



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 2ND JULY 2017

XIII SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

What a wonderful success Blackfriars Market has been! The atmosphere in the hall and around the church was one of fellowship and collaboration, and each person was truly supportive of each other as we worked together for the future of our community and the building of our common vision. Each of us can have a real sense of ownership about what we want to do in the future, and we can be confident that our efforts will stand those who come after us in good stead, when they face the inevitable and unenviable challenges that will visit them.

Our First Communion children took the lead, enjoying the Market events and sharing the joy of their First Communion Day with each of us. We should thank them for their example to us all.

The fantastic total amounts for our fundraising efforts this year is a very considerable example of our dedication and sense of vision for Holy Cross. Short numbers within the priory have caused us many difficulties in recent months, but the success of our Market, on so many levels, across the year, demonstrates how much each of you have been behind us during this period, and in so many different and important ways. We wish to extend our thanks to each of you for your continued support, and we hope that very soon, new brethren in our midst will inject enthusiasm and energy into our ministry here at Holy Cross.

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

Fr David

BLACKFRIARS MARKET – A HUGE THANKS TO EVERYONE!

We worked hard over the weeks and months leading up to this important event, and once again our efforts have been rewarded by tremendous success. The final total for our Blackfriars Market this summer is £9,173.17, and with Gift Aid, that rises to £9,948.17. Many thanks are due to each and every person who contributed in a variety of ways to this achievement.

BLACKFRIARS MARKET – OUR ACHIEVEMENT THIS YEAR

- *Advent Market 2016 - £6,497.47, rising to £7,249.97 with Gift Aid.*
- *Blackfriars Market 2017 - £9,173.17, rising to £9,948.17 with Gift Aid*
- *Totals for the year: £15,670.64, rising to 17,198.14 with Gift Aid*
- *Congratulations one and all, and thank you!*

BLACKFRIARS MARKET – WHERE WE TAKE IT FROM HERE

The money we have raised together over the last number of years has helped us to address some of the many needs around our buildings. We have been able to address some issues with drainage and structure around the site, and we have upgraded living, working, and meeting spaces within the priory. There is still a great deal to do! With your continued support, we intend to follow up on the ideas and initiatives raised during last year's Holy Cross Assembly, and work to realise an ambitious plan to mark our 200th Anniversary as we embrace our future with hope. We give thanks to God for all your support and encouragement for our life and ministry in Leicester.

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 July 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

SAFEGUARDING – KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE

We remind you once again that Holy Cross is only safe for our children and vulnerable adults if we make it so. We ask each family to ensure their children are supervised at all times, and are accompanied by a trusted and responsible adult known to the child. Please also support us in discouraging children in running and climbing on the premises.

SOCIAL NEWS – SUNDAY 2ND JULY - TODAY IN THE HALL

Breakfast Club - bacon or egg baps and croissants - after the 8am Mass.

Meet for a Treat - cupcakes and muffins - after the 10.30 Mass

These are the last of our events before the team takes a summer break - we'll be back in September!

HOLIDAY SEASON

As June draws to a close, we begin to enter the holiday season. Remember if you are travelling for holidays and get to Mass, bring back a Newsletter from the church to give to Fr David. He now has quite a collection. Travel safely and have a good time. Over the next number of weeks, the Dominican Fathers will also take turns for holiday and also to take part in ministerial commitments elsewhere.

MASSES THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS

Mass will be celebrated at the normal times this week. The 8am Mass will be in the Dominican Old Rite (Extraordinary Form) on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday this week. Thank you for your forbearance during the period we have been low in numbers. We are glad that normal service will resume very soon!

NEW ARRIVALS

We expect Fr Matthew Jarvis OP to join our community on 11 July, and Fr Tony Rattigan to arrive a week later. We are also expecting a third priest to be assigned to our community in the autumn who will be with us on an occasional basis over the next few years. We are glad to be welcoming our brothers to join us in Leicester.

ORGAN RECITAL THIS FRIDAY – 7 JULY @ 1:15PM

The next in our series of lunchtime organ recitals will be delivered by Ralf Ayling-Miller, Organist at St Mark's Bromley, this Friday 7 July at 1:15pm. Please join us for these monthly recitals which are always a treat.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Our Holy Hour, each Sunday at 6pm
- Organ recitals, first Friday of each month at 1:15pm

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:

£ 1146.96

(Gift aided: £ 373.00)

Woodhouse Collection

£ 98.98.00

(Gift aided: £38.00)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*

THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

XIII SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1ST READING: KINGS 4:8-11, 14-16A

This reading reminds us how much God's preachers have always depended on the friendship, hospital and support of people like you. We still do, and as we thank you, we, like Elisha pray that God will bless your generosity.

