

## Athanasius of Alexandria

**O**n Saturday we celebrated the feast of St Athanasius, one of the four great Doctors of the Eastern Church. He lived from c. 296 - 373, and his life's work was upholding and articulating the creed of the Council of Nicea (325), defending the full divinity of Jesus as the Son of God. In doing this he endured forty years of strife with various theological, ecclesial and political foes, being exiled from his diocese five times for periods ranging from two to five years. However, he held to the proclamation of the truth to the end, earning the accolade *Athanasius contra mundum*, and maintaining both his personal integrity and theological wisdom.

What is his significance for us? He lived, after all, at a time and in a culture very remote from our own, yet the questions he addressed are still grappled with by contemporary theologians. Most importantly, he was a thoroughly biblical theologian. Of course, he did not possess all the tools available to modern Scripture scholars, but arguably what he did have he wielded with far greater acuity. For Athanasius, while the truths of divine revelation were narrated in various ways and at various times throughout the many books of the Bible, there was only one continuous historical work of salvation, and this was achieved by the same Father who acted throughout the ages through his Son by the power of the Holy Spirit; and that this historical narrative culminated in the Incarnation of the Son and his redemptive work. Thus, the revelations of God in the Old Testament only acquire their full significance in the light of Christ. For example, the Exodus and God's feeding the Israelites manna in the desert find their fulfilment in Christ's freeing mankind from sin and death and feeding them on the true heavenly bread – his risen body and blood. Athanasius can show us how to read again the Old Testament as a whole, in light of its unexpected ending in Jesus Christ. Again, Athanasius held that the Bible was the church's book, and so it was the church alone who authentically and authoritatively interprets it, especially in the liturgy.

Indeed, many of the controversies Athanasius engaged in were at root founded upon different ways of reading the Biblical text. The Alexandrine tradition emphasised the line taken by the gospel of John, which began its answer to the question of who Jesus was by speaking of the pre-existing Word of the Father. The contrasting emphasis prevalent in the See of Antioch was on the humanity of Jesus, seized by the Spirit of God in his baptism in the Jordan. Of course, both traditions contained essential truths, and needed to be held together in a creative tension. Push the Alexandrine one too far, and you lose Jesus' humanity – he becomes some kind of avatar of the Godhead, inhuman, essentially aloof. Conversely, push the Antiochene model to its extreme, and you end up with Jesus as the Q'ran sees him – a prophet, almost a super prophet, but human, not divine.

Athanasius insisted on the normative theological priority of biblical language and concepts above all the philosophical considerations of his time – and, equally, ours. If God is biblically conceived of as the Father, then he who is biblically named 'the Son' must equally be God as the Father is God. And this leads on to the Trinitarian insight Athanasius defended: that the one God is the Father begetting the Son in the love of the Holy Spirit and the Son loving the Father in the same Spirit in whom he is lovingly begotten. To name the Holy Spirit was to name not only the Father but the Son, for the Spirit is necessarily constituted within their relationship and so related to both. The Spirit is their mutual relational paternal and filial love; as we say every Sunday in the Nicene Creed, derived from that Council and Athanasius' teaching, the Son is "eternally begotten of the Father" and the Spirit "who proceeds from the Father and the Son".

Thanks to Athanasius the glory of the Trinity is made evident and the wonder of the incarnation elicits joy and praise from us. For what this concerns is our salvation, our being made whole, holy, our being brought into the life of God. For "united to us all by the human body that was his, the incorruptible Son of God clothed us all with incorruptibility by the promise of the resurrection. Even the corruption of death has no longer any power against men because of the Word who dwelt among them in one body" (Athanasius, *On the Incarnation of the Word*, 9). Greg OP

