



# HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2018

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

## A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

*Half term is upon us, so many of our families will take some time for a break, and to spend a bit of time together. There is work to be brought up to date, and deadlines are looming. It is a good time to take a break, both for some rest and relaxation, but also to catch up if the pace has been a bit fast.*

*Today is World Day of Prayer for the Sick, falling on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. It's a good time to remember all the sick members of our community, especially those who are too ill to join us at Mass. But it's also good to recognise all the work that goes into caring for our sick brethren. Thanks be to God for that.*

*As we prepare to take up our Lenten practices on Wednesday, we follow the Church's invitation to recognise the areas of our lives where there is need of healing, or improvement. We take some time to rest and pray, to reconnect; but also we try to catch up with things we've perhaps begun to neglect. Lent is for all of us an opportunity. Let's have the courage to embrace it.*

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

*Fr David*

## ASH WEDNESDAY – THE BEGINNING OF LENT

**This Wednesday, 14 February is Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the season of Lent. Ashes will be distributed at all Masses, which will take place at 8am, 12:30pm, 6:10pm, and 7:15pm.** Please remember that Ash Wednesday is a day of Fast and Abstinence, which means that we should abstain from eating meat, and that we should have only one modest principal meal on that day, at other times eating small collations of food. May we all have a grace-filled Lent.

## LENT AT HOLY CROSS

In addition to the Catholicism 101 course that will see us through Lent, we will have Stations of the Cross each Wednesday and Friday after 12:30pm Mass, and veneration of the Relic of the True Cross on Fridays. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place, and the details will be announced after the lighting project has been completed.

## CHURCH LIGHTING PROJECT NEARING COMPLETION

After a very dark Sunday last week, we are pleased that lighting in the nave and sanctuary areas of the church is now complete. The transepts and Lady Chapel remain outstanding, and a few other things to finish off. We are hoping that it will be completed in the next week or so, after which we will organise a thorough cleaning of the church. Work to upgrade the bathrooms in the Priory begins this week, the current facilities being inadequate especially for the elderly and disabled.

## HALF-TERM BREAK

A blessed half-term to all our families, and safe travels to those who are off! As usual, bring back a newsletter for Fr David if you attend Mass elsewhere.

## NOTICE BOARD

### BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you wish to have your child baptised, please attend one of our baptism preparation sessions. The next is Sunday 4 February 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 will begin in the next few weeks.

### 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

## FRASSATI SOCIETY

Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati is a Dominican and a patron for young people. There is some interest in forming a group that would work with young Catholics (between 20 and 40 years). An initial meeting – Friday 2 March at 7pm in the Hall.

## FR FABIAN RADCLIFFE - RETIREMENT

In his 90<sup>th</sup> year and following 58 years of faithful service as a priest, Fr Fabian will retire from active ministry at the beginning of Lent this year. He will still remain part of our community, and we look forward to having him around, but he will no longer celebrate Mass in public, hear confessions, or look after groups, etc. We wish him well for the years ahead, and we are grateful for the 30 years of service that he has given here at Holy Cross. There is a card into which you can write good wishes. There will be a special Mass of Thanksgiving in the Church on Saturday 17 February to mark the end of his ministry, followed by a reception in the Hall. Please do come along.

## HOLY CROSS SOCIAL GROUP

**Holy Cross Social Group** continues every Tuesday in St. Clement's Hall - doors open from 6.00-8.00pm. A great opportunity to meet for a chat and a bite to eat. This week, we combine with the students for a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party.

## LEICESTER CATHOLIC STUDENTS

There is no Catholic Wednesdays session on Ash Wednesday – Mass on campus is at the usual times. We'll be joining the parish Social Group for a Pancake Party, 6-8pm on Shrove Tuesday (13th February) – come early if you want to help make pancakes! The regular session will take place next week.

## CATHOLICISM 101

The popular series will resume on Thursday of this week for a further six sessions. This would be an excellent way to make your Lenten journey. The first session is 15th February on the topic 'Prayer: A Surge of the Heart'. Food at 7pm followed by 40-minute video and discussion, in St Clement's Hall.

