

## CONCERNING MONEY MATTERS

**C**HARLES Dickens' character Mr Micawber is well known for his saying: 'Annual income, twenty pounds; annual expenditure, nineteen pounds nineteen and six: result, happiness. Annual income, twenty pounds; annual expenditure, twenty pounds ought and six: result, misery'. In other words, spend more than you receive and the result is unhappiness.

We realised recently, from examining the Parish annual accounts for 2010-2011, that we were getting into Mr Micawber's misery bracket. Well, perhaps not actual misery yet; but to have an annual deficit is certainly heading for difficulties. So we felt it was necessary to tell you about it, by the notice that was read out at Mass a few week-ends ago.

The finances of the Parish are the concern of us all. Fr Thomas and his assistants have the job of administering the accounts; but we all have some involvement, even if only a very small one, in the raising and the spending of the Parish money. The Parish Finance Committee has been in abeyance recently, but we are in the process of reviving it, and when it is up and running it will be the body which everyone can refer to with suggestions or concerns, or simply for information. And a summary of the annual accounts will be published for all to see.

Meanwhile we need to think of ways to increase the Parish income. I know this is not a good time to ask you to give more. The recession is getting at everyone. But look at it this way. Could you manage to give just 50p more, or even £1 more, each week? Our week-end congregation numbers about 900 people. If each of you were to give that extra bit, our weekly collection would increase by £450, or even £900. Now look at the amount of the weekly collection, published on the inside page of the Newsletter, and calculate the difference that extra bit would make. It would easily meet the deficit, and we would be able to put some money by for developments, or for a rainy day. A small contribution from everyone is more valuable than a big donation from one or two, because it expresses everyone's involvement in the Parish. (Of course we would not refuse any large donations we were offered!). Please consider this suggestion; and take a good look at the leaflet that comes with this Newsletter.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED.

Fr Fabian OP.

## The Newsletter of HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER

*Serving Leicester's Catholics since AD 1247*



<b>Entrance Antiphon:</b>	GAUDETE in Domino semper! Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.
<b>At 11am – page nos in Missale:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Mass Ordinary, p 13; Mass Proper, p 46</li> <li>•Sung setting: Mass XVII <i>For the Sundays of Advent</i>, p 214; Credo I, p 215</li> <li>•Communion motet: Rejoice in the Lord alway <i>Anon</i></li> <li>•Organ sortie: Conditor alme siderum <i>Titelouze</i></li> </ul>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b>	Isaiah 61: 1-2a. 10-11
<b>Psalm <math>\text{R}</math>:</b>	<b>My soul shall exult in my God.</b> (Luke 1)
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b>	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
<b>Alleluia:</b>	The spirit of the Lord is upon me; he has sent me to preach good news to the poor.
<b>Gospel:</b>	John 1:6-8. 19-28
<b>Communion Antiphon:</b>	Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.
<b>WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN.</b> In addition to the Masses listed in the schedule on p 3, Holy Mass will be offered in the Dominican rite from <b>Monday to Saturday at 8am.</b>	

**SERVICES OVER CHRISTMAS.** Please take as many of the cards by the doors as you need. They give the times of all services from 19 to 27 December, and please do NOT ring the Priory to ask for this information...

**Do you love to listen to (and maybe sing) Advent and Christmas carols?** Please come to the Holy Cross Festival of Choirs in the parish hall, from 7-9pm on Monday December 19. All welcome – entrance is free – please bring and share a seasonal snack. Tea, coffee, fruit juice, mulled wine provided.

**Calendar Raffle:** up to £500 can be won in our new calendar raffle. Tickets are available for every date in the leap year. Choose the date you want and, if it's available, buy a ticket for that date. A great gift for someone's birthday or anniversary. The draw will be launched at the parish lunch today and tickets will be on sale after all Masses from tomorrow. Proceeds will go to the parish centre renovations. Winners will be drawn on February 29, 2012.

**Short Advent Talks after Friday 10am and 12.30pm Masses.** This year the theme is 'Christmas with the Fathers.' This Friday after the 10am Mass, Fr. Isidore will speak on 'St. Irenaeus: Restoration and Fulfilment in Christ'. Then, after the 12.30pm Mass, Fr Isidore will read Fr Greg's talk entitled, 'St. Ambrose: Why Advent?' We hope you will be able to get to some of these talks.

