



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 23RD APRIL 2017

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

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

FROM THE PRIOR'S DESK

Today is known as Low Sunday, as it is the first day of the new week, when the celebration of Easter has died down a little, and we return to our various routines. Our schools will open again this week, and we prepare to welcome back our University students also as we move into examination season. Best of luck to all who are called to celebrate their knowledge through exams at this time!

Fr Robert and myself begin our weekly teaching commitments in Oxford this week, while Fr Fabian is enjoying some time with relatives in Cornwall. It was nice to see many of our families reunited during the Easter holidays, and also to see some people return having taken some time away. This time of rest and reconnection is a wonderful way to bear witness to the resurrection.

We continue our preparations to welcome some new arrivals in the Community! Hopefully they will be in and settled in July. In the meantime, I wish to pay tribute once again to our Dominican Community here who are working so hard at the present time, and to our staff team, Nick, George, Rachael, and Tom. Their support is invaluable, and bolstered by the many volunteers. Another new and key part of our team here is Fr Isidore's nursing staff, who do so much for him, and for us. Thank you.

We are very grateful for your kind support at this time. Be intent on prayer, and all that may happen will turn to our good.

Fr David

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

Please note that there will not be Mass at 6:10pm this Tuesday evening. Our thanks go to all those who have helped with Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum this year – readers, servers, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, music, flowers, sacristy, and a whole host of ways. Today is Divine Mercy Sunday. The Image of Mercy will be blessed at 3pm with the recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and Adoration until 7pm. Please take the leaflets and pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet at home. The new Image of Mercy, drawn by one of our prisoners, will be blessed today also.

THE EASTER DUTY

At Easter, the Catholic Church requires that all Catholics who have made their First Communion receive Holy Communion sometime during the Easter season, which lasts through Pentecost Sunday, 50 days after Easter. (They should also take part in the Sacrament of Penance before receiving this Easter communion.) This reception of the Eucharist is a visible sign of our faith and our participation in the Kingdom of God. Of course, we should receive Communion as frequently as possible; this "Easter Duty" is simply the minimum requirement set by the Church.

NOTICE BOARD

BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you wish to have your child baptised, please attend one of our baptism preparation sessions. The next is Sunday 2 April after the 10:30am Mass in St Clement's Hall.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CONFIRMATION

Please get in touch with the Priory Office if members of your family wish to celebrate these sacraments.

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

MARCH FOR LIFE IN BIRMINGHAM – 20TH MAY – **BREAKING NEWS**

The Authorised Relic of the Miraculous Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe will now be present at the March for Life at St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham, Saturday 20th May, for veneration. St John Paul II authorised the creation of 220 digital replicas of the original for worldwide distribution. These images have been declared as authorised relics that will extend the graces of evangelisation, conversion and truth to nations in which they are placed, offering the same graces as extended in 1531, equal in graces to that of the original first class Relic. Reserve your place on the coach to St Chad's now by contacting the office at Holy Cross. Cost: £10 adults, under-14s free.

SOCIAL NEWS

Blackfriars' Market is our main fundraising and community event and will be held on Sunday June 25. If you would like to be involved in any way, please contact Jeff (holycross.social@gmail.com) and/or come to our planning meeting at 7.30-8.30pm in St. Clement's Hall this Tuesday (April 25).

Our next 'Breakfast Club' and 'Meet for a Treat' weekend will include a launch of the Blackfriars' Market raffle, with treats and refreshments after all Masses on May 6 and 7. More details next week.....

VISIT OF THE NATIONAL PILGRIM VIRGIN OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA

The Statue will visit on 1 June, after Easter we will start to make preparations for the visit. A Solemn Mass to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Apparitions, and in thanksgiving for the Canonisations of St Francisco and St Jacinta, will be celebrated on Saturday 13 May at 12:30pm in our church.

DOMINICAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

This year on Sunday 14 May, leaving the Priory at 8am. Cost will be £15. Please join us for what is always a beautiful occasion and a wonderful way to mark Our Lady's month.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES

For the coming year, these are available for those on the envelope scheme for regular church giving. More details on finance after Christmas.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Blackfriars Market Sunday 25th June
- Organ recitals, first Friday of each month at 1:15pm
- Fatima Centenary celebrations – 13 May at 12:30pm Mass

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:

£ 3986.36

(Gift aided: £ 2175.40)

Woodhouse Collection

£ 291.45

(Gift aided: £ 135.00)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*

THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

1ST READING: 2, 42-47

This Reading gives a summary of the life Spirit-filled early Church. This I characterised by sharing in celebrating the Eucharist and praying together. All things are held in common. The risen Lord lives on and works through His followers

Responsorial Psalm 117: 'Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His love has no end

A thanksgiving psalm, very appropriate as we celebrate God's gift of new life in the resurrection.

