

## The Man born blind

**J**ESUS cured a number of blind people, who at one time in their lives had been able to see. What Jesus does here is much more radical. He gives sight to someone who was born blind – who had never been able to see. We can't begin to imagine what it must be like always to live in a world of total darkness – never to have experienced the sights, which give us so much joy, and which we take for granted. What a joy it must have been for that man to be given the gift of sight. That opened up for him a new world of light and colour.

It's important to the narrative that the blind man was given something completely new, which he'd never possessed. It wasn't simply a question of something he'd lost being restored. The gift of sight was a new beginning for him, opening up a new world, full of exciting possibilities and discoveries.

John wanted to stress that this was a kind of new creation, following the imagery of the first creation according to Genesis. There we're told about God making man from the slime of the earth; here we're told Jesus anointed the blind man's eyes with paste made from dust and His spittle. In Genesis we're told that God dispelled darkness by creating light; here we're told that Jesus dispelled the darkness of blindness by giving the blind man the light of sight.

This gift of physical sight is a sign of the gift of faith. This opens up for us a whole new world – God's world. This is way beyond our natural human understanding, or our wildest dreams. We not only discover a new creation, but also become part of it. Through faith we are lifted beyond our human limitations and become God's children, who share his own divine life. That was the gift, which the man born blind received – a gift, which was suggested by his receiving his physical sight.

The problem for the Jews who despised the formerly blind man, and who condemned Jesus, was that they thought they knew the answers. That gave them a sense of security, which they didn't want to leave. Their fear to venture into the unknown, to make the leap of faith, blinded them to recognising Christ. It closed their minds and hearts to Him. They saw Him as a threat to their security, rather than the fulfilment of their deepest needs and longings. It's ironical that those who thought they could see were, in fact, spiritually blind, while the man who was born physical blind received the gift of faith.

As for us, we can too easily take the gift of faith for granted. We can be like someone who has always been able to see. We need to recapture a child-like sense of wonder and the joy of entering ever more deeply into the mystery of God's new creation. Let our horizons not be confined by the limits of our minds – by what we can prove and understand. But, like the blind man given sight, let us rejoice in the gift of faith and eagerly share what we have received.

Fr Isidore O.P.

Laetare (Mothering) Sunday

Year A

3 April 2011

## The Newsletter of HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER

*Serving Leicester's Catholics since AD 1247*



<b>Entrance Antiphon:</b>	<i>Laetare, Ierusalem!</i> Rejoice, Jerusalem! Be glad for her, you who love her; rejoice with her, you who mourned for her, and you will find contentment at her consoling breasts.
<b>At 11am – page nos in Missale:</b>	•Mass Ordinary, p 13; Asperges, p 40; Mass Proper, p 73 •Sung setting: Mass XVII p 214; Credo I, p 215 •Communion motet: Ave Regina <i>Lotti</i> ; Marian Antiphon 3, p 220 •Organ sortie: Toccata in F BuxWV 157 <i>Buxtehude</i>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b>	1 Samuel 16:1.6-7.10-13
<b>Psalm <math>\text{LXX}</math>:</b>	The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. (Ps 23)
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b>	Ephesians 5:8-14
<b>Verse before the Gospel:</b>	Glory and praise to you, O Christ. $\text{V}$ I am the light of the world, says the Lord; he who follows me will have the light of life.
<b>Gospel:</b>	John 9: 1-41
<b>Communion Antiphon:</b>	The Lord rubbed my eyes: I went away and washed; then I could see, and I believed in God.
<b>WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN.</b> In addition to the Masses listed in the schedule on p 3, Holy Mass will be offered in the older form from <b>Monday to Saturday at 8am.</b>	

### LENT AT HOLY CROSS

<b>Wednesdays</b>	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10:30am-12:30pm Rosary 12noon-12:20pm Benediction 12:20pm-12:30pm Mass 12:30pm-1pm Stations of the Cross 1pm-1:30pm
<b>Fridays</b>	Mass 12:30pm-12:50pm Lenten talk on English Recusant Martyrs 12:50-1pm (also after 10am Mass). This week Fr Peter will speak on 'St Margaret Clitherow'. Stations of the Cross 1pm-1:30pm
<b>Saturdays</b>	Mass 10-10:30am Novena 10:30am-11am Rosary 12noon-12:30pm Mass 12:30pm-1pm

**A Lenten Day of Recollection** will be given by Fr Peter on Saturday 9 April from 10am in St Clement's Hall. All welcome. Further details from Patrick & Janet Doyle on 01482 802020 or [janandpatdoyle@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janandpatdoyle@yahoo.co.uk). See noticeboard.

**Father Fabian is planning a gentle(ish) Parish Country Walk** on Saturday May 28. Meeting after the 10am Mass (no later than 10.45). All are welcome to join us. Further details to follow from the Parish Social Committee.

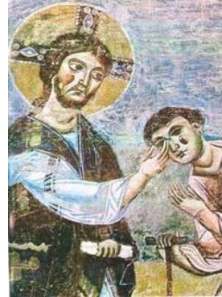
**MONEY MATTERS:** Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £1435.38; SVP £30.70; Friends of Holy Cross £15.34; Holy Souls £24.94; Grenada Church Restoration £7.47. The collection for Easter Flowers for the church came yo £235.40.

Next week there is a retiring collection for the Diocesan Quota.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

There are three funerals this week:

1. Monday 4 April 10am Pat Kearney;
  2. Tuesday 5 April 12:30pm Veronica Vann;
  3. Thursday 7 April 12:30pm Gregory D'Silva.
- Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.



Today's Gospel: "It is for judgement that I have come into this world, so that those without sight may see and those with sight turn blind."

