

CHRISTMAS 2011

EARLY this week I went to a funeral. Perhaps that sounds a bit out of keeping with the Christmas story! And in one way I suppose it is; but it made me think. The person who had died was an old friend, who was 97; so she had had a good innings, a full life, and there were plenty of friends and relations there to pray for her. And I expect many of us were thinking: 'What a shame that she died just before Christmas'. We rightly think of Christmas as being about new life, which of course it is: the baby in the manger, and all sorts of different people coming to welcome the new born Child, the Son of God and son of Mary.

But in all human experience, life and death are interwoven, in many different ways. Just think of the Christmas story. There is death there as well as life and the two are directly linked. The infants were slaughtered by Herod because Jesus was born; and the Holy Family was immediately forced to undergo a kind of death by being driven into exile in Egypt. Then of Mary it was prophesied: 'a sword will pierce your own heart'; and doubtless it was not only at Jesus' death that this was fulfilled. Every parent, but especially every mother, suffers agonies because of their children. There is in parenthood a call to constant self-sacrifice and self-giving which is itself a kind of death.

So it is not only during Holy Week and Easter that we realise the close link between life and death, between crucifixion and resurrection. It is fascinating to see how many paintings of the Nativity and the childhood of Jesus, by old masters, give hints of his coming death. The shadow of the Cross falls over the stable at Bethlehem and the home at Nazareth.

So perhaps it was not so inappropriate after all that my old friend should die just before Christmas. Moreover, the new life that Jesus brings us at Christmas is not like the life which we all inherit from our parents. That is a life which may be filled with disappointments, suffering, sickness and finally death. But what Jesus was born to bring to us is a life without end, a life which fulfils all that we can ever need or desire, because it is a share in the very life of God himself. That is what we think of as we worship the Child in the Manger.

The Dominican brethren of Holy Cross community wish you every blessing for Christmas and 2012, and offer grateful thanks for your continuing support.

Fr Fabian OP

The Nativity of the Lord

Year B

25 December 2011

The Newsletter of **HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER**

Serving Leicester's Catholics since AD 1247



Entrance Antiphon:	<i>Dawn:</i> Today a light will shine upon us, for the Lord is born for us; and he will be called Wondrous God, Prince of peace, Father of future ages: and his reign will be without end. <i>Day:</i> A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.
At 11am – page nos in Missale:	•Mass Ordinary, p 13; Mass Proper, p 51 •Sung setting: Mass VIII <i>De Angelis</i> , p 206; Credo III, p 216 •Communion motet: A babe is born <i>Schein</i> •Organ sortie: Prelude in C BWV 547a <i>J S Bach</i>
1st Reading:	<i>Dawn:</i> Isaiah 62: 11-12. <i>Day:</i> Isaiah 52: 7-10
Psalm ℟:	<i>Dawn:</i> A light will shine on us this day: the Lord is born for us. (Pss 97 & 6) <i>Day:</i> All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. (Ps 98)
2nd Reading:	<i>Dawn:</i> Titus 3:4-7. <i>Day:</i> Hebrews 1: 1-6
Alleluia:	<i>Dawn:</i> Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased. <i>Day:</i> A hallowed day has shone upon us: come O nations and adore the Lord; for today a great light has come down to the earth.
Gospel:	<i>Dawn:</i> Luke 2:15-20. <i>Day:</i> John 1:1-18
Communion Antiphon:	<i>Dawn:</i> Rejoice, O Daughter Sion; lift up praise, Daughter Jerusalem: Behold, your King will come, the Holy One and Saviour of the world. <i>Day:</i> All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. In addition to the Masses listed in the schedule on p 3, Holy Mass will be offered in the Dominican rite from Monday to Saturday, normally at 8am. <u>This week</u> , on Monday 26 th and Tuesday 27 th , this Mass will be at 9am (and at the normal time for the rest of the week).	

SERVICES OVER CHRISTMAS. Please take as many of the cards by the doors as you need. They give the times of all services until 27 December, and please do NOT ring the Priory to ask for this information... Please note that, after Vespers at 5.45pm, the church will be closed and there will be **no Rosary, Compline or Benediction, and NO EVENING MASS today, Christmas Day.** Monday and Tuesday are Bank Holidays, so there will only be Masses at 9am and 12.30pm after which the church will be closed. Normal times of services will resume on Wednesday.

Calendar Raffle: up to £500 can be won in our new calendar raffle. Tickets are available, price £5, for every unsold 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. Tickets will be on sale after all Masses. Proceeds will go to the parish centre renovations. Winners will be drawn on February 29, 2012.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £1102.56 (of which £482.12 Gift Aided and £620.44 not – many thanks to the parishioners who have recently completed Gift Aid declarations); SVP £8.11; Friends of Holy Cross £5.27; Holy Souls £6.95; Grenada Church Restoration £0.90. The retiring collection for Christmas flowers for the church came to £262.40.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of John Foote, a very good friend of the Priory and an active member of the Parish, who died during the week. The funeral will be held at Our Lady of Victories, Market Harborough. May he rest in peace.

Thanks to everyone who organised and/or came to last Monday's Festival of Choirs. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening with good food, good music and good company, and a good lead-up to the Season of Christmas.

