



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2017

XXX SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

Spring forward and fall back – that's how we remember the way the clocks change. So I do hope you've enjoyed an extra hour of rest this weekend, and I hope you've remembered to put your clock back by one hour. Every year, some people forget, and arrive an hour early for Mass. Worse still, some people have put their clocks forward and arrive two hours early! Anyway, better early than late.

As the darker and shorter days face us just ahead, we need a bit of time to rest, and to conserve our energy for the many things that make demands on us. It is always important for us to measure our own needs carefully, and to embrace every opportunity for growth that comes our way.

Moving into November, many things in our programme here at the Priory are flourishing and developing. This week we begin to promote the raffle for the Advent Market, and make preparations for that very important event. Plans to develop our lighting system are now advanced, and hopefully we will have more good news soon.

As we look towards our St Martin Novena, we take the opportunity to reflect on the humility of St Martin, and we ask his intercession for all the things we are trying to do together. Please take and share the novena leaflets.

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. Our next session is this Wednesday 25 October and will look at science and religion. Find out more and get updates on our Facebook page: [Facebook.com/LeicesterCatholicStudents](https://www.facebook.com/LeicesterCatholicStudents)

ST MARTIN NOVENA 3 – 11 NOVEMBER 2017

Our Annual Solemn Novena in honour of St Martin de Porres runs for the nine days between his Feast day, 3 November, and the Feast of St Martin of Tours, Patron of our city, on 11 November. Both saints were renowned for their compassion, and are great advocates for us in Heaven. Please see the flyers and share them with others. We begin with the Solemn Opening on the Feast of St Martin, at both 12:30pm and 7:15pm Masses (nb no 6:10pm Mass that day). On Saturday 4th we will have blessing of pets outside the Church at 1:30pm. The Novena continues each day until the Solemn Mass for Healing and Blessed Sacrament Procession at 12:30pm on Saturday 11th, Feast of St Martin of Tours. Let's pray that many people will bring their intentions to St Martin during the Novena, and will receive answers to their prayers.

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; every 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... Tuesday December 19 – will be an Advent-Christmas social evening

CATHOLICISM 101 TAKES A BREAK

There's a further week break for Catholicism 101 this week, sorry for the error in last week's entry. It definitely returns again next Wednesday for the next three sessions. These have been lively and well attended, and it is good for us to get together in this way, spending time with food together and reflecting on our Faith. If you've not been before, next Wednesday we start at 7pm.

REMEMBER ABOUT NOVEMBER!

Wednesday 1 November is the Solemnity of All Saints, and a Holyday of Obligation. Masses as follows: Tuesday 6:10pm Vigil; Wednesday 8am; 12:30pm; 6:10pm. At 7:30pm there will be a Sung Mass in the Dominican Rite. The following day is the Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed (All Souls). Masses as normal, with an additional Sung Mass in the Dominican Rite at 7:30pm.. Please take an envelope and return it to the Priory together with your offering. The Annual Parish Requiem Mass for all those who have been associated with Holy Cross takes place on Wednesday 29 November at 7:15pm.

NOVEMBER LIST OF THE DEAD

We remember the faithful departed during the month of November. Envelopes for the November List of the Dead are now available. Mass is offered each day in November for our loved ones inscribed on the List, and a Holy Hour takes place every Sunday at 6pm.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE ABORTION ACT

The bells will toll at Holy Cross 50 times today for victims of the 1967 Abortion Act. More than 8 million pre-born children (the population of London) have been killed in the UK since abortion became so freely accessible. If you felt moved or inspired by the tolling bells to get more involved in defending innocent human life, there are lots of opportunities.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Our Holy Hour, each Sunday at 6pm
- Organ recital THIS FRIDAY 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

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:

£975.98

(Gift aided: £365.00)

Woodhouse Collection

£187.50

(Gift aided: £127.00)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*

THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

XXX IN ORDINARY TIME

1ST READING: EXODUS 22:20-26

This reading is an excerpt from the “book of the covenant” ([Ex 20:22-23:19](#)). The materials in this book are akin to many legal codes of the ancient Near East, the most famous of which is the Code of Hammurabi (twentieth century B.C.E.). The biblical code was apparently crystallized in the ninth century B.C.E. Today’s reading comes from a section of the code dealing with laws of social conduct. They inculcate a social ethic based upon compassion. Abstract justice is not enough, especially for the underprivileged. This lesson was obviously chosen to go with the summary of the Law that forms today’s gospel reading. The effect is to slant the summary in a social direction.

