

Why the Church prefers burial

Dr Johnson famously said that the only certain things in life are death and taxes. About taxes, Mother Church claims no special competence, beyond saying that we must pay them (Rom. 13:7), unless they are manifestly unjust. But about death, she does have quite a lot to say; which is hardly surprising, since death is for each of us the beginning of our eternity.

What happens to the soul after death, of course, is far more important than what happens to the body. Heaven, hell, purgatory; these things are far beyond our comprehension. Yet we can dimly imagine them, and in so doing we perhaps feel that in comparison to the destination of the soul after death, all other questions fade into insignificance.

Nevertheless, by God's will the human body too has its proper value in the scheme of things, even after the person has died. Don't we all instinctively feel it to be so? There is no society on earth in which the dead body is not treated with some ceremonies of reverence. Even when the soul has departed, the body retains a trace of the divine image which God breathed into the face of Adam on the day of his creation. What's more, the body of the Christian was made a temple of the Holy Spirit in baptism, and those who are faithful unto death will rise again gloriously on the last day.

All this perhaps helps us see why the Church is not neutral between the options of burial and cremation. This is what she says: 'The Church strenuously recommends that the devout custom of burying the bodies of the departed be preserved' (Code of Canon Law, no. 1176:3). She sees it as particularly suited to the dignity of the human body, and a vivid way of expressing our faith in the resurrection.

It's also worth remembering that when the deceased Christian is buried, he is in that sense conformed to Christ. Our Lord chose to lie in the tomb. Likewise, tradition tells us, the Blessed Virgin was also placed in a tomb before her assumption, body and soul, into heaven.

Unfortunately, in our complex modern society, funerals are often expensive affairs, and burials can be particularly so. Perhaps a new Catholic charity could be formed, to respond to this problem. In the meantime, the English Dominicans have some funds available set aside for those who come to our churches and are in financial straits. Preserving the ancient Christian custom of burial would certainly count as a good use of these funds.

Fr Thomas OP

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

31 July 2011

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

Serving Leicester's Catholics since AD 1247



Entrance Antiphon:	God, come to my help. Lord, quickly give me assistance. You are the one who helps me and sets me free: Lord, do not be long in coming.
At 11am – page nos in Missale:	• Mass Ordinary, p 13 • Mass Proper, p 138
1st Reading:	Isaiah 55:1-3
Psalm R:	You open your hand, Lord, and you satisfy us. (Ps 145)
2nd Reading:	Romans 8:35. 37-39
Alleluia:	Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.
Gospel:	Matthew 14:13-21
Communion Antiphon:	<u>Either</u> – You gave us bread from heaven, Lord: a sweet-tasting bread that was very good to eat. <u>Or</u> – The Lord says: I am the bread of life. A man who comes to me will not go away hungry, and no one who believes in me will thirst.

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 at 8am.**

Thank you to all who have sponsored Blackfriars' Market - including our new, main sponsor, Cummins Solicitors. We have now raised close to £1000 for equipment, prizes, etc. If you would like to become a sponsor, please take an envelope from the tables and return it to any of the friars as soon as possible.

In particular we are looking for an individual or business to sponsor our 'mega-raffle' by providing either a first prize of around £150 or £150 in cash. Raffle tickets will be on sale from 1 September. Please contact Jeff on 0116 243 1289 or talk to Fr Fabian.

SEE THE NOTICEBOARDS FOR DETAILS OF:

- An evening with John Florance (of Radio Leicester) on Wednesday 17 August at 7.30pm in St Martin's House by Leicester Cathedral;
- The Association of Our Lady of Mount Carmel's 25th Rosary Rally, at Grace Dieu Manor (near Coalville) on Sunday 21 August, commencing at 3pm with concelebrated Mass;
- Blessed Tansi Pilgrimage at Mount Saint Bernard Abbey on Saturday 27 August at 11:00am.
- Our Lady Queen of Peace annual pilgrimage to Walsingham on Monday 29 August (ring Kath on 234 0103 to book seats on the coach);
- The Dowry of Mary Pilgrimage to Walsingham on Sunday 11 September.

MONEY MATTERS: Offertory collection for the week before £897.42 and for last week £871.57. And for the last two weeks: SVP £37.74; Friends of Holy Cross £17.42; Holy Souls £22.80; Grenada Church Restoration £10.64. The retiring collection for the Day for Life came to £146.74.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

“The Sacrifice of the Mass”. There will be a discussion morning led by the Provincial, Fr John Farrell OP, organised by the Lay Dominicans, on Saturday 24 September from 10am in St Clement’s Hall. All are welcome. Details from Patrick and Janet Doyle on 01482 802020 and janandpatdoyle@yahoo.co.uk, and see noticeboard.

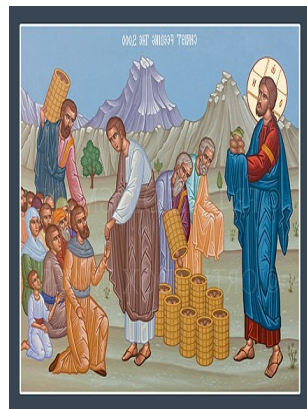
The fourth *Evangelium* conference for Catholics aged 18-35, organised in association with the CTS, is taking place at the Oratory School, Reading from 5th-7th August. This is a unique opportunity to hear many fine speakers, including Bishop Mark Davies of Shrewsbury and Joanna Bogle, and to meet Catholics from all over the country. Speak to Fr Thomas for more information, call 01834 812643 or visit www.evangelium.co.uk.

