

## The Lord who today once more comes to meet us

Christ is our peace, and he proclaimed peace to those far away and to those near at hand (cf. *Eph* 2:14, 17). How could we now do other than pray to him: Yes, Lord, proclaim peace today to us too, whether we are far away or near at hand. Grant also to us today that swords may be turned into ploughshares (*Is* 2:4), that instead of weapons for warfare, practical aid may be given to the suffering. Enlighten those who think they have to practise violence in your name, so that they may see the senselessness of violence and learn to recognize your true face. Help us to become people “with whom you are pleased” – people according to your image and thus people of peace.

Once the angels departed, the shepherds said to one another: Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened for us (cf. *Lk* 2:15). The shepherds went with haste to Bethlehem, the Evangelist tells us (cf. 2:16). A holy curiosity impelled them to see this child in a manger, who the angel had said was the Saviour, Christ the Lord. The great joy of which the angel spoke had touched their hearts and given them wings.

Let us go over to Bethlehem, says the Church’s liturgy to us today. *Trans-eamus* is what the Latin Bible says: let us go “across”, daring to step beyond, to make the “transition” by which we step outside our habits of thought and habits of life, across the purely material world into the real one, across to the God who in his turn has come across to us. Let us ask the Lord to grant that we may overcome our limits, our world, to help us to encounter him, especially at the moment when he places himself into our hands and into our heart in the Holy Eucharist.

Let us go over to Bethlehem: as we say these words to one another, along with the shepherds, we should not only think of the great “crossing over” to the living God, but also of the actual town of Bethlehem and all those places where the Lord lived, ministered and suffered. Let us pray at this time for the people who live and suffer there today. Let us pray that there may be peace in that land. Let us pray that Israelis and Palestinians may be able to live their lives in the peace of the one God and in freedom. Let us also pray for the countries of the region, for Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and their neighbours: that there may be peace there, that Christians in those lands where our faith was born may be able to continue living there, that Christians and Muslims may build up their countries side by side in God’s peace.

The shepherds made haste. Holy curiosity and holy joy impelled them. In our case, it is probably not very often that we make haste for the things of God. God does not feature among the things that require haste. The things of God can wait, we think and we say. And yet he is the most important thing, ultimately the one truly important thing. Why should we not also be moved by curiosity to see more closely and to know what God has said to us? At this hour, let us ask him to touch our hearts with the holy curiosity and the holy joy of the shepherds, and thus let us go over joyfully to Bethlehem, to the Lord who today once more comes to meet us. Amen.

*From the sermon of His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, Christmas 2012*

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

[www.holycrossleicester.org](http://www.holycrossleicester.org)



<b>Entrance Antiphon:</b>	The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.
<b>At 11am – page nos in Missale:</b>	• Mass Ordinary, p 13; Mass Proper, p 54 • Sung setting: Mass IX <i>Cum Jubilo</i> , p 208; Credo III, p 126 • Motet: Ad cantum laeticie <i>Piae cantiones</i>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b>	Sirach 3:3-7.14-17
<b>Psalm <math>\text{I}x</math>:</b>	<b>Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in his ways.</b> (Ps 128)
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b>	Colossians 3:12-21
<b>Alleluia <math>\Psi</math>:</b>	Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.
<b>Gospel:</b>	Luke 2:22-40
<b>Communion Antiphon:</b>	Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

**Baptism Preparation:** the next session is on 4 January; please come to the sacristy at the end of the 9.30am Mass. If you wish to have your child baptised at Holy Cross, you need to attend one of these sessions, usually held on the first Sunday of each month.

### CHRISTMAS AT HOLY CROSS

- ◆ Solemn First Vespers of Christmas on Christmas Eve at 5pm.
- ◆ Children’s Nativity Mass on Christmas Eve at 6.10pm. *This Mass fulfils the obligation.*
- ◆ Midnight Mass is preceded by a service of carols and readings beginning at 11.30pm.
- ◆ Christmas Day Masses at 8am, 10.30am and 12noon (Dominican rite).