Responsorial Psalm: 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51: ‘I love you, Lord, my strength’

This refrain links a psalm of thanksgiving to the first Reading commandment and the Gospel’s commandment to love.

2ND READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 1:5C-10

This passage is particularly important for the hints it gives of what Paul had preached at Thessalonica on his foundation visit: “you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.” From this it may be inferred that Paul’s gospel to Gentile audiences would have comprised: In his evangelistic preaching to pagans, Paul could take less for granted than when preaching to the Jews. He had to start with faith in the one God.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 22:34-40

The summary of the law is not original with Jesus. Its two parts represent a combination of [Dt 6:5](#) and [Lev 19:18](#). Nor is the combination itself original to Jesus, for it is found in at least one earlier Jewish work, the Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs, an amalgam of wisdom and apocalyptic materials. Jesus’ thought was similarly cast in both moulds, wisdom and apocalyptic, and the summary of the Law represents the wisdom facet of his teaching. Jesus undoubtedly appeared not only as the final apocalyptic preacher but also as the authoritative declarer of God’s wisdom.

In the Jewish parallels, the two commandments stand side by side, as a convenient summary. Jesus understands the interlocking of the two commandments in a new and quite radical way. You cannot have one without the other. Without the love of neighbour, the love of God remains a barren emotion; and without the love of God, love of neighbour is but a refined form of self-love.

NEXT SUNDAY –

XXXI SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) - TWENTIETH 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

30TH SUNDAY

Here's a challenge for you! Imagine someone asked you, as a Christian, which was the most important commandment. He could be a genuine inquirer, wanting to discover what you thought was at the heart of following Christ. Or he could be setting a trap to discover whether you really understood what being a Christian was all about.

In today's Gospel the lawyer was trying to catch Jesus out. He's like the Council for the Prosecution, trying to trip up the defendant. He hoped that Jesus' reply would reveal that, He who dared to presume the right to teach God's will for us, didn't understand and accept the Law God had given to Moses. Jesus' enemies hoped to expose His ignorance, discredit Him and once and for all put an end to His mission.

To understand the trap set for Jesus we have to realise that there are 613 Jewish laws. The Jewish religious leaders spend much time and energy debating among themselves about which was the most important of this mountain of laws.

We Christians have many more laws than that; we also have heated debates about laws which touch people's daily, personal lives. As a matter of pastoral care, we argue about which law should take priority. Such debates are vital in helping us to discover God's will for us. In fact, in Mark's Gospel a Pharisee poses the same question in a friendly way and concludes by congratulating Jesus on His reply. But here, in Matthew's Gospel, the questioner is hostile.

Jesus replies by combining two quotations from the Law of Moses, which no Jew could dispute. Firstly, He tells us that the most important law is for us to love God with the total commitment of our whole being, (Duet. 6.5) Every Jew must recite that law at the beginning of each day. But Jesus doesn't stop there. Instead, He links to that a second commandment -we must love our neighbour as ourselves, (Lev. 19. 18). This addition is of vital importance to our understanding what it means to love God. We, who have been made in God's image, must be like Him in loving those whom He loves. For Jesus, and therefore for us, loving God and loving our neighbour are inseparable.

So, whom should we love, and how should we love them? Jesus doesn't answer that question here. Instead, that's a central theme of all the Gospels. As to the question as to who is the neighbour whom we must love, Jesus tells us, in the Sermon on the Mount, that we must forgive our enemies and do good to those who harm us.

In Luke's Gospel, in the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus refuses to define who is our neighbour. Instead, He tells us we must be neighbourly to anyone in need. We must give that person the assistance we would require if we were in the same situation. Later in Matthew's Gospel Jesus, identifies with those in need to such an extent that He says that in helping or neglecting them we assist or ignore Him. He will treat us in the same way as we've treated them.

But Jesus didn't just tell us how to love; His whole life, and especially His death, witnessed to the kind of love He expected of us. In John's Gospel (Ch.15) He says, '**Love one another as I have loved you.**' And strikingly just before this He had told them, '**I have loved you just as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love,**'

Throughout the Gospels we see His care and compassion for those in any kind of need. He reaches out to the marginalised and forgives the repentant sinner. Above all, on the cross, Jesus shows the depth of His love for His Heavenly Father and for us sinners. His death healed the rift between God and man, and united us in love.

A final thought. Any rabbi, being asked to recite the whole Law while standing on one leg, could have simply quoted Jesus who said that that the commandment to love fulfils the whole Law and the prophets. Then the rabbi could justly have added, "The rest is commentary!"

Isidore O.P.