## PARISH SHOP

Our Parish Shop is open each weekend, and every day after the 12.30pm Mass, come along and have a look at what wonderful items we have available. This is an excellent way of helping the church and priory. We have a small amount of St Pauls Missals available to purchase, so please drop in and speak to Michael before they are all gone.

## MARRIAGES AT HOLY CROSS

Please, please, **please** do NOT book receptions and venues for Marriage before you have made an appointment with the Parish Priest to check availability.

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### 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:

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:

**£ 1,329.13**

(Gift aided: £417.10)

### Woodhouse Collection

**£143.00**

(Gift aided: £91.00)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*

# THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### FIRST READING -

"One who is suffering from leprosy does not enter into the city nor maintain relationships with other Persians because, they say, if he is sick, he certainly committed some offense against the Sun." These are the words of Herodotus who, in the fifth century B.C., refers to the customs of the peoples of the ancient Middle East. It is at the same period and the same mentality that today's proposed passage of Leviticus dates back. Among all peoples lepers are always considered unclean and kept away from the community, for fear of being contaminated. The revulsion caused by this disease has always been very strong. Even today in some tribes the lepers have a separate burial place. Nobody wants to be near lepers either in life or in death. The Old Testament often regarded leprosy as a punishment from God for sin. The Egyptians who have committed injustices against Israel were smitten with "*pestering boils on people and animals*" (Ex 9:9-11) and the same punishment is threatened against Israel if it will be unfaithful, "*The Lord will strike you with the boils and plagues of Egypt, with tumours, scurvy and itch from which you cannot be healed*" (Dt 28:27).

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Response: You are my refuge O Lord, you fill me with the joy of salvation.*

### SECOND READING

On the western side of the agora of Corinth, there were, at the time of Paul, six temples. Many others arose in the different parts of the city, including the two famous ones dedicated to Apollo and Octavia. In each of these temples many animals were sacrificed whose meat, not consumed by all those who had offered them, was taken to the market to be sold. Therefore unclean meat, because it came from sanctuaries where the idols were worshipped. Some pious person explained his anger to Paul: is it permissible for a Christian to buy meat in the shops that are in the vicinity of the temples? This passage is the conclusion of the Apostle's long discourse in response to this problem. Some Corinthians had already found the solution, right to the truth: if the gods do not exist, there is no reason to give up eating the remains of sacrifices in their honour. Paul agrees with this view, however, he invites them to keep in mind another aspect of the matter.

### GOSPEL

A leper, in contravention of the provisions of the law, approaches Jesus and begs him on his knees to be "purified". He is not asking for healing, but to be purified, that is to be put in a condition to go back into the community. More than the disease itself, what troubled him was the fact of being excluded from civil and religious society. In front of his request Jesus is moved, stretches out his hand, touches and heals. There is first of all the *physical contact* with the leper. Jesus lets himself be approached and he touches him. It is not just a benevolent and tender gesture to a person in need of comfort, but it is *the reversal of the concept of God*. In Jesus the Lord does not appear as the Pharisees imagined: holy, separated from the impure. He accepts the lepers and caresses them because in every man, even one who has fallen into the deepest abyss of guilt, he sees a supremely lovable son. At the beginning of his public life, at the time of John's baptism, Jesus has already shown to be perfectly at home alongside the impure people. How come Jesus assumes an attitude so provocative against the law which prohibited to approach lepers? What is it that drives him to violate the rule requiring exclusion? The evangelist reveals it: *he had compassion*. Matthew and Luke, who also tell the same episode, omit this detail. Only Mark shows that, faced with the humiliating condition of the leper, *he was moved with pity* (v. 41). It is this very human feeling that leads to ignore any scheme and custom which do not favour the good of man. The message is clear: in the face of calls for help, the disciple, like the Master, always *listens to the heart*.

