



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 11 NOVEMBER

32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

Many thanks to everyone who has helped to make the St Martin Novena a success. So many people have shared their petitions, but also have spoken about prayers answered. We look forward now to the Advent Market and the next stage of our development. Remember too the Annual Requiem Mass on Wednesday 28th.

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

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

We are beginning to look towards the next cycle of works here at Holy Cross, and we will now turn our attention to a significant overhaul of the halls, and a comprehensive upgrade of the church heating system. We also need to address various areas of dilapidation in the buildings around the church and priory. This will be the focus of our attention as we move into the next liturgical year. The Advent Market is a good first step towards that, so please do help us to raise the targeted £5,000 as a positive start.

THE ADVENT MARKET

We will celebrate the Advent Market on Sunday 2 December, the First Sunday of Advent, and so we will begin over the next few weeks to reach our target of £5,000. Thank you to everyone who has already started to get the ball rolling. Bottle Tombola stall donations are required: bottle-bags are available at the side entrances, please take one and bring it back with a full bottle and hand to any member of the priory.

NOVEMBER – MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

Envelopes for the November Dead List are now available. Please insert the names of your deceased loved ones into the envelope along with your donation and return it to us. Mass is offered every day in November. Our annual Requiem Mass for all the Faithful Departed will be celebrated on **Wednesday 28 November at 7:15pm**.

SHOP REPOSITORY

Christmas stock is now out in the shop, please come in and have a look at what we have on offer.

LEICESTER CATHOLIC STUDENTS

Social Gathering on Sunday evening after the 7pm Mass. On the Feast of Christ the King, there will be an evening trip to Nottingham Cathedral for Mass.

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**

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MONEY MATTERS

Last week's collections:

£1095.23; (Gift Aid-£304.14) Woodhouse: **£179.00**; (Gift Aid-£106.00)

All Saints - £465.62; (Gift Aid-£107.15)

All Souls - £217.09

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 on 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

32ND SUNDAY, ORDINARY TIME- WIDOWS MITE

Both Mark and Luke record the beautiful story about the widow's mite. Here there's a deliberate sharp contrast. Today's Gospel begins with Jesus condemning the Scribes for 'devouring the houses of widows' while making a show of piety. On the other hand, there's the poor widow. She was very different from those who robbed the poor, or even from those who gave from their abundance, from what they could conveniently spare, without hurting themselves. She gave absolute everything of the little she possessed. Although she gave much less money than the rich, her donation cost her much more than theirs.

Jesus was the only one to notice and commend her generosity to His disciples. Why? Well, this incident is about much more than how much money we give to the temple or Church. Jesus is making the contrast between the gifts of the rich and the poor widow to illustrate different ways of following Him. This concerns our whole attitude to being a Christian. We can easily follow Christ in so far as it doesn't really inconvenience us, in so far, it's not too demanding. We're tempted not to make great sacrifices to serve Christ or help those in need. Usually our problem is not that we commit dreadful sins, but that we can easily be mediocre and don't any great good. Our commitment to following Christ can become very shallow, as half-hearted, lukewarm Christians.

In sharp contrast we have the poor widow. Though she had very little, she gave all that she had. She held nothing back and gave without counting the pain or the cost. That's what Christ expects of us, His followers. I repeat, this is not so much about alms giving -though it should include that. But our whole attitude to life, to following Christ, is being questioned. Love should and does inspire people to make great sacrifices without counting the cost to themselves. I'm sure you who are parents have made such sacrifices. That's the kind of generous, total commitment Jesus expects of us, His followers.

And that, of course, is the kind of total commitment Jesus has shown in doing His Father's will. On the cross He made the absolute sacrifice of His life. In His gift of Himself He held absolutely nothing back. With Him there were no half measures. Love for us, with the longing to save us from sin and to share His happiness with us -these were His only reason for His total gift of himself.

It's wonderful that Jesus should use the example of a poor widow, whom nobody else noticed. Her total sacrifice, till it hurt, helps us to understand something of what Christ was prepared to do for us on the cross. She helps us to understand the meaning of the total commitment, holding nothing back, that Jesus expects of us.

This Gospel raises uncomfortable questions for each of us. Are we part time or mediocre Christians, who follow Christ as long as it's not too inconvenient and doesn't hurt too much. Do we behave like real, full-time Christians, when we're at home, at work or at school or relaxing? These are questions each of us must ask ourselves -and that includes me!

Isidore O.P.