



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 7 OCTOBER

ROSARY SUNDAY

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

As we enter the month of the Most Holy Rosary, we have the opportunity to reflect on our need to deepen our contemplation on the mysteries of the Gospel. In joy and in sorrow, we are invited to share in God's glory. Let's put that in the very centre of our parish life and our family life.

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

OCTOBER – MONTH OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY

Next Sunday is Rosary Sunday. Roses will be blessed at all Masses, and the October Procession will take place after 10:30am Mass. A Rosary Novena will be prayed from 6-13 October, with a special Mass in honour of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima on 13 October at 12:30pm.

SUPPORTING OUR FAMILIES

A number of initiatives are forthcoming for supporting family life amongst our community. There will shortly be a "Mums' Meeting" and a "Dads' Fellowship" that will meet, alternating, on the fourth Friday of the month. There will also be a meeting for parents on Saturday 13 October at 10:30am to discuss liturgy and catechesis for children.

#LEICESTER4LIFE

A new initiative, #Leicester4Life, will soon be launched to address issues to do with the teachings of the Church on matters surrounding life and sexuality.

LEICESTER MARATHON – SUNDAY 14TH OCTOBER

Please be aware that this year's Leicester Marathon takes place on Sunday 14th October and restriction will be in place from early Saturday morning until late into the afternoon. These will have an impact on travelling into Leicester and parking around the Church, so please plan your journey with plenty of time in mind.

LEICESTER CATHOLIC STUDENTS

Thank you to everyone that attended the Freshers welcome event on Wednesday and to the Cathsoc Committees for all their support. The next social is this Sunday evening 7th after the 7pm Mass in St Clements Hall, food and drink available, so please come and join us. This week we have Mass on Campus at 1.15pm - UOL Gatehouse Chaplaincy and 3pm - DMU Chaplaincy (Portland Building). We look forward to seeing you there.

Office Administrator: *Mrs Rachael Powell* – leicester.admin@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

MONEY MATTERS

Last week's collections:

£1,220.40; (Gift Aid-£440.50) Woodhouse: **£ 99.10**; (Gift Aid-£51.00)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

NOTICE BOARD

BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you wish to have your child baptised, please attend one of our baptism preparation sessions. The next is today, Sunday 4 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 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

THE WORD AT WORK: OUR WEEKLY REFLECTION

27TH SUNDAY – MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

'Bone of my bone.' According to the creation narrative in the Book of Genesis, that was Adam's reaction on first seeing Eve. In other words, 'We were made for each other!' a

nd so they were. It's very good and natural for men and women to want to share their lives, to provide each other with companionship and support, and for children to be the fruit of their love. In this they share in God's creative love. Being human, it's good for married couples to express their love for each other in a physical, sexual way. This was God's plan for most men and women. As He admired His handiwork He saw that it was good, very good.

Stability and permanence are the marks of real love. If it's not only to survive but flourish it must have the resilience to work through tensions and misunderstandings. Much more is required than romantic feelings and physical attraction, which are good, and can be the starting point for lasting love. But feelings and emotions can be very unreliable. Serious thought and a solemn commitment are needed to provide a stable foundation for true love. This commitment needs to be constantly renewed, especially when there are tensions in a marriage. The same is true of taking life-long vows in the Dominican Order. For both vocations it's a question of learning to live together in a way that will bring out the best in all of us.

In today's Gospel Jesus speaks about the permanence of marriage as a life-long commitment. That's to protect the stability of marriage. According to Jewish law women could be divorced for the slightest of reasons. But children need to be brought up in a loving, stable home. Wives need to be protected from being cast aside on the slightest whim, with no financial support. To help them Moses did tighten the law a bit. At least a husband must formally state in writing his intention to divorce his wife.

But Jesus went much further. He totally condemned divorce, which contradicts God's original plan for marriage. He wanted to protect both the family and the good of society. The Church does not have the power to change the teaching of Christ. So even if a marriage does break down and a couple does get a civil divorce neither of them is free to marry during their partner's life time.

This means that before a couple gets married they need to think and pray very carefully about making a life-long commitment. To help them the Church insists on a lengthy preparation. After marriage they will need the resilience to adapt to their partner's changing moods, and to the way each of them develops over the years. I can remember commenting on the film, 'Love Story,' in which a young woman says, 'Love means never having to say, 'Sorry.'" To which I replied, 'Rubbish.' Love means being willing to say, 'Sorry' –and to forgive.

Merciful healing gives marriage the resilience to heal the pain we can cause each other -sometimes accidentally, and, sadly, sometimes intentionally. The closer you live to someone the more likely you are to tread on each other's toes! We all have 'off' moments and get on each other's nerves, sometimes over the most trivial of irritating habits. Without the resilience of mercy love will be brittle and snap.

Not only is marriage very natural and good. Between Christians it's a sacrament. It's planned and blessed by God –not only on the wedding day, but throughout married life. That means several things. Firstly, God supports the couple and helps them cope with difficulties, especially if they turn to Him for assistance. Through the different ways they express their love they experience something of God, the author of all love, and help each other to draw closer to Him.

God gives our most transitory expressions of love for each other an eternal value.

A final thought. After hearing a priest preach on marriage someone remarked, 'I wish I knew as little about marriage as he does!' That's what you may now be thinking about what I've written.

But I do come from a family, and many people have discussed their marriage with me. Also, I have the experience of 68 years of a life-long commitment to community life in the Dominican Order. That involves many, though not all, of the joys, challenges and sorrows a married couple experiences in living together in a life-long commitment to each other. We Dominicans have to face some of the basic problems of relating to imperfect people as married people do, without our having the freedom to decide with whom we are going share our lives. Our communities need to be outstanding in the tolerance and mercy we show each other in forgiving and apologising.

Above all, I've tried to express the Church's teaching on marriage. Hopefully, we will always show understanding and compassion for those whose marriages run into difficulties or break down.

Isidore O.P.