and with a peaceful conscience. For an unjust law is not really a law at all, but rather, as St Thomas Aquinas remarks, an act of violence.

This principle applies to the recent claim by the Secretary for Schools that he is ‘abolishing’ the right of parents to remove their children from ‘Relationships Education’, and that, among other things, all parents must ensure that their 15 year-old sons and daughters are taught how to use contraception.

The Minister’s claim is wrong in several ways. First, it is not the State which has the general right to teach children at all, but rather the parents who brought them into the world. Pope John Paul II re-affirmed this teaching of the Church in *Familiaris Consortio*, where he explained that the right of parents to educate their children as they wish is ‘inalienable, and therefore incapable of being...usurped by others’. Parents can call on the State to help them teach, say, maths or music, but need not.

Next, education in intimate matters of life and love belongs in the home, not in the classroom, let alone in the mixed classroom. As Pope John Paul notes, imparting this kind of teaching ‘is a basic right and duty of parents, which must always be carried out under their attentive guidance’. Modesty demands no less.

Thirdly, there is no right for anyone, State or parents, to teach the use of contraception. The Church’s position on this subject has been the same down the centuries. Since 1930, when first the Church of England and then other Protestant bodies ceased to maintain the teaching, Christ’s vicars have re-affirmed it in succession: Pius XI, Pius XII, Paul VI, John Paul II, Benedict XVI... This is no man-made rule, but a part of God’s plan from the beginning of the world, when ‘he made them male and female’ and bade them be fruitful and multiply (Gen. 1:27-8).

For all these reasons, the measure announced by the Secretary for Schools is unjust. If I were a parent, I should certainly consider it my duty to disobey it. All the more so, because one can suspect that it is only the thin end of an unpleasant wedge; for what is made ‘compulsory’ at 15 may later, quite logically, be made ‘compulsory’ at 13, or 11, or 7, or 5.

We read in the newspapers that Catholic parents who disobey this new ‘law’ will be punished for abetting truancy. If so, I hope the rest of us will do what we can to support them, morally, and if possible, financially. Meanwhile, we can take to heart the reassuring words of the first Pope: ‘if you are reproached for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, and of God rests upon you’ (1 Pet 4:14).

Fr Thomas OP

33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

15 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 Isidore	Marie Louise & Mariano Pinto, RIP	Fr Thomas
8:00am	Fr Isidore	Quigley family, RIP	Fr Isidore
9:30am Family	Fr Leon	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Duncan
11:00am Solemn	Fr Fabian	Nancy Austin, RIP	Fr Leon
12:30pm Old rite	Fr Thomas	For vocations	Fr Thomas
5:00pm Students	Fr Peter	<b>Mass for Students in the Lady Chapel</b>	Fr Peter
7:00pm	Fr Leon	For deceased Sisters, friends & benefactors of the Sisters of St Joseph	Fr Fabian

OTHER SUNDAY SERVICES	6:00pm Rosary	14 November	Confessions	21 November
9:00am Lauds	6:20pm Compline	Fr Peter	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Duncan
5:45pm Vespers	6:40pm Benediction	Fr Duncan	5:00 - 6:00pm	Fr Peter

**\*Blackfriars Advent Market\*** is next weekend (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!**

<b>Entrance Antiphon:</b>	The Lord says: my plans for you are peace and not disaster; when you call me, I will listen to you, and I will bring you back to the place from which I exiled you.
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b>	Daniel 12: 1-3
<b>Psalm Response:</b>	Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. (Ps 16)
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b>	Hebrews 10: 11-14.18
<b>Alleluia:</b>	<u>At 11:00</u> – Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord hear my voice! <u>Otherwise</u> – Watch at all times, praying that you may be able to stand before the Son of man.
<b>Gospel:</b>	Mark 13: 24-32
<b>Communion Antiphon:</b>	<u>Either</u> – I tell you solemnly, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours, says the Lord. <u>Or (but not at 11:00)</u> – It is good for me to be with the Lord and to put my hope in him.

**MONEY MATTERS:** Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £1118.64; SVP £5.56; Friends of Holy Cross £13.27; Holy Souls £13.97; Crib restoration £3.23. The McNabb Appeal fund now stands at £4046.97.

This week there is a retiring collection for the Diocesan Quota, and next week there will be a retiring collection for the McNabb appeal, especially for those unable to attend Blackfriars Market.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

**Good News & Bad News.** The bad news first. Charles Street Buildings have assessed our church with a view to adapting the storeroom in the narthex into a disabled-access toilet, and found it to be practically impossible. The main problems are getting water in, and removing waste (pretty big problems indeed!). They estimate it in the region of £30,000+ but even then they are doubtful because it would be hugely complicated. All is not lost though...

The good news (apart from the real one, i.e. the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ) is that there will be disabled access to the hall, which means disabled access to the toilets there. Thus people who can't get up the steps to the sacristy toilet ought to be able to get into the hall. Work is likely to commence in a lull period for the hall, probably February.