### NEXT SUNDAY: FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B)

*"The upright intention is the soul of our actions. It gives them life and makes them good."*

St. Alphonsus Maria de Ligouri

# MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE TWENTY-SIXTH WORLD DAY OF THE SICK 2018

MATER ECCLESIAE: "BEHOLD, YOUR SON... BEHOLD, YOUR MOTHER.  
AND FROM THAT HOUR THE DISCIPLE TOOK HER INTO HIS HOME." (JN 19:26-27)

*The Church's service to the sick and those who care for them must continue with renewed vigour, in fidelity to the Lord's command (cf. Lk 9:2-6; Mt 10:1-8; Mk 6:7-13) and following the eloquent example of her Founder and Master.*

*The theme for this year's Day of the Sick is provided by the words that Jesus spoke from the Cross to Mary, his Mother, and to John: "Woman, behold your son ... Behold your mother. And from that hour the disciple took her into his home" (Jn 19:26-27).*

1. *The Lord's words brilliantly illuminate the mystery of the Cross, which does not represent a hopeless tragedy, but rather the place where Jesus manifests his glory and shows his love to the end. That love in turn was to become the basis and rule for the Christian community and the life of each disciple.*

*Before all else, Jesus' words are the source of Mary's maternal vocation for all humanity. Mary was to be, in particular, the Mother of her Son's disciples, caring for them and their journey through life. As we know, a mother's care for her son or daughter includes both the material and spiritual dimensions of their upbringing.*

*The unspeakable pain of the Cross pierces Mary's soul (cf. Lk 2:35), but does not paralyze her. Quite the opposite. As the Lord's Mother, a new path of self-giving opens up before her. On the Cross, Jesus showed his concern for the Church and all humanity, and Mary is called to share in that same concern. In describing the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the Acts of the Apostles show that Mary began to carry out this role in the earliest community of the Church. A role that never ceases.*

4. *The Church's maternal vocation to the needy and to the sick has found concrete expression throughout the two thousand years of her history in an impressive series of initiatives on behalf of the sick. In countries where adequate public health care systems exist, the work of Catholic religious congregations and dioceses and their hospitals is aimed not only at providing quality medical care, but also at putting the human person at the centre of the healing process, while carrying out scientific research with full respect for life and for Christian moral values. In countries where health care systems are inadequate or non-existent, the Church seeks to do what she can to improve health, eliminate infant mortality and combat widespread disease. Everywhere she tries to provide care, even when she is not in a position to offer a cure. The image of the Church as a "field hospital" that welcomes all those wounded by life is a very concrete reality, for in some parts of the world, missionary and diocesan hospitals are the only institutions providing necessary care to the population.*

6. *Jesus bestowed upon the Church his healing power: The Church's mission is a response to Jesus' gift, for she knows that she must bring to the sick the Lord's own gaze, full of tenderness and compassion. Health care ministry will always be a necessary and fundamental task, to be carried out with renewed enthusiasm by all, from parish communities to the most largest healthcare institutions. We cannot forget the tender love and perseverance of many families in caring for their chronically sick or severely disabled children, parents and relatives. The care given within families is an extraordinary witness of love for the human person; it needs to be fittingly acknowledged and supported by suitable policies. Doctors and nurses, priests, consecrated men and women, volunteers, families and all those who care for the sick, take part in this ecclesial mission. It is a shared responsibility that enriches the value of the daily service given by each.*

7. *To Mary, Mother of tender love, we wish to entrust all those who are ill in body and soul, that she may sustain them in hope. We ask her also to help us to be welcoming to our sick brothers and sisters. The Church knows that she requires a special grace to live up to her evangelical task of serving the sick. May our prayers to the Mother of God see us united in an incessant plea that every member of the Church may live with love the vocation to serve life and health. May the Virgin Mary intercede for this Twenty-sixth World Day of the Sick; may she help the sick to experience their suffering in communion with the Lord Jesus; and may she support all those who care for them. To all, the sick, to healthcare workers and to volunteers, I cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing.*

FRANCIS