



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 10TH MARCH 2019

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

It was great to see so many people at Mass for Ash Wednesday. As Lent is now in full swing, and spring days lengthen, it is a good time for us to reflect together on what needs to change in our lives, and how we can live life to the full in the months ahead. There's always plenty of opportunity for growth and development, and the grace of being able to look at things in a new way, putting old ways behind us.

Signs of new life are already vibrant amongst us as we pray for the RCIA catechumens and candidates who travel to Nottingham Cathedral today. Our prayers and Lenten observance is an important aspect of their journey to the Sacraments at Easter.

The development of our Dominican apostolate continues to flourish. We're looking forward to getting things moving with the Frassati Centre for Preaching and Evangelisation. Thanks for all your interest in the project so far. There's still a long way to go!

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 is a temporary display in the hall outlining our plans, as we make further progress with designers and potential contractors to begin the project. Please do pray for the success of the project

SATURDAY 2 MARCH – SOCIAL EVENING WITH IRISH THEME

Thanks to all who helped to make our evening so enjoyable, especially all those who volunteered and especially to our musicians and dancers.

LENT AT HOLY CROSS

During the season of Lent, we will have Stations of the Cross on Wednesdays and Fridays at 1pm, and Stations of the Cross with Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati on Fridays at 7pm. There will also be an extra opportunity for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Thursdays at 5pm. Scripture study sessions continue on Thursdays at 7pm in St Clement's Hall.

ST PATRICK'S DAY 2019 – SUNDAY 17 MARCH

Next Sunday is St Patrick's Day, and the annual St Patrick's Day Parade into the city centre will meet here at 12 Noon. Tickets for the event at the Notts Club are selling quickly, and can be obtained from the Emerald Centre.

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

Please pray for the members of the RCIA programme this year, as they travel to Nottingham Cathedral for the Rite of Election this Sunday afternoon. We hope that this will be the beginning

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. We have a temporary image in the church, and we have commissioned a portrait that will be enshrined in the Church. Prayer cards will also be available soon. We look forward to finding out more.

NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

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.

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 7 March. Please share the flyers.

NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH: 11 – 19 MARCH 2019

The month of March is traditionally dedicated to devotion to St Joseph. This year we are offering a Novena to St Joseph in advance of his Solemnity. The intention of this Novena is for all families in our city and for an end to abortions. Please join us in praying the Novena

ANCIENT PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH (NOVENA PRAYER)

O St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in thee all my interests and desires. O St. Joseph, assist me by thy powerful intercession and obtain for me all spiritual blessings through thy foster Son, Jesus Christ Our Lord, so that, having engaged here below thy heavenly power, I may offer thee my thanksgiving and homage.

O St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating thee and Jesus asleep in thine arms. I dare not approach while He reposes near thy heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me, and ask Him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, patron of departing souls, pray for me.

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:

£ 1,152.25

(Gift aided: £407.00)

Woodhouse Collection

£ 124.98

(Gift aided: £61.00)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

"I WILL DELIVER HIM AND GIVE HIM GLORY"

A THOUGHT FOR THIS SUNDAY

On Ash Wednesday, with the penitential Rite of Ashes we began Lent, a Season of spiritual renewal in preparation for the annual celebration of Easter. But what does it mean to begin the Lenten journey? The Gospel for this First Sunday of Lent illustrates it for us with the account of the temptations of Jesus in the desert. The Evangelist St Luke recounts that after receiving Baptism from John, "Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan, and was led by the Spirit for forty days in the wilderness, tempted by the devil" (Lk 4: 1). There is a clear insistence on the fact that the temptations were not just an incident on the way but rather the consequence of Jesus' decision to carry out the mission entrusted to him by the Father to live to the very end his reality as the beloved Son who trusts totally in him. Christ came into the world to set us free from sin and from the ambiguous fascination of planning our life leaving God out. He did not do so with loud proclamations but rather by fighting the Tempter himself, until the Cross. This example applies to everyone: the world is improved by starting with oneself, changing, with God's grace, everything in one's life that is not going well.

– *Pope Benedict XVI*

Responsorial Psalm: Be with me O Lord in my distress

THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS OF THE CHURCH

Our pilgrimage on earth cannot be exempt from trial. We progress by means of trial. No one knows himself except through trial, or receives a crown except after victory, or strives except against an enemy or temptations.