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Year B

3 May 2015

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

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



<b>Entrance Antiphon:</b>	O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.
<b>At 10.30am – page nos in Missale:</b>	• Mass Ordinary, p 13; Vidi aquam, p 42; Mass Proper, p 93 • Sung setting: Mass VIII <i>De Angelis</i> , p 206; Credo III, p 126 • Motet: Domini Deus <i>M Haydn</i>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b>	Acts 9:26-31
<b>Psalm <math>\text{LXX}</math>:</b>	<i>At 10.30am: You Lord are my praise in the great assembly. Otherwise: From you comes my praise, Lord, in the great congregation. (Ps 22)</i>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b>	1 John 3:18-24
<b>Alleluia:</b>	Abide in me, and I in you, says the Lord; he who abides in me bears much fruit.
<b>Gospel:</b>	John 15:1-8
<b>Communion Antiphon:</b>	I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

**Baptism Preparation:** the next session is today, 3 May; please go to St Clement's Hall at the end of the 10.30am 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.

**Monday is a Bank Holiday** so there is only one Mass at 12:30pm, after which the church will close.

**The Pilgrimage to Walsingham will travel on Sunday 17 May**, leaving the priory at 8am, costing £15, with £10 concessions. Please put your name down in the sacristy or the shop.

**Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes: Monday 8th - Friday 12th June.** From Stansted, staying at the Agena Hotel. £459 per person sharing. Please contact Fr David.

#### News from the Parish Shop:

- ◆ We have cards for those who are receiving their First Holy Communion.
- ◆ There is a good supply of the CTS's *Simple Prayer Book*. This has the Order of Mass, numerous prayers and devotions, and a section on Catholic teaching. All this for £1.95.

*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.*

**NEPAL EMERGENCY APPEAL - RETIRING COLLECTION TODAY AT ALL MASSES in aid of the Jesuit Missions in Nepal. The Jesuit Fathers are caring for many of the survivors in Jesuit schools. Gift aid forms are available, so please gift aid donations. Thank you.**

**MONEY MATTERS:** Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £982.00 (of which £275.50 was Gift Aided and £706.50 was not) and in addition the parish receives approximately £240 per week in donations made by standing order, nearly all of which are Gift Aided; *Solidarity Fund* £3.20; *Friends of Holy Cross* £6.71; *Holy Souls* £10.47; Grenada Church Restoration £ - .

The new Gift Aid envelopes are now available on the table by the Wellington St entrance. If you have not already done so, please take the box with your name on it. If you are a UK income tax payer and are not yet enrolled as a Gift Aid donor, please see any of the Dominican friars. Gift Aid increases the value of your contribution to the church by 25%, at no extra cost to you. Many thanks.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

We are hoping to hold Blackfriars Market on the weekend of 13-14 June this year. In the coming weeks, we will begin to get a steering group together to organise this important annual event.

In recent months, we have begun to celebrate Mass at 10:30am on Sunday mornings, and lots of people have been working together to establish this new pattern. In the weeks ahead, we must build on this excellent start. Thank you to all who are helping with this.

**Security.** Please do not leave any valuables unattended in the church.

*Please join us in the Parish Hall after the 10.30am Sunday Mass for tea, coffee, fruit-juice etc. There is the opportunity for a chat with members of the Dominican Community and parishioners. We particularly welcome new students and other visitors.*



Today's Gospel: "Every branch that bears fruit, my Father prunes to make it bear even more."

**First Holy Communion and Confirmation:** families worshipping regularly at Holy Cross who wish to celebrate these sacraments this year should come to a brief meeting in St Clement's Hall following the 10:30am Mass next Sunday, 10 May.

**Our Children's Liturgy** has been going for almost a year, and it is time now to develop and consolidate this important part of our parish apostolate. The Children's Liturgy takes place during the Liturgy of the Word at the 10:30am Mass. On Sunday 24 May, there will be a meeting for all those interested in developing and assisting with the liturgy and for developing other areas of catechesis for our children, of all ages. Hopefully this will enable us to put in place a plan and a structure for the Autumn Term that will help our children to cherish the Faith and grow in grace.

