



# HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017

XXII SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES

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

## A WORD FROM THE SUBPRIOR ...

*Some of the most moving experiences that I've had as a priest have involved what are called the two sacraments of healing, namely the sacrament of confession and the sacrament of the anointing of the sick. The beauty of both these sacraments is their simplicity, and the way in which they powerfully and yet gently touch people in their need, imparting the grace that is needed for that person's struggle.*

*Of these two sacraments, it is the anointing of the sick that is least well understood amongst the faithful. It's not that people don't know of the sacrament, but rather that the view of it is very restricted. In my experience, most people think that it is a sacrament only for the last moments before someone is going to die. As a result, people will often call for the priest at the last moment, but in fact the sacrament could have been given at an earlier stage, as well as in the last moments. It's hard to judge last minute calls, and the result can sometimes be that a person might die before being seen.*

*The catechism says the following: '[The Sacrament of the Sick] is not a sacrament for those only who are at the point of death...as soon as anyone of the faithful begins to be in danger of death from sickness or old age, the fitting time for him to receive this sacrament has certainly already arrived' (CCC1514). What this means is that any person who has a serious or terminal illness which is having a big impact on their wellbeing, and perhaps especially, who is isolated from normal Church and social life, can and should receive the sacrament. The sacrament brings many graces to the person who receives it, including the strength, peace and courage to face their illness, the grace to fight discouragement and temptation, the healing of soul and even body, if it is God's will.*

*When the sacrament imparts such powerful graces to people who are seriously ill, we can see why the Church suggests that it should be celebrated as soon as a person is ill. It brings them healing and strength from Christ to face whatever the future holds. It's important that we realise this for ourselves, and for those we love, and to ask for the sacrament when it is needed. The process of living through serious and terminal illness is one of the greatest times of anxiety, stress and suffering in a person's life: but the Church is ready and waiting to bring Christ to all those who suffer in this way.*

God bless,

Fr Robert

## 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, so as to prevent accidents or other incidents.

## NOTICE BOARD

### BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you wish to have your child baptised, please attend one of our baptism preparation sessions. The next is Sunday 3 September 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

## SECURITY UPDATE

As you will know, Holy Cross church is open from Lauds in the morning (7.30) until just after vespers in the evening. We are committed to making sure that Holy Cross is a place of prayer available all day. However, we do ask that you are especially mindful of the fact that some people see this place as an opportunity to steal. In particular, we ask that you do not leave bags and other valuable items unattended, especially during Holy Communion. It only takes a few seconds for an experienced thief to take something. Please keep bags and valuables on your person at all times. The same applies in the Parish Halls. Please also report any suspicious activity to one of the Dominicans or lay staff and volunteers.

## THE OFFICE AT HOLY CROSS

Mrs Powell is our office administrator, and is very much at the centre of everything that happens at Holy Cross. The list of things she does is enormous, as Holy Cross is a very busy place! In addition to ensuring our accounting information is passed to our main office in Oxford, she manages hall hire, contractors, emails, phone messages, and sacramental registers. Do get in touch with her if she can help in any way!

## EDUCATION SUNDAY

Next Sunday is education Sunday, when we will celebrate the people working and studying in Catholic education; the teachers, staff, pupils and all those who contribute. We will also pray for the academic year ahead. Please keep those in Catholic education in your prayers this coming week.

## 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
- Holy Cross Day – Sunday 17 September

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### THE DOMINICAN COMMUNITY

Fr David Rocks OP PP *Prior*; Fr Isidore Clarke OP; Fr Fabian Radcliffe OP;  
Fr Tony Rattigan OP *Bursar*; Fr Robert Gay OP CC *Subprior*; 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:

**£ 1057.12**

(Gift aided: £436.62)

### Woodhouse Collection

**£ 125.00**

(Gift aided: £100.00)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*

# THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

## XXII IN ORDINARY TIMES

### 1<sup>ST</sup> READING: JEREMIAH 20:7-9

The prophet Jeremiah here gives us a wonderfully example of trusting God sufficiently to be able to absolutely frank with Him in our prayers. God of tricking or seducing him proclaiming a message which cause him to be rejected and persecuted. However much the prophet may want to give up, God has implanted within him an inner fire or compulsion, which he could not extinguish. In this he vividly foreshadows the painful rejection Jesus would suffer. But nothing could deter Jesus from facing His Passion.

### **Responsorial Psalm: 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9: "For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God."**

Many of the psalms are intensely personal, but when they were adopted into the liturgy of the temple, they acquired a corporate meaning, the "I" of the psalmist being expanded to embrace the whole people of God. In the person of Jesus Christ, who is the true Israel, the psalm is narrowed down again to a single person, the "I" of Christ Himself. But then it expands once more to include the body of Christ, which in Him can take these words to itself. The people of God on their pilgrimage pass through a dry and weary land where there is no water. But in the sanctuary, as they assemble to celebrate the liturgy, they have a pledge and assurance of the ultimate vindication of Christ's cause.

