

A time of gifts

Holidays allow us a change of gear. Even though our 24/7 society never fully sleeps, most of us will have experienced a few quiet days, catching up with family and friends, with films, or music, or reading or re-reading books. I must admit to being addicted to that last solitary vice, which from the beginning of the week has the additional advantage of helping commuters endure both the travelling conditions and swingeing fare rises in the bleak return to work.

One of the books I return to often is the tale of a disaffected schoolboy, a youth whose parents had divorced; who, though bright, was too noisy and energetic for most of the institutions trying to educate him, which reluctantly washed their hands of him (patience: I am not – yet – inviting you to hug a hoody); who conceived the mad idea, in his eighteenth year, of setting off in a January storm to walk across Europe; who was Patrick Leigh Fermour, who died in June 2011, aged 96. His account of the first half of his journey from London to Constantinople, from the Hook of Holland to the Middle Danube, published as 'A Time of Gifts', though written more than forty years after the event is one of the best pieces of travel writing in English. He set out in January, 1933 – fifteen years after the 'war to end wars' had ended, six years before that European spasm of self-destruction was to resume; about two-thirds of the book recounts his travels through Germany, where the Weimar republic had collapsed and the National Socialists had just taken power.

Imagine the scenario. A young man, from a recently hostile nation, with poor command of the language, and in the depths of an economic recession, fetches up on the doorstep, often in bad weather, often at night, and is welcomed, sheltered, fed, has his scanty clothing laundered, and is sent on his way with fresh provisions. He fetches up, on Sylversterabend or Hogmanay, in an inn in Heidelberg whose family proprietors won't hear of him going back on the road and put him up for a week. He renewed his friendship with the son of the house, his contemporary, after their war experience on opposing sides. He had a great capacity for friendship, his last writing expressing a sense of profound gratitude. "Love to all and kindness to all friends" he wrote, "and thank you all a life of great happiness". Not a bad spirit in which we could all approach the new year, whatever it might bring.

Indeed, a time of gifts. Of course, it sometimes wasn't like that – he undoubtedly chose to remember the more fortunate meetings; and society – and the young – were probably more innocent then than now. And yet, and yet. Young people are beguiling still because of their energy, optimism, enthusiasm, and joy; because, having nothing much apart from these qualities, and nothing much to lose, they are generous in sharing them with others. Several of our religious leaders including pope Francis have urged us to be as generous as we can in responding to the generosity of the young, to help knit together bonds of mutual trust in an increasingly fractured society. So, hug a hoody, even one in a Dominican habit. You might be pleasantly surprised at the result.

Greg OP

The Epiphany of the Lord

Year B

4 January 2015

The Newsletter of HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER

www.holycrossleicester.org



Entrance Antiphon:	<i>Vigil:</i> Arise, Jerusalem, and look to the East and see your children gathered from the rising to the setting of the sun. <i>Day:</i> Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.
At 11am – page nos in Missale:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mass Ordinary, p 13; Asperges, p 42; Mass Proper, p 59• Sung setting: English Mass; Credo III, p 216• Motet: Gaudete! <i>Piae Cantiones</i>
1st Reading:	Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 88:	Lord, all nations on earth will adore you. (Ps 72)
2nd Reading:	Ephesians 3:2-3a. 5-6
Alleluia 118:	We have seen his star in the east, and have come to worship the Lord.
Gospel:	Matthew 2:1-12
Communion Antiphon:	<i>Vigil:</i> The brightness of God illumined the holy city Jerusalem, and the nations will walk by its light. <i>Day:</i> We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

Baptism Preparation: the next session is **today, 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.

Blessed chalk for Epiphany will be available on the Communion rails after each Mass today. There is a custom, in Epiphany-tide, of writing the initials of the three magi above the front door of one's house or room, along with the year. So this year we write: 20 + C + M + B + 15. As well as standing for Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, these initials are short for *Christus mansionem benedicat*, 'May Christ bless [this] dwelling'. So we're asking for the protection of Christ and his saints over our house, and at the same time make a small public profession of faith.

