

Here I am

The Solemnity of the Annunciation was rather overlooked last week, so this is an opportunity to partially redress the situation.

In the Incarnation of the Son of God, we recognise the origins of the Church. Everything began from there.

Every historical realization of the Church and every one of her institutions must be shaped by that primordial wellspring. They must be shaped by Christ, the incarnate Word of God. It is he that we are constantly celebrating: Emmanuel, God-with-us, through whom the saving will of God the Father has been accomplished.

And yet – on the Solemnity of the Annunciation – the divine wellspring flows through a privileged channel: the Virgin Mary.

St Bernard speaks of this using the eloquent image of *aquaeductus* (cf. *Sermo in Nativitate B.V. Mariae: PL 183, 437-448*). In celebrating the Incarnation of the Son, therefore, we cannot fail to honour his Mother. The Angel's proclamation was addressed to her; she accepted it, and when she responded from the depths of her heart: "Here I am... let it be done to me according to your word" (Lk 1: 38), at that moment the eternal Word began to exist as a human being in time.

From generation to generation, the wonder evoked by this ineffable mystery never ceases. St Augustine imagines a dialogue between himself and the Angel of the Annunciation, in which he asks: "Tell me, O Angel, why did this happen in Mary?". The answer, says the Messenger, is contained in the very words of the greeting: "Hail, full of grace" (cf. *Sermo 291: 6*).

In fact, the Angel, "appearing to her", does not call her by her earthly name, Mary, but by her divine name, as she has always been seen and characterised by God: "Full of grace - *gratia plena*", and the grace is none other than the love of God; thus, in the end, we can translate this word: "beloved" of God (cf. Lk 1: 28). Origen observes that no such title had ever been given to a human being, and that it is unparalleled in all of Sacred Scripture (cf. *In Lucam 6: 7*).

It is a title expressed in passive form, but this "passivity" of Mary, who has always been and is for ever "loved" by the Lord, implies her free consent, her personal and original response: in *being loved*, in receiving the gift of God, Mary is fully *active*, because she accepts with personal generosity the wave of God's love poured out upon her. In this too, she is the perfect disciple of her Son, who realises the fullness of his freedom and thus exercises the freedom through obedience to the Father.

In the Second Reading of today's Mass, we hear the wonderful passage in which the author of the Letter to the Hebrews interprets Psalm 39 in the light of Christ's Incarnation: "When Christ came into the world, he said: ... 'Here I am, I have come to do your will, O God'" (Heb 10: 5-7). Before the mystery of these two "Here I am" statements, the "Here I am" of the Son and the "Here I am" of the Mother, each of which is reflected in the other, forming a single *Amen* to God's loving will, we are filled with wonder and thanksgiving, and we bow down in adoration.

Part of the HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI, given on Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, 25 March 2006

Palm Sunday

Year B

29 March 2015

The Newsletter of HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER

www.holycrossleicester.org



Entrance Antiphon:	Six days before the Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet him; in their hands they carried palm branches and with a loud voice cried out: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy! O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! Who is this king of glory? He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!
1st Reading:	Isaiah 50:4-7
Psalm R:	My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? (Ps 22)
2nd Reading:	Philippians 2:6-11
Gospel R:	Glory and praise to you, O Christ. V Christ became obedient for us unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him: and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.
Gospel:	Mark 14:1-15:47
Communion Antiphon:	Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.

Baptism Preparation: the next session is on **12 April**; 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.

HOLY WEEK

SERVICE TIMES FOR HOLY WEEK AND THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM are all given on the sheets available by the doors. Please take as many as you need, and please do not ring the Priory asking about service times...

A Retreat will be given by Fr Simon Gaine OP. He will preach at the 12.30 and 7.15pm Masses, and give a talk after Tenebrae on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. There will be Adoration before Mass, and Confessions; and a Penitential Service after Mass on Wednesday evening.

PLEASE NOTE the extra opportunities for Confession, and please do consider coming to Tenebrae at 9am on the three days of the Triduum. The name Tenebrae is the Latin word for "darkness" or "shadows", and has for centuries been applied to the ancient monastic night and early morning services (Matins and Lauds) of the last three days of Holy Week. The service is marked by a chanted reading from the book of Lamentations, the singing of psalms and responsaries, and the gradual extinguishing of candles as the psalms and responsaries are sung. Each service ends with a short litany, the cantors finally lying prostrate before the altar. Books are available so that you can follow and participate in the service.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £1938.37 (of which £1078.00 was Gift Aided and £860.37 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 £9.28; Friends of Holy Cross £7.00; Holy Souls £35.62; Grenada Church Restoration £ - .