Today's Gospel: The Son of Man will come in the clouds with great power and glory

**Sr Angela's classes begin today, 15 November** at 9:30am (First Holy Communion class) and 10:15am (Confirmation class) in St Clement's Hall.

**Parish pre-Christmas Party.** This is from 1pm on Sunday 6 December. There will be a traditional 3-course Christmas lunch with a few songs, games and great company. All welcome, but by ticket only. Tickets will be on sale at all Sunday Masses. Tickets: £10 (£7 concession), Family (2 adults and up to 3 children) £25, (1 adult) £15. Children £5. Please listen/look for announcements of how to buy your tickets.

**A special thank you to all our parishioners.** The Holy Cross SVP Conference is happy to announce that the Parish has received a certificate of thanks for successfully completing the Leicester City of Sanctuary Golden Giver Challenge. More than 200 bags of food have been donated to the British Red Cross last year. Thanks again for showing such an amazing generosity.

**What do we know about the liturgy of the church in Rome to around 600?** How we respond to this question affects our interpretation of the development of Western liturgy in this period and enables us to evaluate the Roman tradition with that of other major sees. Surprisingly there has been very little recent scholarship on some of the key topics and a conference at Blackfriars, Oxford, on Saturday 27 February, will present fresh research from leading scholars. Details from <http://www.bfriars.ox.ac.uk/> and go to 'Upcoming events'.

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 I	The week ahead...	Psalter Week 1
Monday:	St Margaret of Scotland, wife and mother, queen	
Tuesday:	St Hugh of Lincoln, bishop, secondary patron of the diocese	
Wednesday:	The Dedication of the Basilicas of SS Peter and Paul	
Thursday:	St Elizabeth of Hungary, wife and mother, secular tertiary - <i>optional</i>	
Friday:	Feria	
Saturday:	The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. This week, Fr Thomas will say Mass in the older form on days and at times to be announced. All welcome, especially a server. If you would like to learn to serve this Mass, please contact Fr Thomas.		
Next Sunday – Last Sunday <i>per annum</i> , Christ the King A plenary indulgence is granted for the public recitation of the act of dedication of the human race to Christ the King. Youth Sunday. Prayers are recommended for young people. Readings:		
Daniel 7: 13-14	Apocalypse 1: 5-8	John 18: 33-37

**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. Almost £700 has already been collected to defray these costs, as well as a £500 grant from the Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust. The generosity of sponsors has given a further £1400. 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! Figures deleted have already been sponsored (thank you!). The Christmas Crib collecting box, at Fr Isidore's request, will be changed to an appeal for Grenada.

**SPUC Piano Recital.** A Classical piano recital will be given by Emma Willcox in aid of SPUC (Society for the Protection of Unborn Children) on **Saturday 28th November** at 7.30pm in Blackfriars Hall. All are welcome to attend. Tickets are £5 and all proceeds go to the registered charity. There will be plenty of food and wine during the interval. **Tickets are on sale with the coffee after the 11am Mass** but if you don't have a ticket, just turn up and enjoy an evening of uplifting music.

**Vocation Discernment Afternoon.** Young Women – wondering about God's call for you? You are welcome to join others in finding out what religious life is. On 28th November and the last Saturday of each month 2.30pm - 5pm, at St Clare's Convent, Clay Cross. Contact [fmsisters@googlemail.com](mailto:fmsisters@googlemail.com). See noticeboard for details.

Forthcoming events for your diary	
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, 1pm Holy Cross Centre

REGULAR SERVICE TIMES	
<b>MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS</b>	
8.00	Lauds
10.00	Mass
12.30	Mass
17.45	Vespers
Old Rite Masses as announced. Church is open from 8.00 - 18.00	
<b>WEDNESDAYS</b>	
10.30	Exposition until 12.30
11.45	Divine Mercy Chaplet, Rosary & Benediction
<b>SATURDAYS</b>	
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.	
<b>HOLIDAYS</b>	
18.00	(previous day) Vigil Mass
8.00	Lauds
10.00	Mass
12.30	Mass
17.45	Vespers
19.00	Mass
<b>BANK HOLIDAYS (&amp; MON TO FRI AROUND XTMAS &amp; NEW YEAR)</b>	
8.00	Lauds
10.00	Mass, after which the church is closed
<b>SUNDAYS</b>	
8.00	Mass
9.00	Lauds
9.30	Mass (Family)
11.00	Mass (Solemn: Latin on 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> 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: <a href="http://holycrosschoirleicester.co.uk">holycrosschoirleicester.co.uk</a>	
<b>CONTACT DETAILS</b>	
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Parish Priest: Fr Leon Pereira: 252 1501 <a href="mailto:leon.pereira@english.op.org">leon.pereira@english.op.org</a>	
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