**Fatima Devotions in May:** During the month of May we will hold Devotions in Honour of Our Lady of Fatima each Saturday morning at 10am Mass. Please make a special effort to attend these devotions which will mark this special month of devotion to Our Blessed Lady

**Lunchtime Piano and Organ Recital at Leicester Cathedral,** on Bank Holiday Monday 4 May at 1.00 pm, by Carl Bahoshi, a Catholic man from Iraq. Admission free. Retiring Collection in aid of Iraqi Christians in Need - see [www.icin.org.uk](http://www.icin.org.uk) for more information on this apostolate.

Year 1	This week's calendar & Mass Intentions	Psalter Week 1
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	
	Vigil 18.10 Irena & Roman Olszewski 8.00 Bunten family	
	Sung 10.30 Maria Fernandes	
	OP Rite 12.30 <i>Pro populo</i> 19.00 ✠ Holy Souls	
<b>Monday</b>	<b>THE ENGLISH MARTYRS. The church will be closed after the 12.30 Mass.</b>	
	OP Rite 8.00 <i>Bank Holiday - no Mass at this time today</i> 12.30 Good health of Monica Nunes 18.10 <i>Bank Holiday - no Mass at this time today</i>	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>St Vincent Ferrer, Priest</b>	
	OP Rite 8.00 ✠ Dead of the Order of Preachers 12.30 ✠ Liane Ashberry 18.10 ✠ Holy Souls	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Easter feria</b>	
	OP Rite 8.00 ✠ Holy Souls 12.30 Special birthday 18.10 Neglected Intentions	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Easter Feria</b>	
	OP Rite 8.00 Bernice Litchfield - for the Holy Souls in Purgatory 12.30 ✠ Sean Connell 18.10 Neglected Intentions	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary over the Order of Preachers</b>	
	OP Rite 8.00 ✠ Fr Joseph Roy, SSS 12.30 ✠ Holy Souls 18.10 ✠ Christopher Manktelow	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Easter feria</b>	
	OP Rite 8.00 ✠ Holy Souls 10.00 12.30	
<b>Next Sunday – SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER. Readings:</b>		
	Acts 10:25-26.34-35.44-48	1 John 4:7-10 John 15:9-17

**Baptisms:** We welcome into our Community of Faith Ira-Mae Roisin Feeney who was baptised last week.

**Requiescant in pace:** Please pray for the repose of the souls of Liane Ashberry and Sir Herbert Duthie who died recently. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

**SAFEGUARDING.** Holy Cross is a place where our children are cherished and protected. In order to ensure that our children are safe and feel safe, we have launched a safeguarding review, led by Ms Jane Jones, the Safeguarding Advisor to the Dominicans in England. At present, we are revising our Safeguarding Policies and Procedures to ensure a greater degree of safety for all of us. Keeping our children safe is a responsibility for all of us.

REGULAR SERVICE TIMES
<b>SUNDAYS</b> 8.00 Mass 9.00 Lauds 10.30 Sung Mass 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 *WEDNESDAYS ONLY
<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 10.30 Mass. Baptisms: Saturday afternoons.
<b>Parish Website:</b> <a href="http://www.holycrossleicester.org">www.holycrossleicester.org</a> <b>Website &amp; Newsletter Editors:</b> <a href="mailto:web@holycrossleicester.org">web@holycrossleicester.org</a> <a href="mailto:holycrossnewsletter@gmail.com">holycrossnewsletter@gmail.com</a>
<b>CONTACT DETAILS</b> Holy Cross Priory 45 Wellington Street, LE1 6HW Priory phone: 0116 255 3856 For home visits/recorded times of services: 0116 255 3856 Fax: 0116 255 5552 <b>Parish Priest</b> Fr David Rocks 0116 252 1512 <a href="mailto:leicester@english.op.org">leicester@english.op.org</a>