**News from the Parish Shop.** Catholic Diaries and Diocesan Yearbooks are now available and both provide an invaluable reference books for the Church’s year. *The shop is open after the 12.30pm Masses during the week, on Saturdays from 11am until after the 12.30pm Mass, and after every Sunday Mass. The shop is in the room beyond the sacristy.*

**The Leicester Theological Society’s next talk** will be given by John Young, a Trustee of St Philip’s Centre, and entitled “Radical Orthodoxy – 14th Century Style – Piers Plowman”, and will be given on **Friday 9 January**. Meetings are held **here at Holy Cross, in St Clement’s Hall** at 7:30pm. Visitors are welcome (£5; students no charge). The Theological Society is an ecumenical organisation, founded in 1959. Its aim is to provide a platform for serious theological debate which is both challenging to those with theological training and intelligible to the thinking lay person. The Society welcomes both new members and others who may find it more convenient to attend occasional meetings.

**MONEY MATTERS:** Last Weekend's collections – Figures not yet available at the (earlier than usual) time of going to press.  
**On Christmas Day the Offertory collections at all Masses are your Christmas gifts to the Dominican friars here at Holy Cross.**

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

**On-Street Car Parking.** Please note that parking on Sundays in on-street spaces will continue to be free of charge until the end of January.

There are cards available with the times of Christmas services. Please take them and give them to your friends, and please do not ring the Priory to request this information...

**Boxing Day and New Year's Day** are Bank Holidays, so there will be no evening Mass, and the church will be closed after the 12.30 Mass.

**Sponsor the Sanctuary Lamp.** If you are willing to sponsor the sanctuary lamp to burn for your intentions for one week, please pick up an envelope. The friars will pray for this intention each day. The minimum suggested donation is £10.



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

**National March for Life.** There will be a meeting at 7pm on Thursday 22 January at St Joseph's Convent, Uppingham Road, Leicester LE5 6RA (next to St Joseph's Church) to discuss plans for the 2015 National March for Life, which organisers are hoping to be the biggest to date. March for Life started three years ago in Birmingham and now attracts hundreds of people united in defence of the unborn child. This is a great and easy way to join others to peacefully raise awareness of the nearly 200,000 abortions taking place in the UK every year. Please do attend the meeting on 22 January to help us plan for this great event. For more details contact Francisca Martinez on 07943 711549 or Sr Lelia Walsh on [stjoseph-leicester@ntl.com](mailto:stjoseph-leicester@ntl.com).

**Appeal for Refugees & Asylum Seekers.** Refugees and Asylum Seekers remain in urgent need of food donations to respond to the emergency needs of destitute asylum seekers and refugees in Leicester. The full list of items needed to support these destitute and vulnerable people is:

- ◆ **Tinned goods:** tomatoes/ kidney beans/ chick peas/ tuna/ mackerel/ corned beef/ tinned fruit/ tinned vegetables/ baked beans/ soup;
- ◆ **Dried foods:** rice/ maize meal/ lentils/ cous cous/ dried fruit/ noodles/ sugar/ porridge/ flour/ pasta;
- ◆ **Long life goods:** cooking oil/ cereal bars/ nuts/ cereal/ crisps/ indian savoury mix/ chocolate/ biscuits;
- ◆ **Drinks:** fruit juice/ tea/ coffee/ drinking chocolate/ dried milk/ long-life milk/ squash/ water;
- ◆ **Toiletries:** toothpaste/ toothbrushes/ soap/ toilet paper/ shampoo/ sanitary towels/ face and body creams/ shaving equipment;
- ◆ **Baby items:** nappies/ baby wipes/ oil/ baby milk/ baby food jars/ baby bath liquid;
- ◆ **Also:** tin openers/ cutlery/ crockery/ pans/ towels/ sleeping bags/ t-shirts/ supermarket and other shopping vouchers/ mobile telephone top-up vouchers/ writing paper/ envelopes/ stamps.

