



# HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017

XXVII SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

## A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

*The beautiful colours of the autumn season celebrate the glory of our summer months. Summer seems to glow through the autumn, and helps us to recognise God's great abundance and mercy, which shines through each one of us as we seek to grow in love and service of one another.*

*That service is seen here in our Holy Cross community each and every day. As a Dominican Community, the friars here at Holy Cross strive to grow closer to God each day through prayer and shared life. This is opened to our staff, volunteers and collaborators, who work so hard to extend the boundaries of our mission. In this way, each person can make their unique contribution.*

*Without this being in place, we would indeed be diminished. In fact, it is important to ensure that we remain attentive to the needs of one another. It is only too easy to condemn, through idle talk or gossip, and thus to trap another person in something from which Christ would seek to liberate them. Our flourishing as a community can never be taken for granted.*

*Each of us deeply values the huge effort that is extended on a daily basis to make our community thrive. We hope to see you on different occasions during the week, at our Masses and social events, at Catholicism 101, and much more besides. There are so many ways in which we can grow together.*

*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 are looking forward to our first Catholic Wednesday this week at 7pm in the hall. Please spread the word to as many students as possible. Find out more and get updates on our Facebook page: [Facebook.com/LeicesterCatholicStudents](https://www.facebook.com/LeicesterCatholicStudents)

## UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER – CHAPLAINCY SILVER JUBILEE

Next Sunday at 3pm, at Leicester Cathedral, a service of thanksgiving will be celebrated to mark the conclusion of the Silver Jubilee of the Chaplaincy to the University of Leicester. Many people have benefitted from this project, which draws together Christians from the various communities in Leicester to serve the pastoral needs of the University. It would be good to see many of you there.

## THE HOLY ROSARY

We recommend the regular praying of the Rosary during the month of October.

## NOTICE BOARD

### BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you wish to have your child baptised, please attend one of our baptism preparation sessions. The next is Sunday 5 November 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

**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 CONTINUES THIS WEEK

Following a very successful beginning, this series continues this Thursday 12 October at 7pm in St Clement's. this term there will be four remaining sessions, taking a break on 26 October and returning on 8<sup>th</sup> November. Bishop Barron's DVD's on Catholicism have proved popular. This term at Catholicism 101 we view 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.

## FUNERAL MASS FOR MARY ELLEN BODDY RIP

This week, on Wednesday 11 October at 10:30am, the Funeral Mass for Mary Boddy will be celebrated, followed by cremation at Gilroes. Mary was a very active member of Holy Cross some years ago, but for the last number of years she has been in a nursing home because of dementia. She was a great part of our community, until she started struggling to remember. She has no surviving family in Leicester, and has been cared for by a kind friend and neighbour. Are you free at this time, and able to attend her funeral? It would be a great act of charity if you could.

## CHURCH LIGHTING

We have installed a temporary lighting system to compensate for the severe issues with the old lighting system in the church. A new system is in the process of design. We look forward to finding out more.

## THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Our Holy Hour, each Sunday at 6pm
- Catholicism 101 – this Thursday at 7pm
- Organ recitals, first Friday of each month at 1:15pm.

## SAVE THE DATE

- Parish Requiem Mass – Wednesday 29 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](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:

**£1247.74**

(Gift aided: £331.10)

### Woodhouse Collection

**£164.00**

(Gift aided: £134.00)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*

# THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

## XXVII IN ORDINARY TIME

### 1<sup>ST</sup> READING: ISAIAH 5:1-7

The song of the vineyard, it is thought, was composed by the prophet Isaiah during the early part of his ministry and was sung at vintage festivals. Only the last stanza equates the vineyard allegorically with Israel, thus turning a happy harvest festival into an expression of God's judgment upon his people. The parables of Jesus are clearly in the same tradition. Why this reading was chosen for today is obvious (see the [Gospel](#)).

### **Responsorial Psalm: 80:9, 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20: "The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel"**

As in [Isaiah 5](#) and other passages in the Old Testament, the vine appears in this psalm as a symbol for Israel. The psalm, however, is not used for purposes of denunciation but as a prayer for deliverance.