News from the Parish Shop. Catholic Diaries, containing also the Order of Mass, are available for £2.50 or £3, and there are plenty of calendars, either of Church Art for £1, or the Holy Cross calendar (containing photographs taken by members of the congregation) for £5.

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



MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £846.25 (of which £215.10 was Gift Aided and £631.15 was not) (previous week £1321.27, of which £600.50 was Gift Aided and £720.77 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; SVP £3.51 (previous week £25.14); Friends of Holy Cross £0.17 (£10.37); Holy Souls £0.11 (£32.31); Grenada Church Restoration £ - . The collection for Christmas Flowers for the church came to £339.58 (of which £58.00 was Gift Aided and £281.58 was not).

200 Club. November's winners were: 28, B Andrade £150; 177, A Quigley £100; and 199, E Curley £50. Congratulations!

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

There is an additional Mass on Tuesday at 7.15pm, sung in the Dominican Rite, for the Solemnity of the Epiphany.

The Liturgical Calendar 2015 for the Dominican English Province for the whole of 2015 is now available at <http://english.op.org/news-and-events/liturgical-calendar.htm>.

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.



“We saw the star as it rose and have come to do the king homage.”

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.

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.

Asylum Seekers and Refugees remain in urgent need of food donations to respond to their emergency needs; these people in Leicester are often destitute. To help, please leave your gifts in the sacristy after any Mass – non perishable goods such as tinned and dried foods are mostly wanted, but please see that goods are not significantly past their sell-by date. A full list of items may be seen on the noticeboard. Please note that if clothing is to be given it must not be in such a condition to need cleaning or washing before use; in fact it should ideally be new or nearly new. The main thrust of the appeal is for food and items of personal use, although other things such as towels and baby clothing are acceptable. Please keep giving generously to support these vulnerable people. Thank you.

Year /	This week's calendar & Mass Intentions	Psalter Week 2
Sunday	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	
	Vigil 18.10 ✠ Evelyn Haran 8.00 Edmunds Oltus & Anita	
	Sung 9.30 <i>Pro populo</i>	
	Solemn 11.00 ✠ Stephanie Newbie	
	OP Rite 12.30 ✠ Martinez 19.00 ✠ Jim & Mary Morton	
Monday	Feria	
	OP Rite 8.00 12.30 ✠ Christopher Doyle 18.10 ✠ Francis Gurin	
Tuesday	Feria. <i>There is an additional Mass today at 7.15pm, sung in the Dominican Rite, for the Solemnity of the Epiphany.</i>	
	OP Rite 8.00 ✠ Dead of the Order of Preachers 12.30 18.10	
Wednesday	St Raymond of Penyafort, Priest	
	OP Rite 8.00 12.30 ✠ Peter Carney 18.10	
Thursday	Feria	
	OP Rite 8.00 12.30 18.10	
Friday	Feria	
	OP Rite 8.00 Nabel's exam 12.30 18.10	
Saturday	Feria	
	OP Rite 8.00 Safe flight - Feras 10.00 12.30	
Next Sunday – THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD. Readings:		
	Isaiah 42:1-4.6-7	Acts 10:34-38
		Mark 1:7-11

The Announcement of Easter and the Moveable Feasts. On the Epiphany of the Lord, in keeping with an ancient practice, Holy Church announces the moveable feasts of the current year according to this formula: *Know, dear brethren, brothers and sisters, that, as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, by leave of God's mercy we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection, who is our Saviour. On the eighteenth day of March will fall Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season. On the fifth day of April you will celebrate with joy Easter Day, the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ. On the seventeenth day of May will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. On the twenty-fourth day of May, the feast of Pentecost. On the seventh day of June, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. On the twenty-ninth day of November, the First Sunday of the Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

REGULAR SERVICE TIMES
SUNDAYS 8.00 Mass 9.00 Lauds 9.30 Mass (Family) 11.00 Mass (Solemn: Latin on 2 nd , 4 th and 5 th Sundays) 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
HOLYDAYS 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 9.30 Mass. Baptisms: Saturday afternoons. Parish Website: www.holycrossleicester.org Website & Newsletter Editors: web@holycrossleicester.org holycrossnewsletter@gmail.com
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