**MONEY MATTERS:** Last Weekend's collections (previous week in brackets) – Offertory Collection £1109.55 (of which £431.00 Gift Aided and £678.55 not) (£1099.00); SVP £26.19 (£23.52); Friends of Holy Cross £13.74 (£6.46); Holy Souls £22.87 (£11.49); Grenada Church Restoration £2.63 (£3.11). The retiring collection for New and Poor Parishes came to £199.54; the Advent Market made £667; and the collection at the Advent Carol Service came to £64.73.

200 Club. Last month's winners were: 27, J O'Donoghue £150; 45 P Boylan £100; and 176, T Collins £50. Congratulations!

This week there is a retiring collection for Christmas flowers for the church.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

**Christmas Holidays already.** Our Tuesday evening Latin class has now broken up for the holiday and will resume on 17 January at 7pm. The class is wide-ranging and our ever-flexible tutor, Ray Fowell, is willing to tackle whatever class members would like to see. If you are interested in joining the class in January, please contact Ray at [ray.fowell@btopenworld.com](mailto:ray.fowell@btopenworld.com). *Floreat lingua Latina!* Also taking a break is our 'Around the Bible in 80 Weeks' series which will resume in the New Year.

St Paul's School invites you to their School Carol Service on Tuesday 29 December at 7pm in the School Hall, followed by mince pies and refreshments. All are welcome.

Apologies for the black marks on recent Newsletters and other printed material. Our copier has been in need of a new part and, now this has arrived, all should be well.

**Today's Gospel: John the Baptist said, "I am as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness; make a straight way for the Lord."**

**Inspirational Young People Wanted!** Do you know any young people from Leicester(shire), aged 13 to 19, who have made an outstanding contribution to their community, inspired others with their creativity and innovation in music, arts, technology or engineering, or excelled in sport or teamwork? If so, nominate them now for the Lord Lieutenant's Young People Award 2012. The closing date is 31 January. For a nomination form call the Lieutenancy Office at County Hall on 305 6060 or see [www.leics.gov.uk/llawards](http://www.leics.gov.uk/llawards).

**Choral Music for Advent:** There will be a concert at St Barnabas Cathedral, Nottingham, given by the Cathedral's Schola Cantorum, **TODAY** Sunday 11 December at 7.30pm. Tickets £5 on the door. See noticeboard.

**SPUC is looking for 10 people** who could volunteer to distribute 100 leaflets each between now and Christmas in their neighbourhoods or local streets. The leaflet is in a very simple 'what abortion means to women' format. It should take less than an hour to distribute the 100 leaflets but this would form part of their aim to get 10,000 distributed in Leicester. If you can help, please contact 0775 88 44 918.

Year II	This week's calendar & Mass Intentions	Psalter Week 3
Confessions	10.30 to 11.30 Fr Fabian, and 17.00 to 18.00 Fr Duncan	
Sunday	Third Sunday of Advent ('Gaudete')	
	Vigil 18.00 † Deceased members of Pinto family	Fr Duncan
	8.00 † Kitty O'Donoghue	Fr Fabian
	Family 9.30 † Hugh MacRory	Fr Gregory
	Solemn 11.00 <i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Fabian
	OP Rite 12.30 † Susan Donnelly	Fr Thomas
	19.00 Scarborough family intention	Fr Thomas
Monday	Advent feria	
	10.00 † Brigid Kirwan	
	12.30 † Sr Marie Howley	
Tuesday	St Lucy, virgin, martyr	
	10.00 † Dead of the Order of Preachers	
	12.30 Ann O'Connell	
Wednesday	St John of the Cross, priest, doctor	
	10.00 Intentions of Edmunds, Anita & Olafs	
	12.30 † Family Arango Eseobar	
Thursday	Advent feria	
	10.00 † Michael Duignan	
	12.30 † Monica O'Reilly	
Friday	Advent feria	
	10.00 † Margaret McCarrick	
	12.30 † Martin & Delia	

**Forthcoming parish events for your diary**

Mon 19 Dec Festival of Choirs. Parish Hall, downstairs. 7-9pm. Refreshments provided.