



# HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2017

XV SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

## A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

*The school holidays have finally arrived. During the past week, it was nice to visit our schools, to celebrate Mass, and to mark their achievements in the past academic year. Back in September, there was hope and apprehension as we started the journey together. Now we are ready for a break, some time during the better weather to celebrate our achievements and prepare for the next challenge.*

*This time of year also sees many couples getting ready to celebrate their Marriage after preparing during the past few years. We look forward to their special day, and we wish them well if their marriages will take place elsewhere. Congratulations also to our graduates at UoL last week, and to the graduates at DMU this week! We wish you every blessing for the future!*

*Last week I was humbled by your generosity and concern for baby Nashvel, and there is an update below. He is still gravely ill, and much in need. We will continue to do everything we can to keep his hope alive. The Bishop has invited prayers from the whole Diocese, and Nashvel's family are certain these prayers are helping. His family have asked me to thank you for what you've done so far.*

*A warm welcome is extended to Fr Matthew, and we will welcome Fr Tony later this week. At long last, we have the opportunity to rebuild our Dominican Community, and to serve you all in charity. Thanks be to God!*

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

*Fr David*

## BABY NASHVEL – THANKS FOR KEEPING HIS HOPES ALIVE!

Last week, at our Masses, we made an appeal for prayers and support for Baby Nashvel Gonsalves, who may need to travel abroad for treatment. Bishop Patrick also took Nashvel's intentions to the attention of the Diocese, and in addition to many prayers we have managed to raise **£2,000 this past week** to help the family. **Nashvel's situation remains critical**, and much work is underway to plan for his possible transfer abroad for surgery. The costs are prohibitive, and hopefully as more information becomes available, we will be in a position to request the funds that will be needed. In the meantime, **a huge thanks for your generosity** and please keep up the prayers. *Be intent on prayer and whatever may happen will turn to our good.*

## FR MATTHEW JARVIS – WELCOME!

It was wonderful to welcome Fr Matthew among us earlier this week, and he has started the process of settling in to the Priory. Fr Matthew arrives just following the **first anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood**, and following his studies in Oxford, this is his first ministerial assignment. *It is more than 15 years since the last priest was assigned here for his first assignation.* As one Parish Community and as the Holy Cross Family, we extend a *warm welcome* to Fr Matthew, and **we hope and pray that our care for him during his years among us will sustain him in fidelity to the priesthood in the many years of his ministry ahead.** Please do take some time to say hello and make him welcome.

## NOTICE BOARD

### BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you wish to have your child baptised, please attend one of our baptism preparation sessions. The next is Sunday 6 August 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.

## SUMMER ARRANGEMENTS AT HOLY CROSS

During the summer months, there will be a reduced presence at Holy Cross, as the Dominican Fathers, our staff, and our volunteers take some time for rest, vacation, and ministry elsewhere. We are very pleased to be welcoming Fr Tony and Fr Matthew, and when the new term begins we will be able to develop many things which have had to wait during the changes that have taken place during the past year. Mrs Powell in the Office will be absent from 17 July – 3 August. Many thanks for your continued co-operation.

## EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS – SEPTEMBER 2018

Our Bishops have announced that a **National Eucharistic Congress** will be held in Liverpool during September 2018. After the summer holidays, we will begin to make preparations for this important moment, and we will consider how we can enrich our devotion to the Eucharist. **On Sunday 30 July, Fr Chris Thomas will join us and explain a bit more.** Fr Chris is a priest of this Diocese, and General Secretary to the Conference of Bishops in England and Wales. He is also a great friend of our community.

## SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Our schools have now closed for the summer holidays. We thank all our children for the wonderful work and the great joy they have brought to us all during the past academic year, and to staff, parents, and governors. We are blessed to have such dedicated Catholic schools in Leicester, all of which are getting stronger. Over the next weeks, many of us will depart for vacations. Remember to bring back a newsletter from the places you visit and celebrate Mass! Travel safely.

## CONGRATULATIONS ON GRADUATIONS

Graduations are ongoing at DMU and have now concluded at the University of Leicester. **A huge congratulations to all graduates and graduands!** Over the years, students at both our universities have **contributed a great deal to the life of Holy Cross**, and for that we thank them, and especially those who will now leave us to start their careers elsewhere. **A huge thanks also**, on their behalf, to the many parishioners who help to make them such a part of our community here.

## 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*; Fr Matthew Jarvis OP

Office Administrator: *Mrs Rachael Powell* – [leicester.admin@english.op.org](mailto:leicester.admin@english.op.org)

Lay University Chaplain: *Mr George Ralph* – [george.ralph@english.op.org](mailto:george.ralph@english.op.org)

Director of Music: *Mr Thomas Keogh* – [thomas@thomaskeogh.co.uk](mailto: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](http://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:

**£ 1,003.10**

(Gift aided: £ 346.00)

### Woodhouse Collection

**£ 86.94**

(Gift aided: £66.00)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*

# THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

## XV SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1<sup>ST</sup> READING: ISAIAH 55:10-11

Two growth themes are inter-woven: the fruitfulness of the soil, and the power of the divine word to achieve its purpose. In this context that is to deliver God's people from exile in Babylon.

