

Angels are bright still

At the end of this month and the beginning of the next we celebrate the feasts of the Archangels and Guardian angels. Perhaps this, to many of us, might seem wholly unnecessary – an old myth or superstition that we'd do better to forget. To the contrary, I'd like to suggest that angels are important to us because they help us make sense of ourselves as creatures before our Creator. While Scripture affirms the existence of angels, which the teaching of the Church has confirmed, the good angels are simply fellow servants of God with us, and from the dominion of the evil angels we are set free in Christ "*for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers – all things have been created through him and for him*" (Col 1:16).

In the Christian Biblical tradition (and in that of Jews and Muslims) angels are believed to be immaterial spirits created by God to regulate the order of the world and to serve as messengers (what 'angel' means) in regard to human salvation. In the earliest Hebrew scriptures the angel of the Lord who appears to Abraham and to Moses in the burning bush, or goes before the Hebrews as a pillar of cloud or fire is barely distinguishable from God, signifying and effecting God's actual presence. Later, this is expanded into a 'host of heaven'; protective and benevolent beings important as mediators between God and the patriarchs, judges and prophets, for instance in the explanatory mediators in Zechariah and Ezekiel, further elaborated in Daniel. Using 'angel' as a personification or manifestation of the divine word or action maintained the absolute sovereignty and transcendence of God while affirming God's direct intervention in human affairs. Angels, "*who stand in the presence of God*", disclose the divine to us.

In the New Testament, as an expression of the dawn of the reign of God, angels accompany Jesus in the Temptation, in Gethsemane, and at the Resurrection. He will send them forth to gather the elect and reject the damned from the Kingdom (Mt 24:31, 13:41). They remain the messengers of God to man: Gabriel transmits the double annunciation (to Mary and Zechariah); a celestial army appears to the shepherds on the night of the nativity (Lk, 1, 2); angels announce the resurrection (Mt 28:5f) and make the apostles understand the meaning of the Ascension (Acts 1:10f). Helpers of Christ in the work of salvation (Heb 1:14), they guarantee the protection of men (Mt 18:10, Acts 12:15), they lead the souls of the just to paradise (Lk 16:22); and protect the Church by continuing with Michael, their leader, the fight against Satan which has existed from the beginning (Rev 12:1-9). Angels link earth and heaven: they celebrate a perpetual liturgy (Rev 4: 8-11) to which is united the liturgy of the church (see *Gloria*, Preface, *Sanctus*, Roman Canon).

An angel is an impressive sight, inspiring awe and terror. Take the Angel of the annunciation, who first appears in the Book of Daniel. The prophet is trying to understand a vision, and Gabriel appears to him: "*His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze*". We shouldn't here think of a CGI from *Star Wars* or *Harry Potter* films – rather, each feature is meant to be incomparable. At the sight, Daniel, who dared lions and spoke the truth to kings, swoons. Gabriel speaks reassuringly to Daniel, picks him up and instructs him patiently. Zechariah, who questions the angel's message, is struck dumb until his son is born. But Gabriel, in the end, shows us God's work in us: the instructor of Daniel and silencer of Zechariah comes to a young girl, and addresses her with a deference no priest, prophet or patriarch ever received from a divine messenger "*Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.*" Gabriel brought Mary and Zechariah knowledge of their role in God's act of salvation, and helped Daniel understand his prophetic vision; let's pray that the angels help us understand how God is acting in us, and so guide us to the Kingdom. Greg OP

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

27 September 2015

The Newsletter of HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER

www.holycrossleicester.org



Entrance Antiphon:	All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.
1st Reading:	Numbers 11:25-29
Psalm R:	<i>At 10.30: The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart. Otherwise: The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart. (Ps 19)</i>
2nd Reading:	James 5:1-6
Alleluia:	Your word, O Lord, is truth; sanctify us in the truth.
Gospel:	Mark 9:38-43. 45. 57-48
Communion Antiphon:	<i>Either: Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low. Or: By this we came to know the love of God: that Christ laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for one another.</i>

Baptism Preparation: the next session is on Sunday 4 October; please come to the sacristy 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.

Refugee Crisis. Our response will be co-ordinated by Christina Mottram. Please see our website and Facebook page, or contact her on cj.mottram@ntlworld.com. More news next week.

October is the month of the Rosary, and next Sunday is Rosary Sunday. Please bring roses next Sunday and contribute to today's collection for roses. Next Sunday roses will be blessed and distributed at all Masses, and there will be a procession after the 10.30am Mass. The blessing and distribution of roses on the first Sunday of October is a long-standing Dominican custom. Throughout October we should be thinking about our devotions, and especially the praying of the Rosary.

Welcome all students! Please come to the 6.10pm Vigil Mass on Saturdays, starting next Saturday, which is followed each week by the Student Chaplaincy fellowship and meal. On Saturday 17 October this Mass will especially mark the opening of the new academic year.

News from the Parish Shop:

- ◆ The October edition of the Diocesan newspaper, *Catholic News*, is available, price 20p. It contains a list of the Clergy appointments recently made in the diocese by Bishop Patrick.
- ◆ We now have stock of 2016 diaries which, at £2 and £3, represent very good value.

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.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £1060.28 (of which £316.50 was Gift Aided and £743.78 was not) (previous week £1129.23 of which £341.00 was Gift Aided and £788.23 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 £0.46 (£4.21); Friends of Holy Cross £1.90 (£4.38); Holy Souls £30.41 (£24.20); Grenada Church Restoration £ - .

