

'HAIL, CHRIST THE KING!'

In his novel 'The Power and the Glory', Graham Green portrays a Mexican priest who is condemned to be shot by a firing squad. Immediately before his death he raised both arms above his head and called out 'in a strong brave voice': 'Hail, Christ the King' - 'Viva el Cristo Rey'. This character is loosely based on several Mexican priests in the 1920s when the government was fiercely anti-Catholic and all religious practices were outlawed. The law was enforced by fear and military rule. For priests especially, any breaking of these laws was punished by death, and many people, both priests and laity, suffered martyrdom.

In such a situation, understandably, devotion to Christ the King was deep and widespread. The rulers of Mexico, their 'kings', were behaving in an unjust, cruel and oppressive way. What people wanted above all was rulers who took Christ as their model, who were inspired by his justice and compassion, and who tried to model their rule on Him. During the first half of the 20th century many countries besides Mexico experimented with modern, totalitarian and anti-religious forms of government, which were forced on people in the name of liberty and enlightenment. This is not the way of Christ the King. His is a kingdom of 'truth and life ... of holiness and grace ... of justice, love and peace', as we say in the Preface of today's Mass. And he has won this kingdom, not by force but by his 'one perfect sacrifice of peace' on the 'altar of the cross'.

However, Christ's Kingship is not just a model for our political and social leaders. We have had plenty of good models in the past, but Christ is not another and better one. He is quite literally the King of the Universe. Only a man, as highest of creatures, can be the Lord of Creation. And Christ is a man. Likewise, only God can be Lord of Creation because he is the creator. And Christ is God. So Christ, through his incarnation, life, death, resurrection and ascension to the Father's right hand, is in himself, in very fact, the Lord of Creation. That is what we mean by calling him 'Christ the King'. But of course he is King in God's way, not forcing himself upon us but taking the path of love and self-sacrifice, not of oppression.

From this we realise too that Christ is King not as guiding just our leaders, but also every one of us. It is in Christ the King that we can find the full reality of what human life was meant to be. Only he gives us the fulness of life, here and in eternity.

Fr Fabian OP

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	Evelyn Dixon, RIP	Fr Fabian
8:00am	Fr Isidore	Eileen Martinez, RIP	Fr Isidore
9:30am Family	Fr Duncan	Peter Leach (anniversary), RIP	Fr Fabian
11:00am Solemn	Fr Leon	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Leon
12:30pm Old rite	Fr Thomas	Special Intention	Fr Thomas
5:00pm Students	Fr Peter	Mass for Students in the Lady Chapel	Fr Leon
7:00pm	Fr Fabian	Pat Murphy's intentions	Fr Duncan

OTHER SUNDAY SERVICES	6:00pm Rosary	21 November	Confessions	28 November
9:00am Lauds	6:20pm Compline	Fr Duncan	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Fabian
5:45pm Vespers	6:40pm Benediction	Fr Peter	5:00 - 6:00pm	Fr Duncan

Christmas Tree Star Appeal for Asylum Seekers & Refugees: After its outstanding success for the last three years, the appeal is being repeated this year during Advent. The tree will carry stars, each star having the name of a gift, some cheap, others a little more expensive. **You choose a star, or more than one if you wish, buy and wrap the gift(s) named and return it (them) to the church with the stars attached.** Your star gifts will go to someone in need, and arrangements will be made to deliver them. The tree will be in the church from Advent Sunday (next Sunday), until 13 December, and gifts need to be left before Wednesday 16 December.

Entrance Antiphon:	The lamb who was slain was worthy to receive strength and divinity, wisdom and power and honour: to him be glory and power for ever.
1st Reading:	Daniel 7: 13-14
Psalm Response:	The Lord reigns; he is robed in majesty. (Ps 93)
2nd Reading:	Apocalypse 1: 5-8
Alleluia:	<u>At 11:00</u> – His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty which shall never pass away, nor will his empire ever be destroyed. <u>Otherwise</u> – Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is coming!
Gospel:	John 18: 33-37
Communion Antiphon:	The Lord will reign for ever and will give his people the gift of peace.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £1035.30; SVP £27.76; Friends of Holy Cross £13.66; Holy Souls £15.71; Crib restoration £3.78. The McNabb Appeal fund still stands at £4046.97. Last week's retiring collection for the Diocesan Quota came to £233.68.

This week there is a retiring collection for the McNabb appeal, especially for those unable to attend Blackfriars Market.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

Short Advent Talks: Born as Priest. This popular annual series of talks will take place again this year after the 10am and 12.30pm Masses each Friday in Advent, starting with Fr Duncan on "The Church, Mother of Priests" this Friday, 27 November. We hope you will be able to stay for some of these talks.

A service of lessons and carols will be held on **Wednesday 2 December** at 7:30pm here in the church. It is an Advent service, with a strong theme of looking forward to and yearning for the coming of the Messiah, based on the ancient 'O antiphons'.



Christus Rex

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.

Pope Benedict XVI has announced that he will visit Fatima next May. But why do the popes treat the message of Fatima so seriously? Fr Thomas will present a DVD on *Fatima: Past or Future?*, on Friday 4 December at 7:30pm in Blackfriars Hall. Come and learn more about our Lady's words. All welcome.

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 are on sale at all Sunday Masses. Tickets: £10 (£7 concession), Family (2 adults and up to 3 children) £25, (1 adult) £15. Children £5.

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.

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:	St Clement I, pope, martyr	
Tuesday:	SS Ignatius Delgado, friar, bishop, Vincent Liêm, friar, priest, Dominic Khâm, husband and father, lay Dominican, and Companions, martyrs of Vietnam	
Wednesday:	St Catherine of Alexandria, virgin, martyr, secondary patroness of the Order of Preachers	
Thursday:	Feria	
Friday:	Feria	
Saturday:	Saturday Mass of Our Lady - <i>optional</i>	
WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. This week, Fr Thomas will say Mass in the older form on Monday, Thursday and Friday at 8:30am. All welcome, especially a server. If you would like to learn to serve this Mass, please contact Fr Thomas.		
Next Sunday – 1st Sunday of Advent. Readings:		
Jeremiah 33: 14-16	1 Thessalonians 3:12 - 4:2	Luke 21: 25-28. 34-36

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 £1050.**

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.

Singing the Creed. When spoken, the Creed may sound like no more than a perfunctory laundry list of what we believe as Catholics; it may roll off the tongue, off the ear and, if we're not careful, off the heart. When sung with devotion and attention, however, the words can become an ode to the faith that generated them. At the 11am Mass, when we sing the Creed, we usually use the setting known as Credo III, which is the Church's most recent chant setting found in official books. The original 'authentic' setting of the Creed is known as Credo I, and we will be singing this setting instead of Credo III on alternate Sundays in Advent and Lent, starting next Sunday. **David Cowen will give a short rehearsal before Mass next Sunday, starting at 10:50,** for all who would like to learn this chant.

Forthcoming events for your diary	
Sat 28 Nov	SPUC Piano Recital, 7:30pm Holy Cross Centre
Sat 28 Nov	Kaine Festival of Gospel Music, Y Theatre
Wed 2 Dec	Advent Carol Service, 7:30pm
Sun 6 Dec	Parish Lunch, 1pm 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.
Church is open from 8.00 - 18.00
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.
HOLYDAYS
18.00 (previous day) Vigil Mass
8.00 Lauds
10.00 Mass
12.30 Mass
17.45 Vespers
19.00 Mass
BANK HOLIDAYS (& MON TO FRI AROUND XMAS & NEW YEAR)
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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