



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2017

XXVI SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – ROSARY SUNDAY

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

Rosary Sunday is an opportunity for us all to reflect on the centrality of prayer in our lives. As Christians, prayer is always something we share in together. The Rosary is a wonderful way to share in a great tradition of contemplative prayer, meditating on the mysteries that help us to focus our sacramental life and Christian living. Throughout this coming month, that should be at the centre of our thoughts.

The rose blooms that are blessed today are a powerful symbol of the life of prayer. The rose bloom grows often from a hunk of wood that looks bland and malformed. From what seems unfruitful comes a beautiful, strong, and scented flower. We encourage you to bring these roses especially to the sick.

There's been a great deal happening in the past week, and much more coming up. It was great to see so many students enjoying themselves at the launch of Leicester Catholic Students last Wednesday. Hopefully they will bond together to enrich our parish community and to inspire others during their university careers. The social events on Tuesday night are going well, and we've just had the very inspiring day of prayer with Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, led by Br Joseph who has been with us these past two weeks.

Today, we have the ever popular "Meet for a Treat" after the 10:30am Mass; and the Breakfast Club after the 8am Mass. Catholicism 101 returns this Thursday, and we will be focusing on St Francis of Assisi this week, just after his feast day.

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

Fr David

LAUNCHING LEICESTER CATHOLIC STUDENTS

Leicester Catholic Students – bringing together Catholic students from Leicester and De Montfort Universities

Leicester Catholic Students is a hub for students to find out more about Catholicism, make new friends and put faith and prayer into action. Whether you are a lifelong Catholic or just looking to find out more, come along to our events to find out more. We had a very good welcome session on Wednesday last, 27 September, and we look forward to building on that out for our '**Catholic Wednesdays**' events later in term. Find out more and get updates on our Facebook page: [Facebook.com/LeicesterCatholicStudents](https://www.facebook.com/LeicesterCatholicStudents)

THE MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY

October is the month of the Holy Rosary. Roses will be blessed at all Masses today to mark Rosary Sunday, the beginning of October, together with the Rosary Procession at the 10:30am Mass. The Rosary is prayed regularly at Holy Cross, and is recommended to all our families as a model for family prayer.

ORGAN RECITAL

This Friday at 1:10pm – organ recital given by Simon Headley, from Leicester Cathedral. All 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 1 October 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

PARISH SOCIAL EVENTS

Breakfast Club after the 8am Mass and Meet for a Treat after the 10.30 **this coming Sunday**, Oct 1. Meet for a treat - please bring sweet or savoury tarts to share.

Music Variety event on Sat October 7. Tickets £1 from the church shop (£2 on the door); flyers on the tables in church - please hand out this Sunday. Two sessions: afternoon 3.00-5.30 (parish hall); evening 7.00-9.30 (St. Clement's Hall). All welcome - tell friends and family.

Social Group; very Tuesday: 6.30-8.00pm in St. Clement's Hall - a chance to de-stress and chat, with a bite to eat and drink; fun-bingo. Spread the word...

Dates for your diary:

Sunday December 3 - Advent Market

Tuesday December 19 - Advent-Christmas social evening

CATHOLICISM 101 RETURNS

This was very popular last year, and we are glad to be marking its return on Thursday 5 October at 7pm in St Clement's. this term there will be six sessions, taking a break on 26 October. Bishop Barron's DVD's on Catholicism were very popular last year. Now we resume Catholicism 101 with his brand new series, *Catholicism: The Pivotal Players*, on great individuals who shaped the life of the Church and changed the course of civilisation. This Thursday 5 October at 7pm in St Clement's we will screen the first DVD on St Francis of Assisi, followed by discussion. There will be food, and all are welcome.

SPECIAL SCREENING OF "HUSH" AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 18TH OCTOBER IN NOTTINGHAM CATHEDRAL HALL.

This is an engaging documentary described as a "liberating conversation about abortion and women's health". Please do invite friends and family. Pro-life feminist and author Fiorella Nash will introduce the film, and take questions at the end. Tea/coffee and juice will be served. In this the 50th anniversary year since the Abortion Act in this country, this is a opportunity not to be missed. There is no charge for this event. The trailer and more information is available at hushfilm.com

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Our Holy Hour, each Sunday at 6pm
- Organ recitals, first Friday of each month at 1:15pm
- An afternoon of prayer with Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati – next Saturday, following on from 12:30pm Mass.

SAVE THE DATE

- Parish Requiem Mass – Wednesday 27 November at 7:15pm
- Advent Market – 3 December. You can start buying puddings already!
- Advent Retreat Weekend – 9 – 10 December, led by Br Luke Doherty OP

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

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:

£1418.10

(Gift aided: £457.92)

Woodhouse Collection

£179.50

(Gift aided: £87.00)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*

THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

XXVI IN ORDINARY TIME

1ST READING: EZEKIEL 18:25-28

These verses bring out an important aspect of Ezekiel's teaching: individual responsibility. That means that a person is free at any time to turn from wickedness to righteousness and vice versa. In each case, that person will be judged by the new life to which he or she has turned, not by his or her previous life. This is an oversimplification, but it fits in with the parable of the two sons in today's gospel.

