

Walking in the Light

The Baptism of the Lord is one of a cluster of feasts round the great celebration of the Incarnation, which we celebrate on Christmas day, along with the Holy Family; Holy Mary, Mother of God; the Epiphany; and the Holy Name of Jesus (Circumcision, formerly). All of them help us to grasp something of the meaning of the Incarnation, of who Jesus is, God-with-us, Emmanuel. We might think of them as like shining light through a prism – white light is split into the colours of the rainbow, and put through another prism, becomes white again – which help us grasp the different shades, aspects or meanings of the Incarnation. The Baptism of the Lord closes the Octave or 8-day celebration of the Epiphany, and it is worth considering this aspect a little.

‘Epiphany’ literally means ‘shining forth’ – the kind of description that might have been applied to the light shining from the Pharos, great lighthouse of Alexandria, by storm-tossed sailors on a dark sea. This picks up a familiar image from the prologue of John’s gospel we read on Christmas morning: the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overpower it. It is God’s life, light and love breaking in to the darkness of our world, of ourselves: the darkness of our confused and mixed motives for what we do or fail to do, the darkness of our hurts and shame, the darkness of our failures in loving – either too little, or too much, too possessively. In the Incarnation of the Word, the world is irrevocably illuminated by the glory of God.

The glory of God, St Irenaeus of Lyons told us back around 180, is a human being fully alive, set free to love, loving and lovable; empowered by God’s Spirit to reflect and transmit God’s mercy and compassion, bring God’s light into the darkness of our world. In this present life we are as it were groping our way in the darkness before dawn. But in that darkness the day is heralded by the morning star, we stand in the words of an ancient prayer ‘ante luciferam’, before the light-bearer. Ancient and modern metaphors coincide here: the light of the sun reflected off the planet Venus (the ancients’ morning and evening star) anticipates the sun’s rising, the new day.

We are called then to be bearers of light, lucifers. Enlightened and empowered by God’s Spirit we are to be the vessels bearing his love and compassion into the dark places of our world. Pope Francis encourages us to see this year of mercy as God’s favourable time, the time when we are invited to engage again with that mission. Taking God’s healing into the world implies that we first seek that healing ourselves: through becoming reconciled with God we become empowered to take the risk of loving others, to reach out – forgiving or accepting forgiveness – without fear of being rebuffed or ridiculed. We are to mirror God’s light, even if at this time only as through a glass, darkly. Let your light shine!

Greg OP

The Baptism of the Lord

Year C

10 January 2016

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

www.holycrossleicester.org



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| Entrance Antiphon: | After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. |
| 1st Reading: | Isaiah 42:1-4.6-7 |
| Psalm R: | <i>At 10.30: The Lord will bless his people with peace. Otherwise: May the Lord bless his people with peace. (Ps 29)</i> |
| 2nd Reading: | Acts 10:34-38 |
| Alleluia: | The heavens opened and the Father’s voice was heard: “This is my beloved Son, listen to him.” |
| Gospel: | Luke 3:15-16.21-22 |
| Communion Antiphon: | Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God. |

Baptism Preparation: the next session is on **Sunday 7 February**; please come to the sacristy at the end of the 10.30am Mass. If you wish to have your child baptised here, you need to attend one of these sessions, usually held on the first Sunday of each month.

News from the Parish Shop:

Having the Holy Door, we expect an increase in the number of visitors, and the shop has a range of souvenirs, many of which will be of interest to parishioners:

- ◆ *A Short History of the Dominicans in Leicester* by Fr Isidore for £2;
- ◆ Copies of the drawing of the nave and sanctuary by Brian Hollingshead for £1 (large) and 25p (postcard);
- ◆ Notelet with a colour photograph of the stained glass window in the south transept, £1;
- ◆ *Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour*, a full colour booklet, £4;
- ◆ *Novena to Our Lady of the Meadows*, another full colour booklet, £2 (Our Lady of the Meadows was the dedication of Leicester Abbey, the remains of which are next to Abbey Park).

In addition:

- ◆ A few diaries are still available;
- ◆ The Diocesan Yearbook for 2016 is available, still at £3;
- ◆ The January edition of *Catholic News*, the diocesan newspaper, is available for 20p.

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.

Follow us on ‘Facebook Holy Cross Priory Leicester (Dominicans)’ for the latest news and updates on events here at Holy Cross.