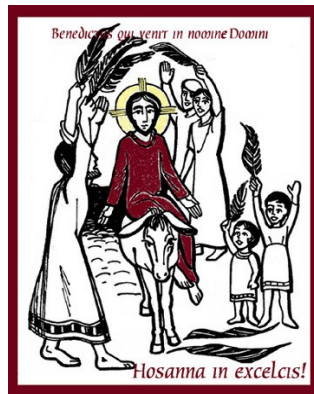
200 Club. February's winners were: 20, J Lawrence £150; 96, B Brooker £100; and 199, E Curley £50. Congratulations!

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

News from the Parish Shop:

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ We still have some cards for Easter from 20p.
- ◆ We have a stock of "A Short History of the Dominicans in Leicester: Commemorating the 750th Anniversary of the Foundation of St Clement's Priory in 1247", written by Fr Isidore. Available at its 1996 price of £2.

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.



Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in excelsis!

Stations of the Cross in the first part of Holy Week: Wednesday after the 12.30pm Mass.

KING RICHARD III

- ◆ Our heartfelt thanks to absolutely everyone who contributed towards making last week so memorable. All the events went particularly well, and we were blessed with beautiful Spring weather all week. Deo gratias!

Lunchtime Organ Recitals at Leicester Cathedral. On Monday 30 March, Simon Headley will play at a meditation in words and music for the start of Holy Week. On Monday 4 May, Carl Bahoshy will give a recital in aid of the UK registered charity 'Iraqi Christians in Need'. Recitals are at 1pm.

Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes: Please note that the dates have changed to 8-12 June. From Stansted, staying at the Agena Hotel. £425 per person sharing. Please contact Fr David.

The General Election 2015. Please pick up a copy of a letter on this subject addressed to Catholics in England and Wales by our Bishops.

The 2015 March for Life is taking place on **Saturday 16th May**, starting at St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham, led by Archbishop Bernard Longley, from 12 noon onwards. We hope that many people from churches all around will join us on the march. The march is across Birmingham city centre and less than a mile long. We aim to arrange a coach from Leicester (aiming for fare of £8-£13 per person depending on numbers) and now we need you to tell us that you would like to come! Can you spare a few hours in prayerful, peaceful defence of unborn babies in danger of abortion? Call now to reserve your place on the coach. Families welcome! Contact: Stephen on 07850 441093 or steviearnell@hotmail.com or Francisca on 07943 711549 or francisca@sicamartinez.plus.com.

Year /	This week's calendar & Mass Intentions	Psalter Week 2
Sunday	PALM SUNDAY. Prayers are asked for candidates for the sacraments. Vigil 18.10 James Garsd'e 8.00 ✠ Rose Hassett Sung 10.30 <i>Pro populo</i> OP Rite 12.30 ✠ Ian Keith Anderson Howan 19.00 ✠ Johnnie Carroll	
Monday	MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK OP Rite 8.00 ✠ Sam & Colette Walker 12.30 Felie & Steven - good health & intentions 19.15 ✠ Holy Souls	
Tuesday	TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK OP Rite 8.00 ✠ Dead of the Order of Preachers 12.30 ✠ Holy Souls 19.15 ✠ Hugh Geoffrey Williams	
Wednesday	WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK OP Rite 8.00 ✠ Mary Beardsmore 12.30 Juan Diego Henao Guerrero - family's intentions 19.15 ✠ Holy Souls	
Thursday	MAUNDY THURSDAY 9.00 Tenebrae 19.30 Mass of the Lord's Supper and watching to midnight	
Friday	GOOD FRIDAY 9.00 Tenebrae 15.00 Liturgy of the Passion of the Cross 19.30 Stations of the Cross	
Saturday	HOLY SATURDAY 9.00 Tenebrae 17.45 Vespers 20.00 Easter Vigil	
Next Sunday – EASTER SUNDAY. Readings:		
Acts 10:34a.37-43	Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8	John 20:1-9 or Mark 16:1-8

Friars Preachers. The Lent issue of this, the Newsletter of the Dominicans in England and Scotland, is available on the tables by the doors. Please help yourself to a copy. Topics in this issue include a look back at the Dominican School, originally at Hinckley and eventually at Laxton, Northamptonshire; and the restoration of the reliquary on St Helena's altar. And there are details of how you may help support the general work of the friars and the Dominicans' Training Fund.

VACANCY: St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy, Derby are looking to appoint a full-time Key Stage 2 Teacher from September. For more information and an application pack please call the school office and speak to Mrs Hartlow 01332 572154 or email admin@stjohnfisher.derby.sch.uk.

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.

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.
Parish Website: www.holycrossleicester.org Website & Newsletter Editors: web@holycrossleicester.org holycrossnewsletter@gmail.com
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