

## The light still shines in the darkness

THE apostle John tells us that “God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all”. So He created a good world in which His sons and daughters might be glad to live. But that world of ours was darkened, by Adam’s sin and by all men’s sins, until at last it seemed to be shrouded in night, as if hidden beneath the wings of the fallen angel. “No power of fire could give them light”, says the book of Wisdom, “nor could the bright flames of the stars enlighten that horrible night”. Such would be the world without Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God, then, that the Light through whom the world was made has come into the world. God the Son has taken to himself a human nature, and been born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem. As the prophet foretold:-

*While all things were in quiet silence, and the night was in the midst of her course, Thy almighty Word leapt down from heaven from the royal throne.*

The child of Bethlehem has set up the ladder by which whoever wishes may climb from the darkness here below into the glory of heaven. It is the save-and-rescue operation *par excellence*. No wonder the angels sang when they saw it.

And on earth too the true Light is now shining. Not everywhere: “for behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples”. Children are still born in original sin, and the fallen spirits, “the rulers of the world of this darkness”, still muster about us, unseen by our eyes. But from the cave of Bethlehem, there has shone forth a light which cannot be quenched; and it shines now in every soul that believes in Christ.

Only the light of Bethlehem can bring us to heaven. Some people go through life thinking they will work everything out for themselves, rely only on their own wits and take nothing on faith. They might as well try to pierce the depths of the universe with a pocket-torch. Others follow strange lights, will-o’-the-wisps, teachers who lead them into marshes and loneliness. But Christ, the brightness of the Father’s glory, leads us through this world into his Kingdom of light.

And to be with him, we must be with his Church. As soon as he was born of the Virgin, Jesus gathered shepherds around him. They symbolise the pastors of his Church, the bishops who feed us with sound doctrine. It is in the holy Catholic Church that the light of Bethlehem continues to shine. We who live today are at no disadvantage compared with those who lived in earlier times. Even if the darkness seems to press upon us more thickly, the true Light still shines from the teaching of Christ’s Church. ‘Behold, I am with you all days, even to the consummation of the world’.

So, rejoice, all you who believe in Christ, since he was born for you. ‘Recognise, O Christian, thy dignity; remember thou hast been delivered from the power of darkness and brought into the kingdom and the light of God’. A very happy Christmas to you all.

Fr Thomas 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	Henry family, living and dead	Fr Fabian
8:00am	Fr Isidore	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Fabian
9:30am Family	Fr Fabian	Julina, Felix, David François, RIP	Fr Duncan
11:00am Solemn	Fr Leon	Dec’d members of Barnes & Goulding fam’s	Fr Peter
12:30pm Old rite	Fr Thomas	Rajput family	Fr Thomas
5:00pm Students	----	<b>No Mass now until next term</b>	----
7:00pm	Fr Duncan	In thanksgiving	Fr Isidore

OTHER SUNDAY SERVICES	26 December	Confessions	2 January
6:00pm Rosary	Fr Leon	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Isidore
9:00am Lauds	Fr Peter	5:00 - 6:00pm	Fr Duncan
5:45pm Vespers			

**TIMES OF SERVICES.** Please note that from Monday 28 December to Friday 1 January, there will only be one Mass, at **12:30pm**, after which the church will be closed. Normal services resume on Saturday 2 January.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	
<b>Entrance Antiphon:</b>	The shepherds hastened to Bethlehem, where they found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <i>See overleaf for texts of the chants to be sung at 11am.</i>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b>	Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6. 12-14
<b>Psalm Response:</b>	<b>Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who will walk in his ways.</b> (Ps 128)
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b>	Colossians 3: 12-21
<b>Alleluia:</b>	<u>At 11:00</u> – Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. <u>Otherwise</u> – <b>Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.</b>
<b>Gospel:</b>	Luke 2: 41-52
<b>Communion Antiphon:</b>	<u>At 11:00</u> – My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been looking for you. Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father’s affairs? <u>Otherwise</u> – Our God has appeared on earth, and lived among men.

