



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 30TH APRIL 2017

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

FROM THE PRIOR'S DESK

It has been a fairly chilly run up to the Bank Holiday weekend, and so some of us have picked up a round of cold and flu. Hopefully it will not be long until the warmer weather sees these things off, and warms our hearts. Things are starting to get busier in these weeks. All the paperwork for the forthcoming celebrations of Marriages is being completed, and so we wish couples well, particularly those who will marry abroad, or finish their time in Leicester.

Examination time is forthcoming in schools and universities. This is such an important process, bringing together the fruits of months and years of learning and study, and preparing our students for the next stage of development. It is important that we hold them all in prayer.

I'm looking forward to meeting our new Catholic Chaplain at the LRI this coming week. Please pray for us, that we can work together fruitfully to care for our patients and their families in time of illness. I wish to express our gratitude to Christina Mottram who has valiantly covered the LRI in recent months, and who continues to do so much in the other two hospitals.

It has been good to finalise plans for the 60th Anniversary of Fr Isidore and Peter's Ordinations. Please do join us, 11th May at 6:10pm.

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

FRS ISIDORE AND PETER CLARKE – 60 YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD!

Our Theological Twins, the two Clarke Boys, will celebrate their Diamond Jubilee of Priesthood this year, on Thursday 11 May. Between them, they have ministered for 120 years as priests, and for thirty of those, Fr Isidore has been in Hinckley and Leicester. **We are profoundly grateful to both of them for their ministry, their kindness and their example.** To mark this milestone, we invite you all to join us for a Mass of Thanksgiving on **Thursday 11 May at 6:10pm**. Fr Isidore is in good spirits, and is very busy with his writing these days. *Ad multos annos*, our kids!

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 7 May 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

The day of our awesome annual pro-life festival (the only one of its kind in England) is almost here, and we would like as many people as possible to come. IF YOU ARE STRUGGLING TO AFFORD THE £10 COST FOR THE BUS PLEASE DON'T LET THIS PUT YOU OFF! We'd rather you came than didn't come, and so would the unborn babies that this pro-life witness is all about. So, if you're unwaged or otherwise unable to afford the ticket please be assured you'll still be welcome on the bus. We ask £10 donation for the coach ticket from those who can afford it to cover transport costs. Please contact me, Francisca, for further information through the office at Holy Cross.

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.**

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:

£ 1314.89

(Gift aided: £ 463.65)

Woodhouse Collection

£ 81.97

(Gift aided: £ 71.00)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*

THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

1ST READING: ACTS 2. 14, 22-33

In the Act of the Apostles St. Luke showed that the life of the Church mirrored that of Christ, as described in his Gospel. So, after a period of preparation the Spirit descended upon Jesus and He proclaimed His mission manifesto, in fulfilment of the prophet Isaiah. Similarly, after the Spirit had descended on the apostles they proclaimed their Gospel manifesto, as described in today's Reading.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 16: "Show us Lord the path of life"

A psalm of great trust in God, reaching its fulfilment in confidence in the resurrection

2ND READING: 1 PETER 1. 17-21

St. Peter urges us, his readers, not to forfeit the eternal home with Christ which He has won for us at such a great personal cost.

GOSPEL: LUKE 24. 13-35

Today's Gospel is about the risen Lord walking and eating with two of His disciples. This paralleled by Philp hitching a lift from the eunuch, whom he baptised, as recorded in Luke's 2nd volume -the Acts of the Apostles Cf. Acts 8). In both accounts the evangelist makes the same points. Now that the risen Lord is no longer visibly present we meet Him as we journey through life -first through the proclamation and explanation of the Scriptures, which Jesus fulfilled, and then in the sacramental life of the Church -the breaking of bread/ Eucharist in today's Gospel, in baptism according to Acts.

NEXT SUNDAY –

FOURTH 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."

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER -THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

Some years ago, a friend greeted me in Birmingham art gallery. That came as a surprise, because I hadn't expected to see him there. In fact, although I'd been standing beside him, I hadn't recognised him. And even when he greeted me, I found it difficult to put a name to his familiar face. My problem was that I only associated him with Holy Cross. My imagination couldn't make the leap to recognise him in an unexpected situation. I expect most of you have had a similar experience.

That's something like what happened to the disciples on the road to Emmaus. Jesus was the last person they expected to meet. After all, everyone knew that he'd just been crucified and then buried. With His death, all the hope they'd placed in Him had been shattered. They were desolate!

When the risen Lord joined them as they sadly talked about Him they didn't recognise Him, partly because they didn't expect to see Him. They didn't realise who it was who explained that the Scriptures foretold that He must suffer and die, and that He would rise from the grave. They only recognise Him at the end of the journey, when the risen Lord, shared a meal with them and broke bread in a familiar way.

Luke recorded this graphic account of the risen Lord's appearance to help our faith that He did not abandon us when He ascended to heaven. We have two sceptical witnesses who became convinced that the Lord had truly risen. They hastened to share this wonderful news. That sums up the mission of the Church and of each of us.

This episode is meant to reassure us that Jesus is now with us in new ways. He speaks to our minds and hearts through the Scriptures. As the two disciples recognised Jesus in the breaking of bread, we are reminded that we meet him in the sacramental life of the Church—especially in the Eucharist. Finally, this episode tells us that our crucified and risen Lord accompanies us as we journey through life, just as He did the disciples on the road to Emmaus.

But throughout this account of Christ's resurrection appearance there's the problem of recognising Him. That requires both God's gift of faith and also our openness to the unexpected. We need to realise that the Word of God Himself speaks to us personally through the written text of the Scriptures. And when we receive the sacraments we must look beyond the physical appearance of, say, bread, wine, water and words, and make the leap of faith to believe that we meet Jesus Himself, approaching us to help us in our different needs.

Finally, we meet Jesus in the people we encounter in our journey through life. Some may be easy to recognise as being really Christ-like. But it may be much harder to recognise Jesus, as He identifies with the needy, the despised and rejected in society. Today's Gospel reminds us that we need great sensitivity to appreciate Christ who is already in our midst in so many ways. We can so easily miss Him!

Isidore O.P.