



# HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017

XXXI SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

## A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

*The St Martin Novena is well under way, and the first little miracles are starting to happen in the lives of our people. It's a great opportunity to spend a little extra time in prayer over the nine days, and to get to know more about St Martin. Devotion to the saints helps us to realise that God calls each one of us to a particular and special encounter. We can fail to recognise this in the small ways.*

*The month of November is the time for remembering our departed loved ones, and all who have touched our lives. Many of our families will be remembering someone who has gone in the past year. Our Parish Requiem will be coming up in a few weeks – 29 November at 7:15pm. Please make a special effort to come for that.*

*Catholicism 101 returns this week, and the Catholic Wednesdays for our students. Don't forget the social event every Tuesday night, and a gathering after each of our morning Masses today. The Advent Market is just around the corner, and there's lots of ways to help out there, too.*

*During our St Martin Novena, we can be inspired by the example of dedication he showed, and we ask his intercession for all the things we are trying to do together. Please take and share the Novena leaflets. You can pray the Novena at home each day.*

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

*Fr David*

## ADVENT MARKET – SUNDAY 2 DECEMBER 2017

**It's that time of year again, and we are getting geared up for the Advent Market.** It's always a fun way of raising much needed funds for our Dominican Community. We aim to raise £5,000 at the Market, and as usual, each one of us can do something to achieve this target. The flyers give all the details about how you can help – including buying raffle tickets, making a donation, volunteering on the day, bringing in goods, and much more besides. Over the last four years, we have raised almost £40,000 through the Advent and Blackfriars Market. This has had a huge impact on our ability to transform and repair our aging buildings. We still have a long way to go, but we're achieving it together.

## 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. The Novena continues each day until the **Solemn Mass for Healing and Blessed Sacrament Procession at 12:30pm on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>**, 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.

## THIS SUNDAY

Breakfast Club after 8am Mass, Meet for a Treat after 10:30am Mass.

## 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;**

**Sunday 5th** Meet for a Treat after the 8am and 10.30am Mass – Please join us in the hall if you can.

**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: BLESSED JOHN HENRY NEWMAN — 9 NOVEMBER

After our two-week break, Catholicism 101 returns this week with a familiar and hugely influential figure in the modern Church: Blessed John Henry, Cardinal Newman. As a convert and talented preacher, Newman helped the Church to engage modern culture and uphold religious truth in a secular age. Join us this Thursday 9 November at 7pm in St Clement's to watch Bishop Barron's DVD, followed by discussion. The event is free, supper is included, and all are welcome.

## REMEMBER ABOUT NOVEMBER!

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.

## OUR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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

Catholic Wednesdays returns this week with a discussion on The Bible: Fact or Fiction? Come along on 8 November for a free supper at 7pm, followed by a short talk, discussion and prayer. Fr Matthew is also available at other times for any student to come and have a chat about anything on your mind. You can contact him through the Leicester Catholic Students Facebook page [Facebook.com/LeicesterCatholicStudents](https://www.facebook.com/LeicesterCatholicStudents) or through Mrs Powell in the parish office on 0116 2521501.

## THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Our Holy Hour, each Sunday at 6pm
- Organ recital every first Friday at 1:15pm.
- 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:

**£ 1,332.66**

(Gift aided: £501.40)

### **Woodhouse Collection**

**£187.50**

(Gift aided: £107.00)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*

# THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

## XXXI IN ORDINARY TIME

1<sup>ST</sup> READING: MALACHI 1:14B-2:2B, 8-10

The prophetic book of Malachi (the name means "my messenger") was written after the return of the exiles, and is directed against the abuses that marked the restoration of the sacrificial system. We generally think of the Old Testament priests as offerors of sacrifices. Malachi, however, lays greater stress on instruction, a priestly function no less important. Teaching is a function of both the Old Testament and the Christian priesthood. The Old Testament priests were guardians of the Torah, and just as sacrifice and instruction went on hand in hand in the old dispensation, so sacramental ministrations and teaching go hand in hand in the Christian ministry.

**Responsorial Psalm: 131:1, 2, 3: "Guard my soul in peace before you, O Lord"**

The psalmist trustingly rests in the Lord like a child on its mother's bosom, and in a similar image Paul speaks of himself, in his pastoral ministry among the Thessalonians, as being "like a nurse taking care of her children"

2<sup>ND</sup> READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 2:7B-9, 13

The third paragraph of this reading contains a whole theology of preaching. The Thessalonians received the proclamation of Paul and his colleagues, not as the word of human beings, but for what it really was—the Word of God.