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.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – no information available at the time of going to press. More news next week.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

Mercy, Justice, Peace: Opening the door to asylum seekers and refugees. Saturday 16th January, 11am-2pm at St Peter's Church Hall, Hinckley Road, LE3 0TA. Hear from the Red Cross and others about their work here in Leicester and abroad. There will be live music, activities for children, prayers and ideas for action. Organized jointly by Blessed Sacrament Parish Justice and Peace group, St Peter's Parish and Mother of God Parish. Everyone is welcome, and there is a FREE lunch. More info from Blessed Sacrament office: 0116 285 8795.

The Year of Mercy Parish Pilgrimage to Florence, Bologna and Siena will take place from 1 to 7 July. The cost will be £869, and Fr David has all the details.



“After the Lord was baptised, the heavens opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove...”
- *today's Introit*

Holy Cross Gospel Choir is starting its rehearsals for 2016 on **Tuesday January 12**. We always welcome newcomers and absolute beginners so, if you'd like to try something new and meet new people in a very relaxed setting, do come and join us. We'll be in St. Clement's Hall on Wellington Street from 7.00 to 8.45pm. Contact Jeff (0116 243 1289) for more details.

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.

There will be a service for Christian Unity Week at St Martin's Cathedral on Monday 25 January at 7.30pm. All are most welcome.

| Year II | This week's calendar & Mass Intentions | Psalter Wk 3/1 |
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| Sunday | THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD | |
| Vigil | 18.10 ✠ Lily Horgan 8.00 <i>Pro populo</i> | |
| Sung | 10.30 ✠ Susan Donnelly | |
| OP Rite | 12.30 Paul Murphy 19.00 ✠ Elizabeth O'Gorman | |
| | ORDINARY TIME | |
| | Besides the times of year that have their own distinctive character, there remain in the yearly cycle thirty-three or thirty-four weeks in which no particular aspect of the mystery of Christ is celebrated, but rather the mystery of Christ itself is honoured in its fullness, especially on Sundays. This period is known as Ordinary Time. During the first part of Ordinary Time, we are asked to pray for peace on Earth; Christian unity; the sick and those who care for them; victims of trafficking and those who work to combat it; students and teachers; and those unemployed. | |
| Monday | Feria | |
| OP Rite | 8.00 In honour of, & thanksgiving to, the Infant of Prague 12.30 Eileel Cleer (sick) 18.10 ✠ Una Leonard | |
| Tuesday | St Aelred of Rievaulx, Abbot | |
| OP Rite | 8.00 ✠ Dead of the Order of Preachers 12.30 Cahal Furey (sick) 18.10 ✠ Dawn McCabe | |
| Wednesday | Feria | |
| OP Rite | 8.00 ✠ Holy Souls 12.30 ✠ Betty O'Gorman 18.10 ✠ Holy Souls | |
| Thursday | Feria | |
| OP Rite | 8.00 ✠ Bartlett family 12.30 ✠ Jacquelet family 18.10 ✠ Saraflan family | |
| Friday | St Francisco Fernández de Capillas, Priest, Pedro Sans, Bishop, and Companions, Martyrs of China | |
| OP Rite | 8.00 ✠ Holy Souls 12.30 ✠ John Peter McIntyre 18.10 ✠ Holy Souls | |
| Saturday | Feria | |
| OP Rite | 8.00 ✠ Holy Souls 10.00 ✠ Holy Souls 12.30 Paul Murphy | |
| Next Sunday – Second Sunday per annum. Today is Peace Day. | | |
| Readings: | | |
| Isaiah 62:1-5 | 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 | John 2:1-11 |

Interested in becoming a Catholic? The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) course takes place each Monday at 7pm. This programme is aimed at those who are interested in becoming Catholics, whether they have not been baptised or baptised in a different Christian tradition, and it is geared to the reception of sacraments at Easter. It also caters for adult Catholics who have not been confirmed, or those who simply feel it is time for a refresher course. Please see Fr David.

| REGULAR SERVICE TIMES |
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| SUNDAYS |
| 8.00 Mass 9.00 Lauds 10.30 Sung Mass 12.30 Mass (Dominican Rite) - sung on 1st Sundays 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. |
| Parish Website: www.holycrossleicester.org |
| Website & Newsletter Editors: web@holycrossleicester.org holycrossnewsletter@gmail.com |
| CONTACT DETAILS |
| 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 |
| Parish Priest Fr David Rocks 0116 252 1512 leicester@english.op.org |