



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2017

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

· A ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY · THE DOMINICAN PRESENCE IN LEICESTER SINCE 1247 ·

FROM THE PRIOR'S DESK

The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes always brings happy memories of warm and pleasant pilgrimages to Lourdes over the years, and reminds me that it is time to think about planning my next trip there. People bring such great burdens to Lourdes, but it is always a place of happy memories, for so many people.

Our beautiful Mass for Healing today was well attended, and there will be opportunity to pray for healing again at the 10:30 Mass. As I constantly remind people, the beauty of prayer means we can have the same happiness in the middle of our burdens right here in Leicester, when we focus on the Lord. Thinking about going to Lourdes, or going on holiday, when the weather gets better, is very similar to contemplating eternal life, when our burdens are lifted and we are brought to true holiness.

Fr Isidore reflects so very beautifully on this very idea on the back of this week's newsletter. His reflection is a real witness to the goodness of God in the midst of infirmity. Do please share his words with others, particularly those who might need to hear them.

Be intent on prayer, and all that may happen will turn to our good.

Fr David

STUDENT EVENTS THIS WEEK

We have a number of events this week that are aimed at our students and young adults (18-35). Please contact Fr David or George:

- Wednesday 15 February, 7pm in St Clement's, the first meeting of Leicester Students for Life, looking at ways to cherish every moment of human life.
- Saturday 18 February, trip to London, when Cardinal Nichols will consecrate England to the Immaculate Heart of Mary at Westminster Cathedral. We will also visit the Rosary Shrine at Haverstock Hill.

BREAK IN AT THE PRIORY

Last Sunday evening during our Holy Hour, there was a break-in at the Priory. Three doors were badly damaged, with money and personal items being taken. Thankfully nobody was hurt, and we express our thanks to those who offered their assistance. We have contracted a security company to patrol the premises during the night so we can have peace of mind and deter further incidents. We would be grateful if you could contribute something towards the cost of our security. We will take a second collection for this at Masses this weekend.

NOTICE BOARD

BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you wish to have your child baptised, please attend one of our baptism preparation sessions. The next is Sunday 5 February, after the 10:30am Mass in St Clement's Hall.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CONFIRMATION

Forms for children and young people who wish to receive these sacraments in the new academic year (2016-17) are now in the Church. Please fill in and return.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Couples who are preparing for the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony should make an appointment with the Parish Priest in the first instance.

BECOMING CATHOLIC

Any adult who wishes to become a Catholic or receive Confirmation should join our RCIA programme, which begins in the Autumn Term.

VISITING THE SICK

The Faithful who are sick and housebound can arrange a visit from a priest or special minister by calling 0116 252 1501.

FAMILY VISITS

Families who would like a house blessing or a pastoral visit at home, can make arrangements by calling 0116 252 1501

CATHOLICISM 101 – THIS THURSDAY AT 7PM

Catholicism 101 this term will focus on the Church's moral teaching, and is entitled: *Living Life to the Full – becoming a joyful and faithful Catholic*. This week's session will explore how we can decide whether our actions are good or bad. The sessions start at 7pm and there will be food. Please come along and bring your friends.

PILGRIM VIRGIN STATUE VISIT TO HOLY CROSS – JUNE 1ST

The **National Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima** will visit Holy Cross on **Thursday 1 June 2017**. The statue is making a pilgrimage round the country to mark 100 years since the apparitions at Fatima, and we are very privileged that it will come to Holy Cross. We will begin our preparations by keeping the First Saturday devotions, with the first occasion being Saturday 4 March at 12:30pm Mass.

DOMINICAN ROSARY PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY IN JUNE

From **Wednesday 14-21 June 2016**, a pilgrimage to sites associated with Our Lady and the Holy Rosary, including Loreto, the site of the Holy House, the great Franciscan Shrines at Assisi, St Padre Pio's Shrine in San Giovanni Rotondo, and Pompei, the Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary. Inclusive price: £1,165. Please see the flyers, and make contact with Fr David if interested.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Our Sunday Holy Hour, 6-7pm – Rosary, Compline, Benediction.
- Organ recitals, first Friday of each month at 1:15pm. A very nice way to spend a lunchtime.
- 8.00 Mass Breakfast Club and 10.30am Meet for a Treat continues on Sunday 5th March.
- Date for your diaries – **Saturday 25th March**, 3.00-5.30 and 7.00-9.30 pm, we are looking at holding a Social Event, so watch this space for more details.

THE DOMINICAN COMMUNITY

Fr David Rocks OP PP *Prior*; Fr Isidore Clarke OP;
Fr Fabian Radcliffe OP; Fr Robert Gay OP CC *Subprior, Bursar*.

