

Peace through integrity

“WHY doesn’t God do something?” That’s the agonising question we may well ask when we see or experience so much pain and evil in the world, and perhaps in our own lives. We long for God to come to our rescue. Our helplessness forces us to recognise our need for him to save us when life is beyond our control.

Today’s readings are full of joyful hope. The Gospel tells us that God is about to come to save us. John the Baptist urges us to prepare the way of the Lord, so that we will welcome Christ into the desert of our lives. Although Christ has already come into the world and saved it, each of us has to welcome that salvation.

There’s a two-way journey: Christ moving towards each of us to save us, and our moving towards him to welcome the salvation for which we long. In that meeting, as we welcome each other, we find salvation.

In the 1st reading the prophet stresses that it is God who takes the initiative. He rescues his people from exile and brings them back home. He makes their journey smooth, levelling and straightening the road, and protecting them from the searing heat. That’s a sign of God’s eagerness to save us.

In the Gospel John the Baptist stresses the part we must play. God never does all the work! First, we must recognise our need for God and want him to save us. Next, with God’s help, we must set out on the journey towards God. We must co-operate with him in constructing the way of the Lord, so that we can share his life and he ours. Elsewhere John the Baptist tells us this means repenting for our sins – removing the road-blocks which keep our saviour at a distance. If we’ve been going in the wrong direction, with God’s help, we need to get back on the right course.

In the 1st Reading there’s a sense of excitement as the prophet foresees God coming to save his people. On that day joy will replace grief, happiness sorrow. God will give us peace through integrity. We can best understand the meaning of ‘integrity’ by thinking of its opposite – disintegration, our lives falling apart into chaos. On the other hand, ‘integrity’ means the harmony when we’ve got our lives together. We are at peace with God, with each other, and with our selves. That is the peace, which God alone can give us. That’s the salvation which today’s Advent Readings promise us – if only we will make God really welcome in our lives.

Fr Isidore O.P.

2nd Sunday of Advent

Year C

6 December 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	Evelyn Dixon, RIP	Fr Isidore
8:00am	Fr Isidore	Susan Donnelly, RIP	Fr Isidore
9:30am Family	Fr Leon	Gregory Polkey (welfare)	Fr Fabian
11:00am Solemn	Fr Peter	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Peter
12:30pm Old rite	Fr Thomas	Ivy Jones, RIP	Fr Thomas
5:00pm Students	Fr Fabian	This is the last Mass this term	---
7:00pm	Fr Duncan	Irene Olszewska, RIP	Fr Duncan

OTHER SUNDAY SERVICES	6:00pm Rosary	5 December	Confessions	12 December
9:00am Lauds	6:20pm Compline	Fr Duncan	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Peter
5:45pm Vespers	6:40pm Benediction	Fr Fabian	5:00 - 6:00pm	Fr Leon

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 carries 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:	People of Zion, the Lord will come to save all nations, and your hearts will exult to hear his majestic voice.
1st Reading:	Baruch 5: 1-9
Psalm Response:	The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad. (Ps 126)
2nd Reading:	Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11
Alleluia:	<u>At 11:00</u> – I rejoiced when I heard them say: Let us go to God’s house. <u>Otherwise</u> – Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight: all flesh shall see the salvation of God.
Gospel:	Luke 3: 1-6
Offertory (at 11:00):	Will you not restore again our life that your people may rejoice in you? Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.
Communion Antiphon:	Rise up, Jerusalem, stand on the heights, and see the joy that is coming to you from God.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £1222.15; SVP £11.74; Friends of Holy Cross £18.33; Holy Souls £8.78; Crib restoration £10.42. The McNabb Appeal fund stands at £4046.97. The Advent Carol Service raised £71.62.

This week there is a retiring collection for new and poor parishes, and next week there will be a retiring collection for Christmas flowers for the church.

The November 200 Club draw has been postponed by a week. Today is the last opportunity to enter for the draw.

