

THINK people in olden days might have found great difficulty in imagining the scale of the horrors that Jesus is prophesying in today's Gospel.

Yes, they would have had storms and plagues and famine and all the fire and sword and raping that war would have brought. Such a universal catastrophe, however, might have looked impossible.

The great old earth seemed far too large to be destroyed. It had been worshipped, itself, and its animals, by pagans of old, as if it, and animals, had always been, and seemed set to last for ever.

In a very curious way, Darwin's discovery of the fluidity of life could have helped all people move away from such a worship of nature; perhaps they were frightened to give up their simplistic readings of the Bible. So, too, science today, with its own great 'imaginings of disaster', helps us to take very seriously what Jesus is warning us of. It is all quite possible – and even in a way probable. What Jesus emphasises however is a personal disaster that might afflict each of us. We could become coarse as he says, not just with self-indulgence but also, surprisingly, what he calls the cares of life. We might have thought having cares is a part of life, and even, in a way, good. It makes us be more responsible, 'part of the solution', and not 'part of the problem' – as carefree and careless people often can be. But our cares should be in their place. We must attend to them, but never forget the better part of life. This is to look to God, and God's will, for us, and to hope in God, to deliver us from evil. Hearing now these horrors, we will know that when they come they have been foreseen; they are not out of control, but part of God's plan. We will in fact be able to rejoice; as what will come then is our Liberation. This is not to be a violent struggle we undertake, but God appearing in glory.

We can meantime find, promote, work, and vote for, His justice.

fr Duncan 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 Fabian	Edmonds Kozlouskis, Olaf & Anita	Fr Thomas
8:00am	Fr Isidore	Nicholas Carter, RIP	Fr Isidore
9:30am Family	Fr Fabian	Hugh MacRory, RIP	Fr Leon
11:00am Solemn	Fr Leon	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Peter
12:30pm Old rite	Fr Thomas	Isabel Reilly, RIP	Fr Thomas
5:00pm Students	Fr Leon	Mass for Students in the Lady Chapel	Fr Fabian
7:00pm	Fr Duncan	Tola (Jacob's grandmother) - ill	Fr Duncan

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

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 until 13 December, and gifts need to be left before Wednesday 16 December.

Entrance Antiphon:	To you, my God, I lift my soul, I trust in you; let me never come to shame. Do not let my enemies laugh at me. No one who waits for you is ever put to shame.
1st Reading:	Jeremiah 33: 14-16
Psalm Response:	To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. (Ps 25)
2nd Reading:	1 Thessalonians 3:12 - 4:2
Alleluia:	Show us your merciful love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.
Gospel:	Luke 21: 25-28. 34-36
Offertory (at 11:00):	To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. I trust you, let me not be disappointed; do not let my enemies triumph. Those who hope in you shall not be disappointed.
Communion Antiphon:	The Lord will shower his gifts, and our land will yield its fruit.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £904.65; SVP £14.84; Friends of Holy Cross £21.60; Holy Souls £12.75; Crib restoration £4.06. The McNabb Appeal fund still stands at £4046.97. Last week's retiring collection for Blackfriars Market came to £293.15, and the Market itself raised £1242.11, giving a **grand total of £1535.26** for which especial thanks is due to all who were involved.

Next week there is a retiring collection for new and poor parishes.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

Short Advent Talks: Born as Priest. This popular annual series of talks takes place again this year after the 10am and 12.30pm Masses each Friday in Advent. This week, Fr Fabian will speak on "The Priesthood of the Baptized". We hope you will be able to stay for some of these talks.

A service of lessons and carols will be held this **Wednesday** 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'. Car parking will be available in the solicitors' car park just beyond Holy Cross Centre, and refreshments will be served after the service.

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?*, this **Friday** 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 **next Sunday**. 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.

The Leicester Theological Society's next talk will be given by Fr Richard Ounsworth OP on "Entering into God's Rest" on Friday 11 December. All are welcome. Meetings are held at Christchurch, Clarendon Park Road (near Queens Road) at 7:30pm. Cost is £5 (students no charge).

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.

Come together to stop climate chaos. As world leaders are meeting in Copenhagen, there will be a service led by Archbishops Vincent Nichols and Rowan Williams in London **next Saturday** at 11am in Westminster Central Hall, followed by a march from Grosvenor Square at 1pm. More details from www.stopclimatechaos.org/the-wave.

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 II	The week ahead...	Psalter Week 1
Monday:	ST ANDREW, APOSTLE	
Tuesday:	Feria	
Wednesday:	Feria	
Thursday:	St Francis Xavier, priest, religious. <i>Migrants' Day: Prayers are recommended for migrants and refugees.</i>	
Friday:	St John Damascene, priest, doctor - <i>optional</i>	
Saturday:	Feria	
WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. This week, Mass in the older form will be celebrated on Monday, Thursday and Friday at 8:30am, and at the consecrated chapel above the Militia Immaculata shop on Saturday at 12:30pm (confessions there from 12 noon). All welcome, especially a server. If you would like to learn to serve this Mass, please contact Fr Thomas.		
Next Sunday – 2 nd Sunday of Advent. <i>Bible Sunday. Prayers are recommended for openness to the Word of God. A plenary indulgence is granted to those who with due veneration make a spiritual reading of the Sacred Scripture (from a text approved by competent authority) for at least half an hour. Readings:</i>		
Baruch 5: 1-9	Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11	Luke 3: 1-6

Churches Together in Leicester City Centre will meet at Living God's Church, Halford Street, at 12:30pm on Thursday. All are welcome.

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.

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 £1700.** 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.

Forthcoming events for your diary	
Wed 2 Dec	Advent Carol Service, 7:30pm
Fri 4 Dec	'Fatima: Past or Future?' DVD, 7:30pm Blackfriars Hall
Sun 6 Dec	Parish Lunch, 1pm Holy Cross Centre
Fri 11 Dec	'Entering into God's Rest': talk by Fr Richard Ounsworth OP, Theological Soc'y, 7:30pm Christchurch, Clarendon Pk

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.
HOLIDAYS 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 12.30 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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