Seeing Christ in our midst. This is the theme of the SVP’s Annual Art Competition 2011. There are four categories from the Under 11s to the Over 16s, and prizes up to £100. More information from www.svp.org.uk and the noticeboard. Closing date is 31 October.

Churches Together in Leicester City Centre will meet at the Bishop Street Methodist Church, Town Hall Square, at 12:30pm on Thursday. Anyone looking for an opportunity for prayer is welcome. Our times of shared prayer provide us with an opportunity to pray for our city in all its rich diversity as well as an opportunity to meet one another after the worship for a chat over tea and coffee.

A day on the theme “Raising Awareness of Dementia” led by Deacon Anthony Sullivan, will be held on Saturday 15th October 10am - 2pm at Holy Trinity Community and Partnership Centre, Newark NG24 4AU. This will be an opportunity to explore the spiritual needs of people living with dementia, and their carers. For more details and bookings, please contact Christina Mottram cj.mottram@ntlworld.com 0116 221 3066. Also see noticeboard.

Around the Bible in 80 weeks. We have now completed our study of the New Testament and will be taking a break until the Autumn before starting the Old Testament. The whole series so far may be seen on the parish website.



Today’s Gospel: “Jesus looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave ... and they all ate and were satisfied...”

Forthcoming parish events for your diary	
Sat 24 Sept	“The Sacrifice of the Mass” - discussion led by Fr Provincial John Farrell OP in St Clement’s Hall from 10am
Sat 1 Oct	Rock n Roll - Absolute Beginners’ dance tuition and party
Sat 8 Oct	Blackfriars’ Market
Sat 12 Nov	Parish Ceilidh
Sun 27 Nov	Advent Market
Sun 11 Dec	Parish Christmas Lunch

Year 1	This week’s calendar & Mass Intentions	Psalter Week 2
Confessions	10.30 to 11.30 Fr Peter, and 17.00 to 18.00 Fr Fabian	
Sunday	18th Sunday per annum	
Vigil	18.00 ✠ Irene Olszewska	Fr Fabian
	8.00 ✠ Mary Maher	Fr Greg
Family	9.30 ✠ Francis & Rose Olwe Hare	Fr Fabian
Solemn *	11.00 <i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Duncan
OP Rite	12.30 Special intention for Africa	Fr Thomas
Students	17.00 No Mass now until next term	—
	19.00 Gliwa Family	Fr Peter
	* The choir will be on holiday on 31 July, and 7 and 21 August	
Monday	St Alphonsus Mary de’ Liguori, bishop, doctor	
	10.00 ✠ Holy Souls	
	12.30 ✠ O’Rawe & Holmes families	
Tuesday	Bl. Jane of Caleruega, mother of O.H.F. Dominic	
	10.00 ✠ Dead of the Order of Preachers	
	12.30 Buntten family	
Wednesday	Feria	
	10.00 ✠ O’Rawe & Holmes families	
	12.30 ✠ Holy Souls	
Thursday	St John Mary Vianney, priest	
	10.00 ✠ Holy Souls	
	12.30 ✠ Michael Killeen	
Friday	Feria	
	10.00 ✠ O’Rawe & Holmes families	
	12.30 ✠ Holy Souls	
Saturday	THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD	
	10.00 ✠ Holy Souls	
	12.30 Private intention	
Confessions	10.30 to 11.30 Fr Isidore, and 17.00 to 18.00 Fr Greg	
	WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN. Holy Mass will be offered in the Dominican rite from Monday to Saturday at 8am.	
Next Sunday – 19th Sunday per annum. Readings:		
1 Kings 19:9. 11-13	Romans 9:1-5	Matthew 14:22-33

Thanks to everyone who has signed the SPUC petition about primary school sex education. Please do sign the petition if you haven’t already. Many Thanks.

The British Red Cross remains 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 also mostly wanted. A full list of items may be seen on the noticeboard and in the Newsletter (26 June) on the parish website. Please keep giving generously to support these vulnerable people. Thank you.

If you are having a bit of a summer clearout, we would love to have any *good-quality items* you can spare for *Blackfriars’ Market*. In particular we would appreciate a good match-football, large doll or teddy, any fairtrade goods, bottled goods, jams/pickles, toys, sweets/chocolates, items for prizes, quality bric-a-brac, paperbacks and DVDs. Please note: in the interests of the environment, we will NOT be issuing plastic bags, please re-use your own bags or boxes, label them ‘Blackfriars’ Market’ and hand your goods to any of the community.

REGULAR SERVICE TIMES
MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS
7.30 Lauds
10.00 Mass
12.30 Mass (Rosary at 12.00)
17.45 Vespers
Old 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
Old 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 (& MON TO FRI AROUND XTMAS & NEW YEAR)
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 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 a message at the Priory or the LRI Chaplains’ Office. Messages may not be picked up until the end of the day.
Parish Website: www.holycrossleicester.org
Website & Newsletter Editors: holycrosswebsite@gmail.com holycrossnewsletter@gmail.com
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