### 2<sup>ND</sup> READING: ROMANS 12:1-2

Romans chapters 12-15 present Christian ethics as a response to what God has done in Christ. Only after expounding the redemptive act of God in Christ and setting it in the context of salvation history could Paul go on to discuss ethical problems. This ethic is seen as the true Christian worship. We must offer our whole selves, in union with Christ, as a living sacrifice pleasing to God.

### GOSPEL: MATTHEW 16:21-27

Last Sunday's Gospel told us about Peter wonderfully recognising Jesus as the Christ (Messiah), the Son of God. Jesus then appointed him to be the rock on which He would build His Church.

Today's Gospel then comes in sharp contrast as Jesus begins to predict that must go to the Holy City of Jerusalem. There the religious authorities would arrest and execute Him. That was not the kind of Messiah Peter wanted to follow, especially since that would mean that he would have to suffer the same fate as his master. So, Peter took Jesus aside and told Him he was making a big mistake.

Jesus' reaction may well come as a shocking surprise. With the harshest words in the Gospel Jesus rejects Peter's trying to protect Him. The rock had become a stumbling block, doing the work of Satan. Peter, who should have been Jesus' greatest support had become the 'enemy within,' threatening His resolve to do His Father's will.

Such was Peter's distress, that Jesus' prophecy that He would rise from the dead rise from the dead simply didn't register with him.

**NEXT SUNDAY –  
XXIII SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES (YEAR A) - TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

*"Expect much of God, and he will do much for you."*

-  
St Bernard of Clairvaux

"There is no surer means of calling down God's blessing upon the family than the daily recitation of the Rosary."

Pope Pius XII

# THE WORD AT WORK: OUR WEEKLY REFLECTION

22<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

What a contrast between Last Sunday's Gospel and today's! Last week we saw Peter as the man of faith. He was the first to recognise Jesus as the '**Christ, the Son of the living God.**' Jesus then promised to build His Church on the solid rock of Peter's faith. That was a glorious, 'feel good moment' - for both of them! The bonding between them must have felt closer than ever before!

But then, this Sunday, we see Peter and Jesus in a very different light. The man of faith had used the right words about Jesus, given Him the correct titles of the '**Christ, the Son of the living God.**' But Peter had completely misunderstood what those titles meant. Who could blame Peter for wanting Jesus to be a triumphant leader? Who would have expected Jesus to see His role as being that of the Suffering Servant of the Lord, as prophesied by Isaiah? The solid rock, on which Jesus should have been able to rely, found himself being treated as a stumbling block, impeding the journey of His mission to the cross.

The man whom Jesus had just praised for his God-given faith He now rebukes with the harshest words in the Gospel. Jesus identified Peter with Satan, the Prince of Evil and Father of Lies, who, in the desert, had tempted Him with earthly power. That's what Peter now wanted for Jesus. The one who should have been supporting Jesus as He journeyed towards Jerusalem and the cross, had become the 'enemy within,' who threatened to undermine Christ's mission. Peter had acted out of what he thought were the best of motives. As a friend, he wanted to protect Jesus from what he thought would be a dreadful, fatal mistake. Peter didn't want to be caught up in the tragedy he rightly foresaw. He wanted to back a winner, not a loser!

Why did the Gospels show the negative side of Peter, instead of stressing his strengths? I think the simple answer is that the Gospels wanted us to see how Peter had to learn from his mistakes. This can be of far more use to us than covering up his failures. Peter had to learn the true meaning of Jesus being the Christ sent by the Father into the world - for the very purpose of saving it from the power of evil, by dying on the cross and rising from the grave.

Peter also had to learn that he and Christ's other followers must tread the same path of suffering, if they wanted to share in His victory. That was an uncomfortable message which went against what Peter had expected of the promised Messiah, what he had wanted and expected for himself.

Only in the light of resurrection faith did Peter and the other apostles understand what it really meant for Jesus to be the Messiah. That shouldn't surprise us. We often find that things only fall into place and make sense when we look at them with the God-given wisdom of hindsight.

There's another lesson for us in today's episode. Peter thought he knew what was best for Jesus, and wanted to cast Him in a mould of his own designing, rather than supporting Jesus in being Himself. For us there's the danger of not accepting God on His own terms. We are all tempted to try to manipulate and control Him. We shouldn't be surprised if He doesn't do what we want, when we seek from Him what He hasn't come to give.

The hardest thing for Peter and for us is to learn to trust the wisdom of God's judgement, when we don't understand what He is doing. The hardest prayer is to say, '**Thy will be done**' – and mean it. That was certainly true for Mary as she accepted the destiny of the Cross that the Father assigned to His Beloved Son, her beloved Son. That acceptance became her destiny, the painful fulfilment of her commitment, "**be it done unto me according to your word.**"

*Isidore O.P.*