



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2019

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

Leave me Lord, for I am a sinful man – this is Peter's initial response to his calling to follow the Lord. How easy it is for all of us to be discouraged in our call to be disciples of the Lord! It's all too easy to seek an escape route – but what we would lose!

This week, we celebrate World Day of the Sick. Sickness is a reality in all of our lives, even if it is the sickness of others rather than our own. It is never a pleasant experience, but it reminds us of our need for the kindness and care of other people, and it makes us keenly aware of the duty we have towards each other.

Within our community, there are many good examples of how we care for one another. It's not even as heroic as bringing communion to a sick person, it's about gentle and affirming acts of kindness in everyday life, like not mentioning the rugby results before Mass on Sunday, to take a random example.

Please do look through our events, and get involved with the range of things that are happening.

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

Fr David

VANDALISM IN THE CHURCH AND PRIORY

Recently there has been much controversy in the press regarding our erection of security grilles on the lower level windows of the church and priory. We had no choice but to take these measures, as expenditure on window replacement as a result of repeated and consistent vandalism runs over £10k at present. Following meetings with Leicester City Council, we have agreed a suitable way forward, which means that the security provided by the grilles remains in place until alternative arrangements can be made. While we are disappointed that some of our neighbours on New Walk, and some of the businesses that operate in the vicinity, have been hostile and confrontational, we hope that our openness to addressing the issues will be fruitful in the longer term.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

In preparation for the Feast of our Lady of Lourdes, there will be a Mass with Lourdes Procession on Sunday 10 February at 12:30pm. Please bring along any infirm people who might be able to attend.

THE FRASSATI CENTRE – A NEW DEVELOPMENT

As we approach 200 years of our ministry on this site, we have been developing plans for redeveloping our buildings and extending our outreach. Part of that is the establishment of the Frassati Centre. We want to creatively reimagine the space in the original church and school buildings to make a pastoral resource for the 21st Century. There will be much more news about this in the weeks to come, so do please watch this space, and lend your support! Already, plans and schedules are in an advanced stage of preparation. **The launch date, with all the plans and news of how things will develop from here, is set for the weekend of 2/3 March. We hope to see you there.**

NOTICE BOARD

BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you wish to have your child baptised, please attend one of our baptism preparation sessions. The next will be in March 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 on 16 January.

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

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC? – RCIA HAS BEGUN!

Those adults interested in becoming Catholics are invited to join our RCIA programme which continues at 7pm on Wednesdays for the next number of weeks. We hope to see some more new faces there.

SATURDAY 2 MARCH 2018 – LAUNCH OF THE FRASSATI CENTRE

We invite you to join us for a social evening on Saturday 2 March, to learn more about our plans for the Frassati Centre and how we will mark our 200th Anniversary. Irish stew will be served, and music provided by the Leicester branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, so please bring an instrument or join in the ceili dancing. Tickets will be £5 per person. Please help us to share the news in the coming weeks.

LEICESTER IRISH SOCIETY

The Society celebrates its Golden Jubilee this year, and invites everyone to join for a celebratory luncheon at Devonshire Place on St Patrick's Day. More details to follow

MILL HILL FATHERS – APF MISSION APPEAL

This weekend, we welcome Fr Vincent from the Mill Hill Fathers to make an appeal.

USE OF THE PRIORY ORGANS

We are currently inundated with requests for organists who wish to use our organs for practice. While we want to support this, we also need to safeguard the church as a place for prayer and reflection. We are now requesting that organ practice does not take place on Sundays, so that the church may be reserved for prayer. Those who wish to practice the organ on other days may do so by arrangement with the Prior and Chapter, in collaboration with the Director of Music, Mr Keogh. This request must be accompanied by a reference from an accredited music teacher. Thank you for your co-operation.

FR ISIDORE AND FR FABIAN

As a Dominican Community, we are very grateful for the presence of these two very dear brothers in our lives and for their immense contribution to Holy Cross over quite a number of years. However, we are now forced to face the reality that both gentlemen are seriously ill. Thankfully, as a parish community, we were able to mark Fr Isidore's Diamond Jubilee in 2017, and Fr Fabian's retirement celebration back in February was a very memorable occasion. We also have happy memories of a private celebration of Fr Fabian's 90th Birthday in May. Both gentlemen are grateful for your prayers and good wishes. Respectfully, we now ask that parishioners refrain from asking to visit with them. This is to allow both men the opportunity to reflect on their situations and to embrace their challenges with the support of their brethren, families, and close friends. Many thanks for your continued prayers.

ENCOUNTERING THE WORD: SCRIPTURE STUDY OF THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Our scripture study sessions with Fr Matthew commence again in February on Thursday evenings at 7pm, continuing on 13 February. Please share the flyers.

THE DOMINICAN COMMUNITY

Fr David Rocks OP PP *Prior* Fr Tony Rattigan OP *Bursar*;
Fr Nicholas Crowe OP *Subprior*; Fr Matthew Jarvis OP *CC*

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

Lay University Chaplain: *vacant*

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:

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:

£ 1198.46

(Gift aided: £300.70)

Woodhouse Collection

£ 152.75

(Gift aided: £87.75)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

HOPE THROUGHOUT THE GENERATIONS

A THOUGHT FOR THIS SUNDAY

In today's liturgy, the Gospel according to Luke presents the story of the call of the first disciples, with an original version that differs from that of the other two Synoptic Gospels, Matthew and Mark (cf. Mt 4: 18-22; Mk 1:16-20). The call, in fact, was preceded by the teaching of Jesus to the crowd and a miraculous catch of fish, carried out by the will of the Lord (Lk 5:1-6). In fact, while the crowd rushes to the shore of Lake Gennesaret to hear Jesus, he sees Simon discouraged because he has caught nothing all night. First Jesus asks to get into Simon's boat in order to preach to the people standing a short distance from the shore; then, having finished preaching, he commands Simon to go out into the deep with his friends and cast their nets (cf. v. 5). Simon obeys, and they catch an incredible amount of fish. In this way, the evangelist shows how the first disciples followed Jesus, trusting him, relying on his Word, all the while accompanied by miraculous signs. We note that, before this sign, Simon addresses Jesus, calling him "Master" (v. 5), while afterwards he addresses him as "Lord" (v. 7). This is the pedagogy of God's call, which does not consider the quality of those who are chosen so much as their faith, like that of Simon that says: "At your word, I will let down the nets" (v. 5)

.– *Pope Benedict XVI*

Responsorial Psalm: Before the angels I will bless you O Lord.

THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS OF THE CHURCH

The substance and fruit of holy Scripture is very specific: the fullness of eternal happiness. For this is what Scripture is – its words are words of eternal life, and it is written not just so that we should believe, but specially so that we should possess eternal life in which we may see, and love, and have all our desires fulfilled. When they are fulfilled, then we shall know the superabundant love that comes from knowledge, and so we shall be filled with all the fullness of God. God's Scripture tries to lead us to this fullness, and to the truth of the preaching of the apostles. It is to this end, with this intention, that we should study holy Scripture, and teach it, and hear it.

If we are to follow the direct path of Scripture and come straight to the final destination, then right from the beginning – when simple faith starts to draw us towards the light of the Father – our hearts should kneel down and ask the Father to give us, through his Son and the Holy Spirit, true knowledge of Jesus and of his love.

– *From The 'Breviloquium' of St Bonaventure*

CONTEMPORARY WITNESS

The significance of our four gospels is the message they preach rather than their physical existence. If all our copies of the four gospels were suddenly lost never to be found again, the gospel itself, Christianity itself, would continue to be preached. The writings that are collected into what we call The Bible are the writings collected by the Church and preserved because they tell us about God. They're not just any old writings, but neither are they meant to fossilise the message.

They are meant to inspire and continue to inspire the life of the Church, now and through the ages.

– *Fr David McLean OP*

NEXT SUNDAY:

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C)

“The higher we go, the better we shall hear the voice of Christ.”

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati OP

ALL THAT I AM, ALL THAT I DO

DISCIPLESHIP, SHARING, AND SERVICE

Fr David reflects on pilgrimage to Lourdes, as we encounter the Lord who calls us to be his disciples

“All that I am, all that I do, all that I’ll ever have, I offer now to you”. – so go the words of a popular offertory hymn. I know them so very well. For hours, I was stranded with a group of pilgrims in the airport at Lourdes as we waited for a set of storms to pass by. There was no doubt that we’d all had a good week – new friendships made and older ones rekindled; the memories of previous pilgrimages; the sharing of healing experiences and encounters with the Living God, reflecting on the redeemed humanity that is shown to us in the Lady who introduces herself – “I am the Immaculate Conception.”

Yes, the pilgrimage was well and truly over – just the long journey home ahead. The “out-of-office” on the email expired and a pile of the mundane lurked ahead when the return to Leicester would finally happen. It was good for us to be here, but back to reality. The last thing we wanted was a delay – what a bore.

I sat beside my friend Ryan. I’d been to Lourdes with Ryan a few times, but I wasn’t to know that this would be the last time we’d share the pilgrimage together. He’d just turned twenty that year, and was already making great advances in his political career – running for local council and with his eyes set on Westminster. Ryan was going places, he had plenty to offer and he just knew it. From his specially modified chair, to which he was confined, the world was a very beautiful land of opportunity.

When he beckoned to me, I took the seat beside him. “You’d better get praying, Ryan”, I said, “I need to get back to my priory”. “Pray with me, Father” he said, “Will you join me in singing? Do you know ‘All that I am?’”. So there we were, in the departures lounge – with fellow pilgrims doing the actions to “Rise and Shine”, while others learned the Cha Cha Slide, Ryan and myself sang “all that I am”. And we sang it again, and again, and again.

The journey home for me was long and tedious, but so much more so for Ryan. His physical pain and discomfort was beyond anything I can imagine. But he wasn’t trapped by it – Ryan was free! There was a great deal at home which he was waiting to achieve, building on what he had already done, but that didn’t matter so much. Now, he was here. And with a full heart he answered the call of the Lord with the loudest, sweetest voice as he led the singing: “All that I am, all that I do, all that I’ll ever have, I offer now to you”.

Ryan meant those words, and he preached those words. I don’t know if he knew that he was teaching me a valuable lesson that I would return to again and again, or if he was just being Ryan. I expect the latter. Discipleship is not about achievement – although it allows us something of the glory of that. Discipleship is about abandonment to the Lord who comes to meet us. He calls us to be who we are, all that we are, and to offer ourselves to him. See what wonderful things he can do in us!

So many of us have vivid and rich memories of pilgrimage to Lourdes, and the many intentions we have carried there over the years. If you’ve never been, do go. Make a trip with the many groups who accompany the sick and infirm. And say a prayer that you might be called there some day, when you need some healing and peace.

When I lift my candle for the Ave Maria during the Lourdes procession today, I’ll remember Ryan, and all those who I’ve shared this special experience with. And I will give thanks that I have received much more than I ever expected to, when I had the opportunity to give my time in service of others.

Just over a year ago, Ryan’s journey on earth came to an end. Sometimes, when I get weary of life, I like to remember Ryan’s loud and beautiful rendition of those words, All that I am, all that I do, all that I’ll ever have, I offer now to you. And I’ll try to live by it.

Fr David OP