Preaching is the Word of God given in and through the words of human beings. It requires, on the part of the preacher, fidelity to the apostolic witness to Jesus Christ (Paul, as an apostle, is a fountainhead of that witness) and prayer that God will take the feeble words of the preacher and make them vehicles of his word. On the part of the listeners, preaching requires the discernment of faith, that they may hear the word of God given in and through the human words of the preacher, and prayer that the word of may bring forth fruit in their lives. Both preacher and congregation need to pray for the Holy Spirit

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 23:1-12

Matthew 23 is a lengthy denunciation of the Pharisees. Certainly, this was present in Jesus own teaching; he denounced some Pharisees, particularly the Pharisaic scribes, for hypocrisy. But, as Luke's special tradition also shows, He could take a quite favourable view of other Pharisees, and they could be friendly toward him. Several considerations must be kept in mind. First, Matt 23, as it stands, was compiled by the evangelist himself; it is not a speech actually delivered by Jesus. The cumulative effect is created not by Jesus but by the evangelist himself. Second, Matthew was involved in the struggle between his own Jewish-Christian church and the rabbis who, after the fall of Jerusalem, were consolidating their authority in Judaism. It is that struggle that is reflected here. An element that was present in Jesus' teaching has been exaggerated for historical reasons that no longer obtain. In applying such material to the life of the church today, we have to remember that, "We are the Pharisees." We must allow such denunciations to be addressed as warnings to us, especially to those of us who exercise a leadership role in the Church.

NEXT SUNDAY –

XXXII SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) - TWENTYFIRST 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

ST MARTIN DE PORRES – A SAINT FOR OUR TIME; A SAINT FOR OUR CITY

*As we celebrate the St Martin Novena this week, Fr David reflects on the Devotion to St Martin de Porres, and what it means for him and for us. Fr Isidore returns next week.*

Like so many Irish Dominicans, I received my vocation to the Order partly through Devotion to St Martin. Of all the great Saints of our Order, it was St Martin whose Shrine was most lavishly festooned in the Dominican Church, and it is rare to find a Dominican Church in which his image is not prominent and his devotion promoted. In 1945, the Irish Provincial, Fr Glendon OP, brought an image of Blessed Martin, as he was in those days, from New York. He had it installed in our Sister Church, Holy Cross Priory in Tralee. From there, devotion to Blessed Martin spread through the British Isles.

Over the years, one cannot fail to notice how many people connected with our Dominican Churches are named "Martin" or "Martina" in his honour. "Martin" is my own Confirmation Name. I remember announcing this to the late Fr Redmond Fitzmaurice OP, from whom I won the princely sum of 20 pence. My Granny made me give the 20 pence to St Martin, something I felt was unfair at the time. But since the Shrine said that donations to St Martin were "*for the training of Dominican Priests*", it was actually an investment in my future. All of the prayers of poor people that supported the training of generations of us, how wonderful!

Devotion to St Martin has been for me a real school in the practical living of the Gospel. At the time of my Confirmation, a Christian Brother who knew me only too well, asked me if I thought I could live up to having St Martin as my Confirmation Saint – the patron of my adulthood. I'm still trying! Martin is a Saint of encounter with Christ. His merciful and loving interaction with the poor and the sick made Christ truly present in his charity and humility all those years ago in Lima. Over the years, all of us who have sought his intercession and tried to imitate his humility have found in him a model of Christ to follow, and a good and faithful friend.

The fact that we have two images of St Martin in our Church in Leicester is testimony to the fact that this devotion has been a huge part of the lives of the people of Holy Cross. Many people remember the Blessed Martin booklets in which there was information, petitions, and thanksgivings. In this great city, which has St Martin of Tours as its patron, wouldn't it be wonderful if we could revive and renew devotion to this great Saint of our Order. St Martin is a guide for us of God's mercy, teaching us how to make that mercy known through holy living. I hope and pray that renewed and fervent devotion to him will be a legacy of our Jubilee Years as we go forward to the third century of Holy Cross.

Each day, at the beginning of my work, I always take a moment to ask St Martin's intercession, that I might be like him in being a person who can make Christ present in charity and humility. I ask him to help me to live up to the challenge presented to me by that holy Christian Brother all those years ago, to prove myself worthy of having him as my patron. And I thank him that he invested my 20 pence much better than I would. Nowadays, I pray for our Provincial, who has St Martin as his patron also. I hope that you might grow closer in devotion to him, meet Christ in him, and preach him to others.

St Martin, help us, heal us. Keep us safe and bring us through this vale of tears to the feet of Jesus and Mary.

*Fr David Rocks O.P.*