Please leave these items in the sacristy after any Mass. Thank you.

Year /	This week's calendar & Mass Intentions	Psalter Week 1
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH</b>	
	Vigil 18.10 ✠ Evelyn Haran 8.00 <i>Pro populo</i>	
	Sung 9.30 Bunten family	
	Solemn 11.00 Catherine & William Potterton	
	OP Rite 12.30 ✠ Mr & Mrs C D'Silva, & Gregory & Rosada D'Silva 19.00 Peter Corley	
<b>Monday</b>	<b>ST THOMAS BECKET, MARTYR</b>	
	OP Rite 8.00 The Brennan family 12.30 ✠ Roy Jones 18.10 Brendan Mullan	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS</b>	
	OP Rite 8.00 ✠ Dead of the Order of Preachers 12.30 Helen Furey 18.10 Mrs Helen McErlean	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS</b>	
	OP Rite 8.00 Ann Connell & family 12.30 ✠ Joseph Vathalloor 18.10 Mrs Patricia Macklin	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD, solemnity</b>	
	OP Rite 8.00 12.30 McDonagh family. <i>After this Mass the church is closed.</i> 18.10 <i>No Mass at this time today</i>	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Sts Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church</b>	
	OP Rite 8.00 Nora Morgan (get well) 12.30 The Brennan family 18.10 Helen, Ruth & Lydia	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Feria</b>	
	OP Rite 8.00 ✠ Holy Souls 10.00 Fr Norman Davitt SVD 12.30 For all suffering people	
<b>Next Sunday – THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD. Readings:</b>		
	Isaiah 60:1-6	Ephesians 3:2-3a.5-6
		Matthew 2:1-12

**Friars Preachers.** The Advent issue of this, the Newsletter of the Dominicans in England and Scotland, is now available on the tables by the doors. Please help yourself to a copy. Topics in this issue include a report on the Dominican Youth Pilgrimage, an Update from Iraq, and a brief study of the 'Quiet Virtues'. And there are details of how you may help support the general work of the friars and the Dominicans' Training Fund.

**Don't forget the Twinclarke's Blog.** Do have a look at the regular blog created by Peter and Isidore Clarke OP. Blogs are added regularly. Just visit: <http://mywaygodsway.blogspot.co.uk/>.



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



REGULAR SERVICE TIMES
<b>SUNDAYS</b>
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 (Dominican Rite) 18.00 Exposition, Rosary, Compline & Benediction 19.00 Mass
<b>MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS</b>
7.30 Lauds 8.00 Mass (Dominican Rite) 11.00*Devotions & Exposition 12.15*Benediction 12.30 Mass (Rosary at 12.00) 18.10 Mass followed by Vespers <b>*WEDNESDAYS ONLY</b>
<b>SATURDAYS</b>
8.00 Mass (Dominican Rite) 9.00 Lauds 10.00 Mass 10.30 Devotions & Exposition 10.30 Confessions until 11.30 12.30 Mass (Rosary at 12.00) 17.00 Confessions until 18.00 17.45 Vespers 18.10 Vigil Mass for Sunday
<b>HOLIDAYS OF OBLIGATION</b>
18.10 (previous day) Vigil Mass followed by Vespers 7.30 Lauds 8.00 Mass (Dominican Rite) 12.30 Mass 18.10 Mass followed by Vespers
<b>BANK HOLIDAYS</b>
7.30 Lauds 8.00 Mass (Dominican Rite) 12.30 Mass, after which the church is closed
<b>Royal Infirmary Chaplaincy:</b> 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.
<b>Universities' Chaplain:</b> Fr David Rocks: 0116 252 1512
<b>Baptism Preparation:</b> 1st Sunday of month after the 9.30 Mass.
<b>Baptisms:</b> Saturday afternoons.
<b>Parish Website:</b> <a href="http://www.holycrossleicester.org">www.holycrossleicester.org</a>
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