



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2017

XXXIII SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

Like it or not, we're all starting to make preparations for Christmas, and the year does seem to pass by so quickly. Plans are starting to fall into place for families and friends to be reunited as the festive season appears on the horizon. We can look forward to that time of rest, but there is still much to be done in the days and weeks ahead.

As we continue to pray for all our departed loved ones in this month, we can be grateful for the love they have shown us and the example they have given. It's a great gift to be able to share something of that with others who are with us now. As we approach the Parish Requiem on Wednesday of next week, we look forward to welcoming families who have been bereaved recently, and to remember together.

Our Catholic Wednesday for students this week will be led by Fr Nick Crowe OP, while Catholicism 101 on Thursday takes a break, before the final session takes place next week. Preparations for the Advent Market are well underway, and signs are that the hard work is paying off already. We have a nice programme planned for the short weeks of Advent.

Again this week, I've been struck by how much wonderful work goes on in our parish community – school staff and governors, hospital chaplains, prison volunteers, and many more. The Spirit of the Lord is upon us.

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 – 1. Buy raffle tickets - return stubs and money to any of the Brethren or buy directly from the shop. 2. Donate money or goods - this week we're collecting bottled goods; please take a bottle carrier and return it full of goods! 3. Offer to run a stall - we need help with our usual stalls and welcome new ideas for a stall you'd like to run. Above all - please keep that morning free and join us - even if you just pop in after Mass for tea/coffee and cake :-)) For details, contact: Jeff on hcross.social@gmail.com. **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.

CHURCH LIGHTING – AN UPDATE

We have received a comprehensive design suggestion for installing new lighting in the priory church, and we now have the approval to proceed with the works. During the coming week, plans will begin to enable the installation of this new system. We will have more details in the coming weeks. In the meantime, please continue with the 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 SHORT BREAK

Thank you to everyone who came last Thursday: Catholicism 101 takes a week off and will resume on Thursday 30 November, with the final episode on the artist Michelangelo. See you there – we begin with food at 7pm.

PARISH REQUIEM MASS

The Annual Parish Requiem Mass for all those who have been associated with Holy Cross takes place on Wednesday 29 November at 7:15pm. In particular we will welcome back families who have held funerals at Holy Cross recently.

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

This Wednesday is our next Catholic Wednesday: we're delighted to have Fr Nick Crowe OP (Director of Vocations for the English Dominicans) to give a short talk and lead a discussion on *Virtues: Living the Good Life*. Starts with free food at 7pm in St Clement's Hall. Since it's Red Wednesday – highlighting the plight of persecuted Christians – why not come wearing something red?

Fr Matthew is available 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 or through Mrs Powell in the parish office on 0116 252 1501.

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

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:

£ 1,208.55

(Gift aided: £382.00)

Woodhouse Collection

£162.02

(Gift aided: £100.00)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*

THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

XXXIII IN ORDINARY TIME

1ST READING: WISDOM 6:12-16

The good woman is a gift from God. She is religious, devout, faithful to the commandments of God (v. 30). The rabbis said: "The woman thinks only of her beauty." The reading's ideal woman belies this stereotype. Her heart is not vain. She is interested in what really counts in life. Are there many of women of this kind? Today's passage begins with a provocative question: "Who can find such a perfect woman?" (v. 10). We can answer, without fear of contradiction, that yes, there are many. The significant fact is that this Sunday's liturgy, speaking of hard work, dedication and commitment, has chosen to associate these virtues to the woman. It is an invitation to reflect.

2ND READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

In today's reading, the Apostle answers: it is not possible to know the day of the Lord's coming (v. 1) and gives the reason. God—he says—usually acts in an unpredictable manner. He intervenes when you least expect it; he behaves like a thief who comes suddenly when people are sleeping. It's like the pains of giving birth that appear during the night (vv. 2-3). It's not worth it—he concludes—to investigate to find out the day and the hour of the coming of the Lord. What is important is to avoid being enveloped by the darkness of evil. Christians should not run this danger because, from the day of their baptism, they have become children of the light and children of the day. It is impossible for them to be caught by surprise, as happens to those who are in darkness or are groggy from sleep (vv. 4-6).

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 25:14-30

The conclusion of the parable: "For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who are unproductive, even what they have will be taken from them" is a popular proverb that reflects an easily verifiable fact: wealth tends to accumulate and the rich becomes richer. Invoked in this parable, this saying meant to signify that, with the riches of God's kingdom, the same thing happens: the community that is generous and attentive to the signs of the times progress and is gaining greater vitality, while those who prefer to withdraw into themselves grow old, lapse and no one will be surprised to see them one day disappear..

NEXT SUNDAY –

JESUS CHRIST UNIVERSAL KING (YEAR A) - TWENTYTHIRD 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

7TH SPIRITUAL WORK OF MERCY - PRAYING FOR THE LIVING AND THE DEAD

Our Twin Clarke Team reprise their wseries on the Spiritual Works of Mercy as the Month of November draws to a close. Look out for their forthcoming book!

In the last of the Corporal and Spiritual works of Mercy we pray for the Living and the Dead. Prayer transforms humanitarian concern for the Family of Man to concern for God's Family – our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Because both the living and the dead belong to the one Body of Christ -the Church -we believe death does not break the bond between the living and those who have died in Christ.

Our prayers, and especially the celebration of Christ's death and resurrection in the holy Mass, can help the dead to complete their journey to eternal happiness in heaven. They still need to be purified of the remaining effects of sins, which have already been forgiven. Only then will they be fit to enter the very presence of the All-Holy God. Our prayers for their eternal salvation directly involves us and our deceased loved ones in God's greatest expression of loving compassion. This is the climax of the Works of Mercy!

The Catechism of the Catholic Church proclaims an exciting development in our understanding of the importance of praying for the dead -"Our prayer for them is capable not only of helping them, **BUT ALSO OF MAKING THEIR INTERCESSION FOR US EFFECTIVE,**" (958). In other words, our prayers for the dead enable them to pray for us. There's a wonderful dialogue of us praying for each other. This idea is further developed, (1689), Through the Mass we "learn to live in communion with the one who "has fallen asleep in the Lord," by communicating in the Body of Christ of which he is a living member and, then, **BY PRAYING FOR HIM AND WITH HIM.**" We can not only pray for the dead, but also with them, and they can pray for us. To share such comforting teaching with those who mourn is a wonderful work of mercy, which the Church should proclaim.

Praying for the dead is a great comfort for the living. Through prayer we can tie up the loose ends of regrets, which we all have when someone dear to us dies. Through prayer we can still put things right and express our continued love in a practical way. That removes the sense of helplessness and guilt, which often accompanies grief.

Perhaps, surprisingly, praying for our deceased loved ones transforms and enriches our love for them. Instead of praying for their temporal needs we now focus solely on their eternal salvation.

To place the needs of both the living and dead into God's loving care is the greatest expression of our loving concern for the needy and provides a fitting climax to our reflections on the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

Blessings to you all from Isidore and Peter.