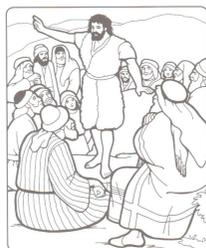
Mystery Gift-Aiders! If you use envelope 84, 111 or 116, please tell us who you are so that we can submit a tax claim. Many thanks in advance for your co-operation.

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 Thomas will speak on "Mary and the Priesthood". We hope you will be able to stay for some of these talks.

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).

Please pray for the Pope's intentions this month: *General:* That children may be respected and loved and never be the victims of exploitation in its various forms. *Mission:* That at Christmas the peoples of the earth may recognize in the Word Incarnate the light which illuminates every man and that the Nations may open their doors to Christ, the Saviour of the world.



Today's Gospel: St John the Baptist preaching

Two items from the bishop:

- ◆ **National Marriage Week 2010:** I will be presiding at the annual Mass of Celebration during National Marriage Week in St. Barnabas Cathedral on **Sunday 14th February 2010** at 3pm. A welcome is extended to all who have ever received the sacrament but a special welcome is extended to those celebrating anniversaries of ten years, and Silver, Ruby, Golden and Diamond anniversaries, as well as to engaged couples and those experiencing difficulties in their marriage. Light refreshments will be served after the Mass. Representatives of Catholic organisations concerned with marriage and family life in the diocese will be in attendance. For further information please contact Sue Sanderson susan.sanderson@nrcdt.org.uk or Fr John Sherrington, family.nottingham@googlemail.com. All married people are encouraged to celebrate at the Cathedral on this day.
- ◆ **Peter's Pence:** The total realised for the Peter's Pence collection for 2008 from the Diocese was £23,140.74, an increase of almost £7,000 on the collection for 2007. I would like to thank you for your continued support and prayers for the work of the Holy Father.

Refugee Action is an independent, national charity working to enable refugees to build new lives in the UK. They can now make referrals for food, clothing, household items and baby equipment to Open Hands Trust on Highfield Street. This organization offers tea, toast and friendship as well as a free cafe and crafty time for women and some free evening meals. If you know of anyone who would benefit from these services, please contact Open Hands at 53 Upper Tichborne St (tel 255 8672).

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 2
Monday:	St Ambrose, bishop, doctor	
Tuesday:	THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, PRINCIPAL PATRON OF THE DIOCESE, solemnity. <i>There will be an extra (sung) Mass today, in the older form, at 7:30pm.</i>	
Wednesday:	St John Didacus Cuauhtlatoatzin, husband and father, hermit - <i>optional</i>	
Thursday:	Feria	
Friday:	St Damasus I, pope - <i>optional</i>	
Saturday:	Our Lady of Guadalupe	
WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. This week, Mass in the older form will be celebrated on Monday, Thursday and Friday at 8:30am, and on Tuesday at 7:30pm. All welcome, especially a server. If you would like to learn to serve this Mass, please contact Fr Thomas.		
Next Sunday – 3rd Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday. Readings:		
Zepheniah 3: 14-18	Philippians 4: 4-7	Luke 3: 10-18

Pro-life news at Holy Cross:

- ◆ We have managed to collect an incredible 9 pages of signatures from Holy Cross Church against the government's proposal to allow abortion advertisements on TV. Many thanks to everyone who took the time to sign.
- ◆ You may remember the consultation document on sex and relationships education Leicester SPUC made available in the church. Despite our efforts, proposed changes to the national curriculum for ages 5-16 will mean explicit lessons on sex (in primary and secondary schools) and 'sexual health' services (abortion, contraceptives, morning-after pill) in secondary schools. The proposals would force Catholic head-teachers, teachers and governors to choose between the law and their conscience. Please write to your MP and ask him or her to appeal to the government not to make sex education a mandatory part of the national curriculum. Please also consider joining the branch of SPUC here at Holy Cross – especially if you are a teacher or parent and can advise us on how best to work with Catholic schools in the area.

Coro Nostro - Music for Christmas, this Tuesday. See noticeboard.

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, ~~Ateph 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!).

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 XTMAS & 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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