### 2<sup>ND</sup> READING: PHILIPPIANS 4:6-9

In this Reading St. Paul reminds us of three vital elements in a Christian's life: praying to God for what we need and thanking Him for what He has already given, filling our minds and hearts with what is good and wholesome and doing all that we've learnt from Paul.

### GOSPEL: MATTHEW 21:33-43

In today's parable Matthew presents the vineyard as Israel; the vinedressers, its religious leaders; the successive emissaries, the Old Testament prophets; the son, Jesus the Messiah; his murder, the crucifixion. This interpretation was then clinched by combining with it [Psalm 118:22-23](#), so that the parable closes with Jesus' resurrection. Matthew goes further and adds [Mt 21:43](#), so that it closes with the prediction of the mission to the Gentiles following Israel's rejection of the Gospel. Every detail is founded on what, for those who heard it, was familiar fact.

### **This parable has many lessons for us**

(a) It tells about God. -His patience. The master sent messenger after messenger. He did not come with sudden vengeance when one messenger had been abused and ill-treated. He gave the cultivators chance after chance to respond to his appeal. **God's judgment.** To all men comes a day of reckoning. We are answerable for the way in which we have carried out the task God gave us. It tells of the deliberateness of human sin. The cultivators carry out a deliberate policy of rebellion and disobedience towards the master. Sin is deliberate opposite to God. In the end the master of the vineyard took the vineyard from the cultivators and gave it to others.

**Today's parable has much to tell us about Jesus.** It shows us Jesus lifting himself above the succession of prophets. Those who came before him were the messengers of God; no one could deny them that honour; but while they were servants; He was the Son. This parable contains one of the clearest claims Jesus ever made to be unique, to be different from even the greatest of those who went before. (b) It tells of the sacrifice of Jesus. It makes it clear that Jesus knew what lay ahead. In the parable the hands of wicked men killed the son. Jesus was never in any doubt of what lay ahead. He did not die because he was compelled to die; he went willingly and open-eyed to death.

## NEXT SUNDAY –

### XXVIII SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) - SEVENTEENTH 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

27<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY

Over the past few weeks we have had a series of parables about the Kingdom of Heaven. God has called us to work for His Kingdom and rewards us beyond what any of us deserves; some respond better than others to God's call, but most of us imperfectly. In today's Scripture Readings the theme of working for the Kingdom is brought to a climax.

Obviously, Jesus is here talking about the Reign on Earth of His Heavenly Father. Jesus Himself was already at work establishing the Kingdom in His own homeland. This bold enterprise progresses in our day and age and will continue until the end of time. The Preface of the Solemnity of Christ the King beautifully describes the down-to-earth values of this Heavenly Kingdom: "An eternal universal kingdom, a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love and peace."

The Bible frequently uses variations of the IMAGE OF THE VINE AND THE VINEYARD to express the relationship between God and His people. He has shown His loving care for His vineyard – His people – by transplanting them from Egypt to the fertile Promised Land. He has cultivated and protected His vineyard - His people. He couldn't have done more for them.

The Gospel of today provides us with a variation on the theme of the vineyard that is violent, tense, threatening! It goes like this: God has entrusted the care of His vineyard – His people – to tenants. It's wonderful that the Lord is prepared to risk placing His work in the hands of sinners such as ourselves! When God sends stewards to collect the grape harvest, the tenants, wanting to take the vineyard for themselves, beat up some of the stewards and killed others. That's how they had treated the prophets, whom God had sent.

Showing unbelievable patience, God, sent His Son as His representative, thinking the tenants would welcome Him. **INSTEAD THEY KILLED HIM!** This parable is a powerful indictment of the Jewish religious leaders to whom God had entrusted His people. In this parable Jesus makes a very forceful prediction of His Own Passion. However, not even the murder of God's Son could thwart His plan for His vineyard – His people. Instead, God drew on other resources! His vineyard would be handed over to other tenants – pagan converts! By contrast they would welcome the Son and produce a bumper harvest.

Through the parable of today's Gospel, the Church confronts you and me with the question, "How do we carry out the responsibilities God has given to each of us? Do we bear the fruits of loving and serving God and each other - the fruits God expects of us? Or are we just a bunch of useless sour grapes?!"

*Isidore O.P.*