



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2019

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

The weather has certainly been kind to us as the spring days come forward. It's great to see the signs of new life. This is certainly what marks our own efforts here at Holy Cross. In the next few weeks, we're excited to share with you our plans for the Frassati Centre Project, and also what we want to achieve together as we mark 200 years at Holy Cross in 2019.

We're hoping to have a great night next Saturday when we celebrate the culture of Ireland and come together to learn more about Blessed Frassati and what he can do to inspire us all. Please do make a special effort to come along!

The life of our parish community continues to flourish. Our RCIA group are preparing their next stage of the journey as we look forward to Lent and the Rite of Election. The whole process of Easter is before us, and we have many things to look forward to in the events that are scheduled each week.

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

LAUNCH OF THE FRASSATI CENTRE

Over the last few months, we have indicated the plans we are developing for a new pastoral centre here at Holy Cross – **The Frassati Centre for Preaching and Evangelisation**. This would seek to breathe new life into the original church buildings that we knew as the 'Holy Cross Centre'. We've assembled £180k so far to develop these buildings, and we are seeking to embark on a major fundraising project as we look towards our bicentenary. There'll be lots to talk about in the weeks ahead. Please come along to the events next weekend

SATURDAY 2 MARCH – SOCIAL EVENING WITH IRISH THEME

Next Saturday we're having an Irish themed evening as a Parish Community. It's an opportunity to learn more about the Frassati Centre Project, but also to come together for some fun. Music will be provided by the musicians of the Leicester branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, and there will be the traditional Irish dishes of Irish Stew and Dublin Coddle, with the mandatory soda bread. Donations for entry towards the Frassati Centre Project. Fr Robert Gay, prior of our Dominican Community in Oxford, will be the starring guest musician, playing the flute we bought for him as a leaving present. **Please make a very special effort to join us as we work towards realising this exciting new project.**

OTHER MASSES NEXT SUNDAY

There will be opportunity to meet for more information about our plans for the Frassati Centre and our 200th Anniversary at the Breakfast Club and Meet for a Treat following 10:30am and 8am Masses next Sunday. We are very much looking forward to developing these new ideas with you. We will be glad to be able to reflect on the different ways you can help us!

NOTICE BOARD

BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you wish to have your child baptised, please attend one of our baptism preparation sessions. The next will be on Sunday 9 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

RCIA GROUP PREPARES FOR LENT

As we move into the weeks before the beginning of Lent, we pray for all those in our RCIA group who are preparing to complete the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. Please keep them all in your prayers.

WHO IS BLESSED PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI?

He's the inspiration for our new initiative with developing our buildings and our apostolate, but who is he? He's a lay Dominican, whose life was marked by living the Dominican Charism in his everyday life. He was deeply devoted to prayer and study, and he inspired great fellowship with his contemporaries, and devoted himself to the service of others, especially the most vulnerable members of the community. We look forward to getting to know him more closely as we develop our apostolate.

IMAGE OF BLESSED PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI

We want to foster devotion to this Dominican Beatus. At 10:30am Mass next Sunday, Fr Robert Gay, prior of our community in Oxford, will bless an image, as we prepare to enshrine Blessed Frassati in our church.

NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

We are grateful to our regular congregants for making an especial effort to help with our change to arrangements for receiving Holy Communion at the altar rails. Please do begin to come forward for communion when the server rings the bell at the priest's communion. We remind you that it is perfectly acceptable to receive communion on the tongue or in the hand, standing and/or kneeling. Self-intinction is forbidden by our Bishop. The worthy reception of Holy Communion is something that should always be before our minds and hearts.

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. 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. They are grateful for our prayers and concern, and they are never far from our thoughts.

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 28 February. Please share the flyers.

ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT 2019

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on 6th March. Masses at 8am (EF Latin), 12:30pm; 6:10pm, 7:15pm. Ashes will be distributed in schools, hospitals, and both universities.

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:

£ 1,056.01

(Gift aided: £378.00)

Woodhouse Collection

£ 126.00

(Gift aided: £41.00)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

MERCIFUL LIKE THE FATHER

A THOUGHT FOR THIS SUNDAY

Today's In this Sunday Gospel, Jesus exhorts us to do justice and show mercy to our neighbours. What we wish our neighbours to do to us, we must do that to them for this is the meaning of loving our enemies as ourselves. The commandments of Jesus, especially the commandment to love our enemies, are opposed to the corrupt and fallen human nature. Jesus came to renew and regenerate the corrupt and fallen human nature.

As disciples of Jesus, we have to show mercy and compassion to our enemies. We, who are born anew in Christ Jesus, should reflect His nature of mercy and compassion in our lives. God is merciful, and so we who are His children, should show mercy to others. We are to do good to them who hate us. This kind of a behavior is possible only if we are Christlike which happens by dwelling much with Him. The world's hatred, curses and mischief must be met with Christian benevolence, blessings and prayers.

As followers of Christ we must be moderate and merciful in judging others. We ourselves are bad coins when we stand before Christ. Only a merciful God can forgive and accept us. If we judge harshly those minute faults of others, then the Lord will judge severely our manifold faults. We are to exercise that kind of love which will be merciful in judging and condemning others, and which will be generous in giving others. These earthly mercies will be repaid with heavenly reward. God recompenses are always abundant recompenses.