Office Administrator: *Mrs Rachael Powell* – leicester.admin@english.op.org

Lay University Chaplain: *Mr George Ralph* – george.ralph@english.op.org

Director of Music: *Mr Thomas Keogh* – thomas@thomaskeogh.co.uk

For the Office Administrator, please call **0116 252 1501**

Holy Cross Priory, 45 Wellington Street, LE1 6HW. Tel: 0116 252 1501

For more details, visit: www.holycrossleicester.org

MASS TIMES

Sundays:

8am; 10:30am (sung);
12:30pm (old rite);
7pm

Weekdays:

8am (old rite);
12:30pm; 6:10pm

Saturdays:

8am (old rite);
10am; 12.30pm;
6:10pm Vigil Mass for Sunday

CONFESSION

Saturdays:

10:30-11:30am
5:00-6:00pm

MONEY MATTERS

Last week's collections:

£ 1064.42

(Gift aided: £ 455.60)

Woodhouse Collection

£ ---

(removed during break in)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*



THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1ST READING: SIRACH 15:15-20 GOSPEL: MATTHEW 5:17-37

We notice a potentially fruitful tension between the Gospel and the first reading from Sirach. While Jesus makes the commandments even more demanding, Sirach claims that we can keep the commandments if only we really want to. Both readings are very direct and there's no missing the message. One approach to today's Scriptures would be to take them as pointers and ideals for Christian morality. Jesus forbids not merely murder, as the most extreme form of disregard for another person, but also lesser forms of injuring others. What unites the three faults he lists (losing one's temper, using insulting names and of refusing to forgive) is that in each case another person's feelings are trampled underfoot. The importance of forgiveness is shown by the fact that it comes before strictly religious duties, and presumably the same priority is assigned to the other two matters. So the point Jesus makes is that one must respect not simply people's right to life but also their right to dignity and self-respect.

2ND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 2:6-10

St. Paul is critical of the wisdom of his age. They had their philosophers just like we do. Some of them, known as Sophists (as in sophisticated) taught people to be smart, but with little concern for whether they were actually right. Paul says to the people of Corinth – a smart, upwardly mobile place – that when he came to them he did not use “lofty words or wisdom” to proclaim the mystery of God, but rather decided “to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified”. It would have been too easy for Paul to compare the cross of Christ with the cross symbol in the Timaeus, a philosophical dialogue by the great Greek philosopher Plato. The Corinthians would have “got” the cross immediately: it was the reconciliation of stillness and movement, the reconciliation of opposites in general. True, but not true enough for the mother who has lost a child or the refugees freezing in the snow. When we have listened to such hard truths, heard the full, honest sound and let it disturb us, prayed over it, then we can understand the true depths of philosophy. We can think, and speak the truth.

NEXT SUNDAY –

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

*Our Lord does not come down from Heaven every day to lie in a golden ciborium.
He comes to find another heaven which is infinitely dearer to him -
the heaven of our souls, created in His Image, the living temples of the Adorable Trinity.*

Saint Therese of Lisieux

Pope Francis
Evangelii Gaudium
The Joy of the Gospel

“It is not 'progressive' to try to resolve problems by eliminating a human life.”

THE WORD AT WORK: OUR WEEKLY REFLECTION

'AUTUMN OF MY CONTENT' - (WITH APOLOGIES TO 'RICHARD III')

Let's face it. Much of our lives are uneventful. Hopefully we do have high points when we can celebrate and enjoy ourselves. But for much of the time we live a monotonous routine. We may well ask, 'What's the point?'

The Church comes up with a brilliant answer. It sanctifies the tedium of life with what we call '**Ordinary Time.**' That's when we're not preparing for great liturgical festivals or actually celebrating them, but just getting on with the routine of following Jesus in our daily lives. About 30 years of His short life were as mundane and humdrum as ours. From infancy, through childhood, youth and manhood He was being prepared to carry out His saving mission. Each stage of that preparation was vital to His success.

For Jesus and for us Ordinary Time is Sacred Time. It's in the routine of our daily lives that we love and serve God and each other. In this He draws close to us, and we to Him. Each stage of our Ordinary Time is meant to help us on our journey to the Kingdom of Heaven. The routine will vary as we develop and grow from being an infant, then a child, then an adult.

As I approach 85 I have a special interest in making sense of what the Ordinary Time of ageing can mean for me and others like me. With God's help I need to see if the autumn of my life can become the fruitful and positive climax to my vocation to follow Christ.

Increasingly that's meaning not being active, but sharing in our saviour's weakness and vulnerability. Through us sick and frail people the Church identifies with the crucified Christ and shares in His redemptive suffering, (cf. Col. 1. 24). We are called to witness that lives like ours are not a meaningless waste, but an essential part of the life of the Church. Ours is a difficult vocation; we need and value the respect and support of those who are active.

People like me are often accused of living in the past. Certainly, we can be crashing bores as we reminisce about the 'good old days.' But for most of us oldies our faith shifts our perspective. Instead of looking back, we look forward. We're not so much preparing for death, but for eternal life. As I contemplate the sunset of death I look forward to the sunrise of the resurrection. My longing to dwell in the house of the Lord increases as that approaches. I'm like an old horse which gets excited as it nears home!

One of the things about extreme old age is that you survive your contemporaries. Gradually they're stripped away and you're left alone. Since they were part of your life, with their death, part of you dies. And in many other ways ageing strips us of our various props and supports. That must mean coming to terms with my mind and various parts of my body wearing out and breaking down. Though this is frustrating, so far, I've been spared any great pain or disability.

For me the Ordinary Time of ageing forces me to let go, to give back to God -my physical and mental strengths, my loved ones, my mobility, the opportunities to be an active Dominican.

The more I have to surrender, the more I'm challenged to trust, to believe that God's hands will sustain me and bring me to my heavenly home with Him. As death knocks away the final prop, I'm called to pray with the dying Jesus, "Father into your hands I commend my life, and death."

Letting go of everything and trusting in the Lord -that's what I must do during the Ordinary Time, the Autumn, of my Old Age.

Isidore Clarke O.P.