Responsorial Psalm: 89 "I will sing forever of your love, O Lord"

This extract from Psalm 89 declares that our happiness lies in forever trusting in the constancy of God's love, and proclaiming it.

2ND READING: ROMANS 6:3-4, 8-11:

Through baptism we die with Christ to the darkness of sin and death and rise with Him to share in the new life of the resurrection. The effect of this sacrament is most powerful expressed in baptisms of total immersion.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 10:37-42

This chapter is concerned with what Jesus expects of us, his disciples. Firstly, He expects total commitment, which will involve painful decisions and sacrifices. But like the crucified, Christ we will find that unselfish love will bring out the very best in us. If we die with Him, we will come alive in Him.

Secondly, Jesus echoes the ideas of the First Reading. To welcome a man of God is to welcome God Himself. Since in Matthew 25 Jesus tells us that He identifies with anyone in need, it follows that to welcome them and come to their assistance is to welcome and help Jesus Himself. Jesus expect us, His followers, to be heralds of the Good News and ministers of His loving concern for the needy.

NEXT SUNDAY –

XIV SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES (YEAR A) - FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

"Spiritual persons ought to be equally ready to experience sweetness and consolation in the things of God, or to suffer and keep their ground in drynesses of spirit and devotion, and for as long as God pleases, without their making any complaint about it."

-
St. Philip Neri

A word from Pope Francis

"I make a heartfelt plea to all people and to all communities who look to Abraham: may we respect and love one another as brothers and sisters! May we learn to understand the sufferings of others! May no one abuse the name of God through violence! May we work together for justice and peace! *Salaam!*"

THE WORD AT WORK: OUR WEEKLY REFLECTION

XIII SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

'What an adorable child; what an adorable kitten!' people will exclaim. Pop stars will sing of adoring their beloved. We may well think we owe total, unconditional love and loyalty to our family or country. Gallantly we would sacrifice absolutely anything for them.

Taken too literally, to excess, this would amount to idolatry! Strictly speaking, since 'adorable' and 'divine' are attributes that apply to God alone only Jesus deserves be called an 'adorable baby.' As the First Commandment tells us, we must love the Lord our God above all things; we must have no other God before Him. But while most of us recognise this, we do sometimes need someone to remind us to get our priorities right. That's what Jesus does in today's Gospel.

But let's first be clear about one thing. Never does Jesus belittle the importance of loving and respecting our families. Family life was important to Him. He loved and honoured Mary and Joseph. But never did He give them the adoration, due only to His Heavenly Father. That would have distorted His love for them and would have imposed upon them a burden they could and should not have had to carry. Jesus gave to them in full measure the true love that was appropriate for them.

And that is what Jesus urges upon us, His disciples. If we make any person or thing the centre of our whole lives, the very purpose of our existence, it will be overloaded with a burden it was never meant to carry. When a creature is turned into a god it's bound to let us down. We will discover the true worth of God's creatures only when we appreciate them for what they are. It is then we will realise their true glory. But first we must let go of the false, idolatrous loves.

Jesus realised that the tensions of divided loyalties, of getting our priorities right, would be painful. He knew that His Passion and Death would cause unbelievable anguish and distress for His beloved mother. But He could not allow His love for her to prevent Him from doing His Father's will. He must remain completely focused on that.

As He did so, His love for her gained a new dimension. She was intimately caught up in the victory of the cross. Great as was Mary's love for her Son, she could never allow it to protect Him from the Way of the Cross. Both Jesus and Mary had to share in the Agony of the Cross if they were to find the fulfilment of their love for each other.

And that, Jesus tells us in today's Gospel, must be true for us, His disciples. If we are to follow Him we must get our priorities right. His guiding principal for us must always be, "Seek first the Kingdom of God." Sometimes we will have to choose good over evil, or the greater good, over the lesser. Having to let go can involve painful, agonising decisions. That can cause great anger and distress, sometimes splitting families. Jesus doesn't want these divisions, but they may be inevitable. They do involve a very real kind of dying with Christ.

Most, if not all of us, need to keep re-focussing on Christ. We can so easily become totally absorbed in our immediate concerns. Though good and important, they can become the centre of our lives. To follow Christ, we must die to this distortion. Only then will we see that God's creatures proclaim His glory. Only then will we prevent them from distracting us from God – even becoming substitutes for God!

When they cease to be idols and become stepping stones to heaven, they will lead us to what is most loveable and good -God Himself. Only when we cease to idolise people, or even demonise them, will we be able to see them in their true glory as our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Isidore O.P.