**Responsorial Psalm: 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14 "Some seed fell into rich soil, and produced its crop"**

The psalmist praises the God of Israel, (as distinct from the pagan Canaanite deities), for providing the fertility of the land. In an arid country rain was seen as a special sign of God's blessing.

2<sup>ND</sup> READING: ROMANS 8:18-23

Here Paul speaks of the whole of creation going through birth pangs as we await our redemption to enjoy the freedom of the glorious liberty of the children of God. Yet even now we enjoy the first fruits of the Spirit in our Christian lives.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 13:1-23

This famous parable about the sowing of the word of God falls into three parts: firstly, God guarantees a bumper harvest, in spite of all the threats to its success. This is addressed to all Christ's listeners. Secondly, in v. 10-17 Jesus explains to the disciples why He speaks in parables, and why people fail to respond. Here there's a contrast between those in and outside the Church. Thirdly, Jesus warns that those within the Church can be unreceptive to the word of God.

**NEXT SUNDAY –  
XVI SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES (YEAR A) - SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

*"The most beautiful act of faith is the one made in darkness, in sacrifice, and with extreme effort."*

-  
St. Padre Pio

*Some thoughts from Pope Francis ...*

"Even if the life of a person has been a disaster, even if it is destroyed by vices, drugs, or anything else—God is in this person's life. You can, you must try to seek God in every human life. Although the life of a person is a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. You have to trust God!"

# THE WORD AT WORK: OUR WEEKLY REFLECTION

## XV SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*Fr Isidore reflects on our Sunday Gospels for this time of year ...*

Today I'm going to reflect on the Gospel for 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Matthew 13. 1-23. This chapter contains a number of parables, telling us what the Kingdom of Heaven is like. These provide variations on the shared theme of cultivation. That would appeal to farmers and gardeners. As one parable jogged the memory of the next, they would become easier to remember. That would help the preacher.

Today's parable is one of the best known and is about someone sowing seed. Though this tells us much about growing wheat, it's not an extract from an ancient edition of a farming or gardening manual. Here Jesus uses the experience of the Galilean farmer to teach us about the kingdom of heaven.

Today's Gospel presents us with two ways of understanding this parable. The first is contained in the parable itself. This describes the different threats to the seed, representing the word of God –there's the stony ground, the heat of the sun, the weeds choking the seed's growth, birds eating the some of the seed. But the punch line comes with God guaranteeing a bumper harvest, despite all the threats to his word taking root. This parable is meant to encourage the Church and each of us when we feel overwhelmed and depressed by so many threats to the growth of the seed of the Gospel. We must place our trust in God, the Lord of the harvest.

The second half of today's Gospel gives an explanation of this parable, which is very different from the one I've just given. The emphasis now shifts from God's activity in guaranteeing the bumper harvest TO US, AND THE DIFFERENT WAYS IN WHICH WE MAY RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD. What began as a parable of encouragement now becomes a parable of warning. Both approaches are necessary.

Does the word of God get choked by all our daily cares? God has given the freedom to push Him into the background of our lives if it suits us to do so! The freedom to shut Him out altogether.

Again, it's easy enough to be enthusiastic Christians when nothing much is demanded of us. But our commitment can be so shallow; it can't withstand the heat of temptations and the opposition of persecution. It's when the going gets rough in following Jesus that our shallow commitment will shrivel and die.

And what about the birds of the air which eat the seed? These represent all the influences which undermine our faith –the secular values of the world in which we live, bad company, unsavoury material on TV or the Internet, what we read. All these different influences can prevent the Word of God taking root in our lives. For the Word of God to be fruitful in our lives it's must be sown in good, receptive soil.

The parable itself is meant to give us encouragement. The later explanation is meant to be a warning. When the going's rough we need to be confident that with God's help we can overcome the difficulties and be part of the harvest of the Kingdom of Heaven. But this will only happen when we don't take God and our salvation for granted. Jesus warns us very clearly of the consequences of not being receptive to the Word of God.

The Gospel raises uncomfortable questions. Jesus urges us to examine our approach to God. We should draw encouragement from God's power and desire to overcome all the obstacles to a successful harvest. If we will let Him, He can make our barren lives fertile. We can also prevent this happy outcome. He can protect us from the weeds which threaten to choke our Christian commitment, and from the pests and birds which seek to destroy the Good News of the kingdom. Let us confidently seek the kingdom of God and allow nothing to undermine our growth as followers of Christ!

*Isidore O.P.*