2ND READING: 1 PETER 1. 3-9

This extract from St. Peter's letter is thought to have been a sermon for those recently baptised at Easter. They -we -have been born to new life in the risen Lord. This should be a cause of great joy. They, we, are warned that our faith will be tested, but the reward of the salvation of our souls makes that worthwhile.

GOSPEL: JOHN 20. 19-31

Today's Gospel records two occasion on which the risen Lord appeared to His disciples. On the first He breathed on them and gave them the divine power to forgive sins. This breathing is resonant of God breathing life into Adam. Now the risen Lord breath into His followers the new life of the resurrection, making them His ministers of the reconciliation which He won for us on the cross. This Gospel is very appropriate for Divine Mercy Sunday. The second part of today's Gospel wrestling with what became a real problem in the post-apostolic church: How could one believe in the risen Lord without the benefit of a resurrection appearance? For Thomas, faith came by hearing the word of the risen one addressing him personally, and by touching His wounds. When convinced, the doubter made the most profound act of faith in the risen Lord. But for those, like us, who come after Christ's Ascension, faith comes through hearing the Word of God, now spoken through His Church.

NEXT SUNDAY –

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A)

"Our Lord needs from us neither great deeds nor profound thoughts.

Neither intelligence nor talents. He cherishes simplicity.

Saint Therese of Lisieux

Pope Francis

Evangelii Gaudium

The Joy of the Gospel

"Let me say this once more: God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy."

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)

"Peace be with you!" That was the risen Lord's greeting when He first appeared to His followers. They certainly needed that reassurance. His brutal crucifixion had dashed all the hopes they had placed in Him. As His followers, they were in danger of being rounded up and executed. After His death, they never expected to see Him again. When He did re-appear, they needed to be reassured that He had really risen from the dead, and was not some kind of apparition.

But "Peace be with you" was much more than a reassuring greeting. It summed up the whole purpose of the Son of God becoming man, the whole reason for His living among us and dying on the cross. He was the human expression of the face of God, which is mercy. His mission was to make our peace with God, through His death on the Cross. That's a peace which only He could give. Today's Divine Mercy Sunday sums up what we've been celebrating during Holy Week.

Today's Gospel is especially appropriate for Divine Mercy Sunday. The crucified and risen Lord breathes on those whom He has chosen to continue and spread the peace-making, which He accomplished through His death on the cross. Just as God had breathed life into Adam in the first creation, so now the risen Lord breathed on the disciples, giving them His divine power to spread God's new creation, through the forgiveness of sins. That was Christ's mission; that is the mission He has given His Church -to be God's ministers of reconciliation. We, the Church, are to reflect the face of God, which is mercy.

Rightly, we celebrate and rejoice in the gift of God's mercy, which embraces even the greatest of sinners. No one is a hopeless case, beyond redemption. The greatest of saints would be the first to recognise their need for God's forgiveness, the first to seek it.

But Jesus repeatedly insisted that if we want God to forgive us, we must forgive those who have harmed us. That's the uncomfortable challenge of the feast of Divine Mercy. We are called to be what St. Paul calls, 'ministers of reconciliation' -to be Christ-like in making the first move towards making peace. That must be, like Christ, even if we are the innocent injured person.

But of course, we are not always innocent. Sometimes we do offend God and hurt each other. Then we must have the honesty to admit our fault and seek forgiveness.

During last Year of Mercy Pope Francis frequently urged us to obey Christ's words, "Be compassionate, as your Heavenly Father is compassionate." Compassion is another dimension mercy, which involves being sensitive to the suffering and coming to their aid. Pope Francis condemns a self-centeredness resulting in what he calls, 'global indifference' to other peoples' suffering. Today's feast should shake us up and make us sensitive to their need and inspire us to come to their assistance. The best place start is with those around us.

Today's feast of Divine Mercy celebrates the wonder of God's forgiveness. It proclaims Christ's mission to reconcile us to God, the mission He has given us to be His ministers of reconciliation. Only if we share the mission of Christ the Peace Make will we be true sons and daughters of God. Certainly, this feast is reassuring, but it should also make us uncomfortable and inspire us to action.

The peace Christ, which the world cannot give, be with you.

God, bless you.

Isidore O.P.