Responsorial Psalm: 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 "Remember your mercy, Lord"

This psalm is an individual lament. The psalmist is oppressed by his enemies but is equally aware of his own sin. He calls upon God to deliver him from his enemies by remembering not his own sins but God's own mercies, and to lead him in the right way after deliverance. This psalm forms a suitable response to the reading from Ezekiel. Both passages view a person's life as bisected into past and future by the present moment. The past is characterized by sin, the future is filled with hope for righteousness. In the Bible, when God remembers, he does not merely recollect a past event but brings it out of the past and makes it effective in the present. Thus, the mercies that God performed in the past become renewed as present realities.

2ND READING: PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11 OR 2:1-5

The longer form of this reading includes the great Christological hymn. Whether we opt for the longer or the shorter form of today's reading we should concentrate upon the ethical exhortation that it is the purpose of the hymn to reinforce. Let our relationship with other Christians be marked by unity, love, humility, consideration for the interests of others. In so doing, we must display the same attitude that Christ showed when he humbled himself to become man and to die on the cross. We will, like Him, be exalted if we imitate His humble obedience to His Heavenly Father and ours.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 21:28-32

The key to understanding this parable is realise that it doesn't praise anyone. It is setting before us a picture of two very imperfect sets of people, of whom one set was none the less better than the other. Both sons were unsatisfactory; but the one who in the end obeyed was incalculably better than the other. The ideal son would be the one who accepted the father's orders with obedience and with respect and who unquestioningly and fully carried them out.

Some have thought that this parable was the original nucleus of the parable of the Prodigal Son, which Jesus used against His critics to vindicate His proclamation of the Good News of the kingdom: "The tax collectors and prostitutes who receive me now will enter into the kingdom of God at the last judgment rather than you who criticize me for consorting with them." The parable is a proclamation of God's mercy for sinners.

NEXT SUNDAY –

XXVII SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) - SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

"The splendour of the rose and the whiteness of the lily do not rob the little violet of its scent nor the daisy of its simple charm. If every tiny flower wanted to be a rose, spring would lose its loveliness."

St Therese of Lisieux

"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

26TH SUNDAY

In last Sunday's Gospel Jesus told a parable showing God's generosity, in rewarding with the gift of His very Himself even those who are late in coming to work for Him. This surpasses what any of us deserves. In today's Gospel for 26th Sunday, Matthew 21. 28-32, Jesus switches His attention from God to us and our meanness in responding to His call to His service.

To make His point He uses the familiar example of a father telling his two sons to give him hand. The response of neither of them was ideal! We can probably recognise a bit of both them in other people, and, if we are honest, in ourselves.

Let's compare the two of them. The first son flatly refuses to obey his father who orders him, "My son, you go and work in the vineyard today." He rudely retorts, "I will not go!" He wants to do his own thing, go his own way -that's what sin is like. But then this rebellious son has a change of heart. He does what his father asks of him. He represents all repentant sinners.

The second son cheerfully responded, "Certainly, sir!" to the very same order. It sounds as though he is full of good intentions...promises but nothing to show for it! He's not a man of his word; he's unreliable.

Here Jesus was getting at those who put on a show of obeying God but in fact are far from doing this. We would belong to the same group were we to profess to being committed Christians, while behaving in a very unchristian way in our daily lives.

Now, Jesus pointedly asked the Chief Priests and Elders, "which of the two did the father's will?" They had to admit that it was the son, who at first refused to obey, but changed his mind, was better than the one who was full of good will, but did nothing.

Jesus spells out to the Chief Priests and elders, and now to us, all of us, the logical conclusion that must be drawn from this:

Notorious repentant sinners are more pleasing to God and will enter His kingdom, before those whose religion is nothing more than a shallow piety. Such people think the spiritual life is something wonderful. Perhaps they read books, many books about it, but don't make a serious attempt to put it into practice.

Surely the ideal we should aim for is that we be like neither of these two sons. When we make a promise, we should keep it. When God asks something of us, we should do it, but not reluctantly, like the first son, but with the good grace shown by the other son.

Elsewhere in the Gospels Jesus tells us that the true members of God's family hear His word and do it. Those who simply say, 'Lord, Lord' and don't obey the Lord won't enter His kingdom. To them he will say, 'I don't know you.' When we fail, we must be like today's first brother and repent and start doing what God expects of us.

So, to sum up:

Today's Gospel is meant to hold up a mirror to our lives. We'll see we've all been like the second son –full of good intentions, which we haven't carried out. That should make us uncomfortable. Sad to say, there's something of the rebellious streak of the first son in all of us. We've all refused to do what we knew to be right, and to avoid what is wrong.

It all comes down to this. Make haste to repent of our sins and resolve always to say 'yes' to God's will. Really mean it and do it!

Jesus rounds off this discourse with shock treatment. We'll be shocked at those who have made their way into the Kingdom of God and more than shocked at those who have failed to get there! Please God, we'll all end up in the right place!

Isidore O.P.