Rene Marston, who helped with the children's liturgy for many years, has died in Newcastle on 8 December. Her funeral was on 15 December. May she rest in peace. There may be some memorial to her at Holy Cross in the New Year.



“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given
... and his name shall be called Wonderful
Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting
Father, the Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)

Are you homeless and lonely on Saturdays? There will be a ‘Saturday Stop-By’ from 11am to 2pm each Saturday, starting on 7 January, at the Undercroft of St James the Greater, St James Terrace, at the back of the church, off Mayfield Road. There will be hot food, company and indoor games. This is a joint project between St James the Greater Church and the Islamic Society of Britain's Eat 'n' Meet project. See noticeboard. More information from 07989 698483 or salma.ravat@gmail.com.

First Friday Coffee. These gatherings are now successfully re-established, and thank you to all who came and helped at the beginning of this month. But please note that, exceptionally, there will be no first Friday coffee in January. Normal service will be resumed on Friday 3 February.

Christ in the Centre 2012: Planning is now under way for this major event on Good Friday. If you wish to help financially or in any other way, please contact Canon Barry Naylor at St Martin's House, next to Leicester Cathedral, and for information please visit www.christinthecentre.co.uk.

The Dominican Secular Institute is a gathering of Consecrated lay people dedicated to Prayer, Study and Action. For further details see noticeboard, or contact Fr Isidore (isidore.clarke@english.op.org) or Janet Wiltshire (janetwilts@aol.com).

Year II	This week's calendar & Mass Intentions	Psalter Week 1
Confessions	10.30 to 11.30 Fr Fabian, and 16.45 to 17.45 Fr Duncan	
Sunday	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	
Midnight	23.30 <i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Fabian
	8.00 Edmund & Anita Olafs	Fr Isidore
Family	9.30 Gloria's intentions	Fr Duncan
Solemn	11.00 Commemoration of the Nativity	Fr Fabian
OP Rite	12.30 ✠ J Brosnan	Fr Thomas
	19.00 <i>There is no Mass at this time today</i>	—
Monday	ST STEPHEN, PROTOMARTYR (Bank Holiday)	
	10.00 <i>There is no Mass at this time today</i>	
	12.30 A I Pat Lucey	
Tuesday	ST JOHN, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST (Bank Holiday)	
	10.00 <i>There is no Mass at this time today</i>	
	12.30 ✠ Dead of the Order of Preachers	
Wednesday	THE HOLY INNOCENTS	
	10.00 Jackie Hickey & family	
	12.30 ✠ Gregory d'Silva	
Thursday	ST THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP, MARTYR	
	10.00 Gracie & Louis Dasouza's intentions	
	12.30 Connell family	
Friday	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH	
	10.00 ✠ James Patrick Nyland	
	12.30 Michael & Rachel	
Saturday	SEVENTH DAY IN CHRISTMAS OCTAVE	
	10.00 Intentions of Andrade & D'Silva families	
	12.30 ✠ Joseph	
Confessions	10.30 to 11.30 Fr Gregory, and 17.00 to 18.00 Fr Duncan	
	WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. Holy Mass is offered in the Dominican rite from Monday to Saturday, normally at 8am. This week, on Monday 26th and Tuesday 27th, this Mass will be at 9am (and at the normal time for the rest of the week).	
Next Sunday – HOLY MARY, MOTHER OF GOD, solemnity. Readings:		
	Numbers 6:22-27	Galatians 4:4-7
		Luke 2:16-21

The Liturgical Calendar 2012 for the Dominican English Province (up to Lent) is now available at <http://english.op.org/News.html>.

Flashing Fire. The 101 days of perpetual Adoration taking place at Mother of God Church, New Parks, will soon be concluding at 3pm on Sunday 1 January. Visit www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk and see noticeboard.

Faith Guiding: St Philip's Centre, Evington Road, will be offering in February/March a free course for people who want to welcome visitors to places of worship and organise faith exhibitions and displays. Details from maureen@stphilipscentre.co.uk.



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



REGULAR SERVICE TIMES

MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS
7.30 Lauds
10.00 Mass
12.30 Mass (Rosary at 12.00)
17.45 Vespers
OP Rite Masses as announced.

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 (Rosary at 12.00)
17.00 Confessions until 18.00
17.45 Vespers
18.00 Vigil Mass for Sunday
OP Rite Masses as announced.

HOLIDAYS
18.00 (previous day) Vigil Mass
7.30 Lauds
10.00 Mass
12.30 Mass
17.45 Vespers
19.00 Mass

BANK HOLIDAYS
7.30 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 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays)
12.30 Mass (OP rite in Latin)
17.45 Vespers
18.00 Rosary
18.20 Sung Latin Compline
18.40 Benediction
19.00 Mass

Royal Infirmary Chaplaincy: For urgent visits, ask ward staff to bleep the Roman Catholic Chaplain. For non-urgent visits, leave a message at the Priory or at the LRI Chaplains' Office. Messages may not be picked up until the end of the day.

Universities' Chaplain:
Fr David Rocks: 0116 252 1512

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