– Fr Christopher Maseko

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is Compassion and Love

THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS OF THE CHURCH

A charitable mind is not displayed simply in giving money; it is manifested still more by personal service as well as by the communication of God's word to others: In fact, if a man's service towards his brothers is genuine and if he really renounces worldly concerns, he is freed from selfish desires. For he now shares in God's own knowledge and love. Since he does possess God's love, he does not experience weariness as he follows the Lord his God. Rather, following the prophet Jeremiah, he withstands every type of reproach and hardship without even harbouring an evil thought towards any man. For Jeremiah warns us: *Do not say: "We are the Lord's temple."* Neither should you say: "Faith alone in our Lord Jesus Christ can save me." By itself faith accomplishes nothing. *For even the devils believe and shudder.*

– *From a treatise on Charity by St Maximus the Confessor*

CONTEMPORARY WITNESS

Following St Augustine's example, we too need to believe that God can and will convert hearts. Has he not converted ours? So, God mercifully now invites us to participate in this conversion; to become 'co-redeemers' with Christ by praying for the salvation of our enemies. May our enemies stir up in us the desire to become like God. Hence, when we are hurt and maltreated by other human beings, let our response be divine. For does not the Blessed Trinity dwell within us? Does the blood of Jesus not flow in our veins? And doesn't the fire of God's Spirit burn in our hearts? Yes, for we belong to the Lord, and the world has a desperate need to see the difference his grace makes. So, let our response to all, friend and foe alike, be like Christ's: love, do good, bless, and pray. (cf Lk 6:27-28) It may be that, seeing our good works, others will look upon us Christians and desire also to become like God, the only true and living God of Love.

– Fr Lawrence Lew OP

NEXT SUNDAY: EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C)

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

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati OP

UPON THIS ROCK

BUILDING A CHURCH WHERE EVERYONE IS SAFE FROM ABUSE

Fr David reflects on the international conference of bishops from across the world, meeting with Pope Francis this weekend, to reflect on the failures of the Church to respond to abuse in all its forms.

You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the underworld will never hold out against it.

For years and years, we have been abhorred and appalled by revelation upon revelation of abuses in the church throughout the world. While the sexual and physical abuse of children is the most horrendous sin that has been repeatedly committed by flawed and wayward shepherds of God's people, we cannot fail to recognise also the physical abuse of children, and the sexual abuse of seminarians, young women and men, vulnerable people, religious sisters. The categories are countless. The whole debacle is compounded by the systematic cover-up of these crimes that seems to have been endemic in the attitude of senior pastors in the Church. There is no longer any place to hide from this reality. It has been proven time and again. It is painful to face, but it must be faced. The culture has to change. The abuse must not be tolerated. The covering up must stop.

This weekend, our bishops ask for our prayers, as an important conference takes place in Rome. Called by Pope Francis, senior bishops from across the globe are gathered to reflect on how the Church can be comprehensively reformed in the approach to these matters. This needs to happen, without a doubt, but can these bishops be trusted? Will things change? We need to ask the question.

During the past week, we celebrated the Feast of the Chair of St Peter. This feast recognises the primacy of St Peter amongst the apostles, and the steadfast office entrusted to Peter for the whole Church of God. Peter was a weak and vulnerable man, but he was not lacking in courage. He was able to endure many trials, encountering his own significant failings, as he gave everything to follow his Lord and Master.

Jesus referred to Peter as the Rock on which he would build the Church. This was because Peter caught a fleeting glimpse of the Resurrection, in the Lord who he recognised as 'the Son of the Living God'. Peter would fail abysmally to understand the Lord's explanation of the Cross and Passion, but the glimpse he had was enough for him to be encouraged to embrace his own failings and short-sightedness and follow the Lord where he led.

Can we trust Pope Francis and the bishops to give us leadership? This needs to be proven to us, as we have all been let down so many times, and our pain is great. We need to pray for them, as their weaknesses are all too apparent. Indeed, this is not limited to them. Each of us who assume the role of the shepherd need to focus on our weakness for the sake of those in our care. Every single one of us has a responsibility to give leadership and be vigilant for the wellbeing and safety of each member of the flock.

There is so much more that could be said. Indeed, there will be necessity to reflect upon it as a community again and again. But for now we must be ready to take action, to change our culture. Survivors and victims of the different kinds of abuse are not strangers. They are in our midst, they are with us every day. They are real, and their suffering is real. It is the duty of each one of us to ensure that their voices are heard, that action is taken, that justice is done.

Let's pray for the whole Church as we address this issue. May our approach be dynamic and radical, putting together new strategies to ensure that past abuses are acknowledged and action taken, that present abuse is eradicated, that future abuse is prevented. Let's ensure that cover-up is exposed and expunged from every aspect of our church. Let's make sure that we start again. And let's make sure that we don't let it drop, ever, until the church is a safe and stable environment in which every person is equally cherished and valued.

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

Fr David OP