**MONEY MATTERS:** Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £897.12; SVP £4.09; Friends of Holy Cross £14.26; Holy Souls £19.98; Crib restoration £15.90. The McNabb Appeal fund still stands at £4046.97.

The collection at all Masses on Christmas Day will be your Christmas gift to the Dominican Friars at Holy Cross. Thank you for your kindness and support.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

New translation into English of the Roman Missal. The new translation is likely to be brought into use before the end of 2010, and the diocese is organising a series of study days, one of which will be held in Leicester at St Patrick's Parish Hall, Beaumont Leys Lane, on Saturday 30 January, from 10am to 3:30pm. If you wish to go, please contact Janet Hornsby at the Diocesan Centre, Mackworth on 01332 293833 ext 820, or [janet.hornsby@nottingham-des.org.uk](mailto:janet.hornsby@nottingham-des.org.uk). More details are on the noticeboard.



Unto us a Child is given; unto us a Son is born

“**Ringing the changes at Holy Cross**”. This is the headline of the latest issue of *The Black Friars*, Newsletter of the English Dominican Province. Get up to date with all the news by taking a copy as you leave the church.

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph: 11am Mass**

**Introit:** God is in his holy dwelling; he will give a home to the lonely, he gives power and strength to his people. Let God arise, let his foes be scattered. Let those who hate him flee before him.

**Gradual:** There is one thing I ask of the Lord, for this I long, to live in the house of the Lord. To savour the sweetness of the Lord, to behold his holy temple.

**Alleluia:** Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.

**Offertory:** I trust in you, Lord, I say: You are my God. My life is in your hands.

**Communion** My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been looking for you. Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?

**Antiphon:**

**Pilgrimage to the Holy Land – 9 to 17 April.** See noticeboard in the Narthex.

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:	HOLY INNOCENTS	
Tuesday:	St Thomas Becket, bishop, martyr, patron of the English Pastoral Clergy	
Wednesday:	SIXTH DAY IN CHRISTMAS OCTAVE	
Thursday:	SEVENTH DAY IN CHRISTMAS OCTAVE	
Friday:	HOLY MARY, MOTHER OF GOD, solemnity	
Saturday:	SS Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, bishops, doctors	
WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. This week, Mass in the older form will be celebrated on days and at times to be announced. Next week there will be a sung Mass of the Epiphany on the Wednesday. All welcome, especially a server. If you would like to learn to serve this Mass, please contact Fr Thomas.		
<b>Next Sunday – The Epiphany of the Lord. Readings:</b>		
Isaiah 60: 1-6	Ephesians 3: 2-3a. 5-6	Matthew 2: 1-12

There will be **NO First Friday Coffee Morning this Friday** (possibly because the organisers fear they won't be able to cope after a night on the tiles?), so there will be a well-deserved break until the first Friday in February. Many thanks to all who organise and attend, raising much-needed funds each month.

**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 to anyone in need, 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). There are more details on the noticeboard in the Narthex at the back of the church.

**Churches together in Leicestershire** are recommending us to contribute to the Shelter Housing Aid and Research Project (SHARP). SHARP provides help to those who find themselves in often desperate housing need. Donations, payable to SHARP, should be sent to them at 13 Welford Road, LE2 7AD. See noticeboard for more details.

**SPUC Scotland** will be hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Pro-Life Conference in Glasgow from 19 to 21 March. See noticeboard for details.



The Dominican Community wish all our parishioners and visitors a happy and holy Christmastide and New Year



**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<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:** [holycrosschoirleicester.co.uk](http://holycrosschoirleicester.co.uk)

**CONTACT DETAILS**  
Holy Cross Priory  
45 Wellington Street, LE1 6HW  
Priory phone: (0116) 255 3856  
Fax/recorded times of services: 255 5552  
Parish Priest:  
Fr Leon Pereira: 252 1501  
[leon.pereira@english.op.org](mailto:leon.pereira@english.op.org)  
For home visits: 255 3856