**Could you help encourage young pilgrims** by giving them a lift from Holy Cross to Keyham on Saturday April 16? From there they will spend Holy Week walking over 100 miles to Walsingham, whilst carrying a large wooden cross. Please call Jeff (0116 243 1289) to let him know how many pilgrims you can carry. You would also be welcome to join the pilgrims for their opening service and morning's walk.

See the noticeboards for details of:

- **Christ in the Centre** (the Good Friday Passion Play in the city centre) – the organisers are appealing for money, and for volunteers to be actors or stewards.
- **The Feast of Divine Mercy** – an afternoon of devotions led by Fr Leon at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Rushey Mead, at 2.30pm on Sunday 1 May.
- **Come and See Retreat Day** for single Catholic women aged 20-45 at St Mary's Convent, Hanwell, London W7, from 10am on Saturday 28 May.

Two one-year-old budgies urgently need a home. Cage provided. If you are interested please contact 254 2202 immediately.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Ruth Pennington who died last week.

The Parish Cycle Ride proved to be a great success with 10 cyclists and 4 walkers making their way around south Leicestershire via an amazing lunch at the Bell Inn! We're already planning the next one ... watch this space!

#### Forthcoming events for your diary

Sat 9 Apr	Lenten Day of Recollection given by Fr Peter. Details from 01482 802020.
Sat 28 May	Parish Country Walk led by Fr Fabian. Details to follow.

Emma Willcox, a talented young classical pianist, will be performing a Recital on behalf of the Leicester branch of SPUC on Saturday 9 April at 7.30pm at the Robert Hall Memorial Baptist Church on Narborough Road (corner of Upperton Road). People who attended this event last June were unanimous in their praise of Emma's skills. Please do support Emma, who is a parishioner of Holy Cross, and the Holy Cross-based branch of SPUC. Tickets (£5) will be sold after Masses this weekend or please contact Sica on 0775 8844918 or Emma on 07867 891140.

Year 1	This week's calendar & Mass Intentions	Psalter Week 4
Confessions	10.30 to 11.30 Fr Leon, and 17.00 to 18.00 Fr Fabian	
Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent ('Laetare'). Prayers are recommended for the candidates for the sacraments. Today is Mothering Sunday.	
Vigil	18.00 ✚ Evelyn Dixon 8.00 ✚ Tony Ward	
Family	9.30 ✚ Colette Stanforth & Maura Hanratty	
Solemn	11.00 Gloria & David (birthday)	
OP Rite	12.30 <i>Pro populo</i>	
Students	17.00 <b>No Mass for students now until next term</b> 19.00 ✚ Ruth Pennington	
Monday	St Isidore, bishop, doctor (commemoration) 10.00 ✚ Private Intention 12.30 ✚ Anne Marie Alen & Edward Pennington	
Tuesday	Lenten feria 10.00 ✚ Dead of the Order of Preachers 12.30 Bunten family	
Wednesday	Lenten feria. Stations of the Cross at 1pm. 10.00 Reginald Eyre 12.30 ✚ Glyn Jones	
Thursday	Lenten feria 10.00 ✚ Sally Byrne 12.30 Fr Pat Lucey's intentions	
Friday	Lenten feria. Stations of the Cross at 1pm. 10.00 ✚ Jacinta Gallagher 12.30 ✚ Patrick Kearney	
Saturday	Lenten feria. Rosary at 12 noon. 10.00 Private intention 12.30 Maria Gonsalves	
Confessions	10.30 to 11.30 Fr Duncan, and 17.00 to 18.00 Fr Peter	
<b>WEEKDAY MASS IN LATIN.</b> Holy Mass will be offered in the older form from Monday to Saturday at 8am		
Next Sunday – 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent. Prayers are recommended for the candidates for the sacraments. Readings:		
Ezekiel 37:12-14	Romans 8: 8-11	John 11: 1-45

**AROUND THE BIBLE IN 80 WEEKS.** We take a break now for the remainder of Lent and the start of Easter time. We will continue in the middle of May with St Paul's Letter to the Philippians. The series so far may be seen on the Parish website.

**Churches Together in Leicester City Centre** will meet at 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.

**Maundy Thursday** – Watching until Midnight at the Altar of Repose. Please sign the sheet to volunteer to guarantee to watch for a specific 30-minute 'slot'. We must have at least two people watching at all times. The sheet is on the table by the Wellington Street door.

REGULAR SERVICE TIMES
<b>MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS</b> 7.30 Lauds 10.00 Mass 12.30 Mass 17.45 Vespers Old Rite Masses as announced.
<b>WEDNESDAYS</b> 10.30 Exposition until 12.30 11.45 Divine Mercy Chaplet, Rosary & Benediction
<b>SATURDAYS</b> 9.00 Lauds 10.00 Mass 10.30 Novena to Our Lady 10.30 Confessions until 11.30 12.30 Mass 17.00 Confessions until 18.00 17.45 Vespers 18.00 Vigil Mass for Sunday Old Rite Masses as announced.
<b>HOLYDAYS</b> 18.00 (previous day) Vigil Mass 7.30 Lauds 10.00 Mass 12.30 Mass 17.45 Vespers 19.00 Mass
<b>BANK HOLIDAYS (&amp; MON TO FRI AROUND XTMAS &amp; NEW YEAR)</b> 7.30 Lauds 12.30 Mass, after which the church is closed
<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 (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 message at the Priory or the LRI Chaplains' Office. Messages may not be picked up until the end of the day.
Parish Website: <a href="http://www.holycrossleicester.org">www.holycrossleicester.org</a> Website & Newsletter Editors: <a href="mailto:holycrosswebsite@gmail.com">holycrosswebsite@gmail.com</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: 255 3856 Fax: 255 5552 Parish Priest: Fr Leon Pereira: 252 1501 <a href="mailto:leicester@english.op.org">leicester@english.op.org</a>