

THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

XVII SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1ST READING: KINGS 3. 5, 7-12

Anyone, on becoming any kind of ruler, would do well to read King Solomon's request, when God appeared to him in a dream. Solomon realised that to carry out successfully the enormous task God had given him he would need the practical judgment to rule wisely. God was pleased and that he made that choice, rather than great wealth or power.

Responsorial Psalm: 119 "Lord, how I love your law!"

Here the psalmist gratefully rejoices in the gift of God's Law, which teaches His people how to behave in a godly way. Because he loves God's law his greatest delights is to obey it.

2ND READING: ROMANS 8 28-30

In this reading Paul speaks of the twofold approach to our salvation: God calling us to be His Son's brothers and sisters, and His cooperating with us as we respond to that call. He will turn everything to the good of those who love Him.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 13. 44-52

Here we have two parables, suggesting how we should react to the Kingdom of Heaven. Both are about discovering a pearl of incomparable value. In the first it's found accidentally, in the second as a result of tireless searching by a merchant who knew what he was seeking. In both cases the finder is prepared to sell everything else in order to obtain the priceless pearl. As the saying goes, 'It's worth it!' These parables urge us to seek first the Kingdom of Heaven and be prepared to sacrifice everything else for it.

The third parable is about the drag-net, holding a mixture of good and bad fish. Like the parable of the wheat and the weeds we should leave the sorting to God at the end of time.

Finally, Matthew, whose Gospel is a preacher's handbook, sees Christ's missionaries drawing on treasures both from the Old Testament and from Jesus' teaching.

NEXT SUNDAY – THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD XVIII SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES (YEAR A) - EIGHTH 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

XVII SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - FINDING, SEEKING A BARGAIN

It's exciting to stumble across a bargain. In two of today's parables Jesus tells us about the kingdom of heaven by appealing to our excitement at finding a bargain –by accident or a lengthy search.

Firstly, Jesus draws on the custom of people hiding their valuables in the ground when they were threatened with invasion. They hoped to be able to recover their treasures when peace was restored. But, sadly, that wasn't always possible. Then, many years later, someone may accidentally stumble across the valuables. That's what happened in this parable. The man then bought the field so that he could acquire the treasure he'd discovered there. In our own time, we hear of people making similar discoveries of treasure buried long ago. This kind of discovery also happens when long ago someone accidentally dropped and lost a precious jewel, which accidentally discovered centuries later.

This parable tells us that some people do stumble across the Good News of the kingdom, without looking for it. Meeting a committed Christian may touch their hearts and open their eyes to the wonder of God's kingdom. That, they realise, is something they must have. And they will gladly make any sacrifice to get it.

In the second parable, about the pearl of great price, it's not a question of someone accidentally discovering something precious, but of his devoting his life to finding it. He's a pearl merchant who knows what he wants, and when he discovers it he realises that it's worth more than all his other pearls put together. Shrewdly, he's prepared to sacrifice everything he has in order to obtain that one precious pearl. My brother Chris, an antique dealer, was like that merchant. He would take me with him as he travelled the country, seeking really good antiques. He was thrilled when he found something extra special. I shared his excitement in the searching in the finding.

That pearl merchant represents all of us, who are seeking the greatest possible happiness. Like him, we can appreciate so much that is good and beautiful in life. But we are restless and dissatisfied until we discover God, who alone can satisfy our deepest longings. St. Augustine famously sums up our restlessness in this search, ***"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."***

But when we do discover where our true happiness lies we should be like the two characters in these parables. Neither of them was a reckless, foolhardy gambler. They appreciated the outstanding value of what they'd found and after careful consideration decided it was worth more than the sum of all their other possessions. Both were single minded in being prepared to sacrifice everything, in order to gain the treasure, they'd found. Like them, we must appreciate the wonder of what we've discovered –for us, the Kingdom of Heaven –and go for it. It's worth any sacrifice, even our very lives!

Isidore O.P.



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 30TH JULY 2017

XVII SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

The holiday season passes by so quickly – some of us have already returned from a 'few days break', while some of us are still looking forward to getting away from it all for a while. I'm glad to be building up my collection of newsletters from both near and far, so please keep them coming in!

The holiday season helps us to take a little time for relaxation and refreshment. They really are "holy" days, days when we can spend a little extra time thinking about the good things in our lives, and perhaps giving a little tender affection to the areas of our lives that require our compassionate attention. We should try to build some element of the holiness of our holidays into our lives all year round.

It's all too true that, for many people, the holiday season is marked by challenges. Loneliness and depression visit far too many people, and sometimes we have to cope with difficulties that are visited on us by the infirmities of other people. It's vitally important that we have that little "holy" space in our lives.

It's great to have Fr Tony and Fr Matthew with us now. They've really lifted the spirit of our community. Thank you for extending a warm Holy Cross welcome. We're starting to look at reshaping our community life, and extend our mission. We are very grateful for your support in all things.

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

Fr David

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.

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. This weekend we welcome Fr Chris Thomas who will 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.

SOLEMNITY OF OUR HOLY FATHER SAINT DOMINIC

Tuesday 8 August is the Solemnity of Our Holy Father Saint Dominic. Solemn Mass for the Solemnity will be concelebrated by the Dominican Fathers at 12:30pm, with a short reception afterwards in the Hall. Solemn Vespers and Benediction will be at 6:45pm. Please join us to mark this special day in our calendar.

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

BUILDINGS SURVEY

We have just completed a comprehensive survey of the buildings here at Holy Cross, which are of varying age and design. A number of significant issues have been brought to our attention, and we await the completed report. Following that, we hope to be able to draw up a programme for restoring those areas of our buildings that require attention.

THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS

Mass will be celebrated at the usual times in the coming week. The Mass will be offered in the Dominican Rite on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday at 8am. Later in the week, Fr Robert is away to America, and Fr Matthew will be on pilgrimage. Fr Fabian will be away during next week also. Thank you for your understanding as our community is "on the move" during the summer months.

THE OFFICE AT HOLY CROSS

Mrs Powell returns to work this week following her summer break, so it will be all stations go from Thursday 3 August. Thank you for your patience while the office has been short staffed. We will be glad to have her back.

FR ISIDORE

Many people very kindly ask after Fr Isidore's wellbeing, and it is touching that this priest who has served so faithfully for a long time in our community inspires such affection among you all, as he does among us. He is in good spirits and busy with his writing and broadcasting work which has its epicentre in his rooms in the Priory. It is truly amazing just how much he gets done each week. Keep up the prayers for him.

FUNERAL MASS FOR HELENE ARNOLD

The Funeral Mass for Helene will be celebrated at 11:15am on Friday 4 August. Our sincere condolences to Helene's family who have worshipped at Holy Cross for so many years.

HOLY CROSS DAY – 17 SEPTEMBER 2017

This year we will mark Holy Cross Day on Sunday 17 September. The Mass at 10:30am will be preceded by a procession of the Relic. Mass will be celebrated by our Provincial, Fr Martin. We will start to make preparations for this very soon.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Our Holy Hour, each Sunday at 6pm
- Organ recitals, first Friday of each month at 1:15pm
- Solemnity of St Dominic, 8 August. Solemn Mass 12:30pm; Vespers 6:45pm
- Holy Cross Day – Sunday 17 September

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:

£ 1,034.51

(Gift aided: £308.28)

Woodhouse Collection

£ 97.45

(Gift aided: £ 58.00)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*