This week there is a collection for roses for distribution at all Masses next Sunday which is Rosary Sunday.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

St Paul's School Community invites all to celebrate our annual Family Mass to ask for God's blessing on our new academic year. Thursday 7th October at 7pm in the School Theatre, followed by refreshments. All are welcome.

The Rose without a Thorn: the Story of Katheryn Howard. The Kirby Muxloe Players present this play from Wednesday 7 October to Saturday 10 October at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Tickets £8. Contact 07804 435 235 or visit www.kirbyplayers.co.uk.

Please join us in the Parish Hall after the 10.30am Sunday Mass each week 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.



From today's Gospel:
"If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, he will most certainly not lose his reward."

VACANCY: Diocese of Nottingham Justice and Peace Fieldworker. 24 hours per week [including some evening and weekend working]; Salary £14,500pa. The Justice and Peace Commission works to promote Catholic Social Teaching and action for social and economic justice, and peace, throughout the Diocese. The Fieldworker is employed by the Diocese to support and develop the work of the Justice and Peace Commission in parishes, schools, & universities and ecumenically. The Fieldworker is based at Willson House, Derby Road, Nottingham NG1 5AW but may also work from home by agreement. **Closing date: 12 noon on Wednesday 7th October.** For informal discussion about the post please contact Liz Doona, liz.doona@ntlworld.com or call her on 01773 785 196. Interviews on Friday 16th October. Details can be found at: www.nrcdt.org.uk, and www.jpnottingham.org.uk.

The Leicester Theological Society's next talk, the Newman Ecumenical Lecture, will be given on Friday 9 October by Rev Bill Myers, author of 'The Thoughtful Heart: The Metaphysics of John Henry Newman', and the talk is entitled "Good, Happy and Free: Aquinas and Newman". Meetings are held here at Holy Cross, in St Clement's Hall on Fridays 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.

Lost Property. If you have left anything in the church, please reclaim it from the sacristy – just see any friar or server. We have a selection of hats, spectacles, etc...

Year I	This week's calendar & Mass Intentions	Psalter Week 2
Sunday	Twenty-sixth Sunday per annum. Prayers are asked for the harvest especially today.	
	Vigil 18.10 Koscinski family	
	8.00 Koscinski family	
	Sung 10.30 Barbara Andrade's intention	
	OP Rite 12.30 Successful interview - Justine	
	19.00 Pro populo	
Monday	Sts Dominic Ibáñez de Erquicia, Priest, Lawrence Ruiz, Father, and Companions, Martyrs of Japan	
	OP Rite 8.00 Gino de Siena	
	12.30 For world peace	
	18.10 ✠ Doris Bridgwood	
Tuesday	STS MICHAEL, GABRIEL AND RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS	
	OP Rite 8.00 ✠ Deaf of the Order of Preachers	
	12.30 ✠ William Spendilow	
	18.10 Westgate family	
Wednesday	St Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church	
	OP Rite 8.00 ✠ Ugo Ricci	
	12.30 ✠ Joseph Vathalloor	
	18.10 ✠ Eileen Quinn	
Thursday	St Thérèse of the Child Jesus (of Lisieux), Virgin and Doctor of the Church	
	OP Rite 8.00 Bernice - spiritual and temporal welfare	
	12.30 ✠ Eileen Martinez	
	18.10 ✠ Ugo Ricci	
Friday	The Holy Guardian Angels	
	OP Rite 8.00 Bernice - in honour of the Holy Guardian Angels	
	12.30 ✠ Gloria's intentions	
	18.10 ✠ Ugo Ricci	
Saturday	Feria	
	OP Rite 8.00 Bernice - for the Holy Souls in Purgatory	
	10.00 ✠ Frank Pinto	
	12.30 ✠ Ugo Ricci	
Next Sunday – Twenty-seventh Sunday per annum. Readings:		
	Genesis 2:18-24	Hebrews 2:9-11
		Mark 10:2-16

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Adoration is a very important way of preparing for Mass and of deepening our understanding of the Mass. It takes place at Holy Cross on Sundays from 6.00-7.00 pm, on Wednesdays from 11.00am and on Saturdays from 10.30am.

The Venerable English College in Rome, the oldest British institution outside the British Isles, trains men to be priests for England and Wales. The Friends of the Venerabile aims to support these students with prayer and financial help, whilst also fostering a wider knowledge of the college. The college owns the Villa Palazzola in the Alban Hills high above Rome, looking over the Pope's summer residence at Castel Gondolfo. Palazzola is available for groups, families, couples and individuals who would like to stay for a while. If you wish to become a Friend, please take a leaflet from one of the tables by the doors, and see www.friendsofenglishcollegerome.org.uk or www.vecrome.org.

REGULAR SERVICE TIMES
SUNDAYS
8.00 Mass
9.00 Lauds
10.30 Sung Mass
12.30 Mass (Dominican Rite)
18.00 Exposition, Rosary, Compline & Benediction
19.00 Mass
MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS
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
SATURDAYS
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
HOLIDAYS OF OBLIGATION
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
BANK HOLIDAYS
7.30 Lauds
8.00 Mass (Dominican Rite)
12.30 Mass, after which the church is closed
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
Baptism Preparation: 1st Sunday of month after the 10.30 Mass.
Baptisms: Saturday afternoons.
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