The one who cries from the ends of the earth is in anguish, but is not left on his own. Christ chose to foreshadow us, who are his body, by means of his body, in which he has died, risen and ascended into heaven, so that the members of his body may hope to follow where their head has gone before.

He made us one with him when he chose to be tempted by Satan. We have heard in the gospel how the Lord Jesus Christ was tempted by the devil in the wilderness. Certainly Christ was tempted by the devil. In Christ you were tempted, for Christ received his flesh from your nature, but by his own power gained salvation for you; he suffered death in your nature, but by his own power gained glory for you; therefore, he suffered temptation in your nature, but by his own power gained victory for you.

– *From the commentaries of St Augustine on the Psalms*

CONTEMPORARY WITNESS

Jesus shared his temptation experience with his disciples. It was then written down to help other disciples, including us, in our combat with the flesh, Satan and the world. What God did for us through the cross of Jesus, he wants to do in us. That requires us to put on the mind of Jesus and take up our cross and follow him. That is a daily task but we are invited to do it in a particularly focussed way in Lent, a season of desert grace. The tempted Lord, who fasted for us and contested with Satan for us, is with us to help us, a compassionate high priest who knows our struggles. So, at the beginning of Lent let us ask him to show each of us how to discipline our body and restrain our physical needs; how to worship God better in prayer; and, rather than grumble against him or test him, how to serve him by generously obeying his call to love others, dying to our selfishness in the process.

– *Br Andrew Brookes OP*

NEXT SUNDAY:
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR C)

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

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati OP

THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT

FR ISIDORE'S APPROACH TO LENT

Pope Francis has given me a fresh approach to celebrating the Holy season of Lent, which I hope you will find helpful. "Mercy," he wrote, "is the face of God"; Jesus gave a human face to divine mercy. We, who have been made in the image and likeness of God and, through baptism, share His very life as his sons and daughters, must radiate God's mercy in our daily lives.

We must begin with ourselves and our need for God's mercy, before we think of other people's guilt and their need for forgiveness. On Ash Wednesday, we expressed sorrow for our sins by receiving ashes -a very ancient way of expressing guilt and repentance. We should follow this up by seeking God's mercy -by going to confession. Surprisingly, this should be a joyful experience. Of course, none of us likes admitting we've done wrong. It's hard to be honest with ourselves, much more difficult with someone else. We feel ashamed and embarrassed, perhaps afraid the priest will be very fierce with us.

But always remember in this sacrament we priests are ministers of Christ's peace-making, meant to help you to find peace with God, peace within yourself. We are there to forgive, not condemn, to heal, not to inflict wounds. If you're nervous in coming to confession, you should leave with joy in your heart joy that God, in His loving mercy, has removed the burden of your guilt.

It's worth remembering that we priests need to confess our sins. We have the same sense of embarrassment and shame as anyone else, the same sense of relief when we've been forgiven. My approach to hearing confession is to try to show the penitent the same understanding and compassion as I hope and need to receive from God and those I have harmed.

Jesus repeatedly insisted that if we want to receive God's mercy we must forgive those who have harmed us. We must be as merciful as our heavenly Father is merciful. We must radiate God's 'face of mercy.' There's great scope for us to be peacemakers in our daily lives. We hurt each other and we get hurt, sometimes accidentally, sometimes deliberately. Instinctively we argue, "It was his or her fault; they must make the first move." But that's not God's way, nor can it be ours. Though completely innocent, He took the initiative at repairing our relationship with Him, damaged by sin. As images of God, reflecting His mercy, we must make the first move, whoever was at fault. That's the quickest, the only way to restoring the peace for which we all long. That certainly was the approach of the crucified Christ. There, on the cross He has shown how much He loves each one of us -"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends," (Jn. 15. 13). But Jesus' love went much, much, much further -He prayed for the very people responsible for His brutal, unjust execution, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing," (Lk. 23. 34). In the crucified Jesus we see the human face of God's loving, healing mercy. That's what we are preparing to celebrate during Lent. This will reach its triumphant climax in Holy Week.

During this sacred season let us focus on Mercy being the Face of God. First, we must seek the healing balm of His forgiveness. As God's children let us concentrate on reflecting the face of His mercy. In other words, let's take the initiative in healing the wounds we have inflicted, the wounds we have suffered. That means having the courage to say, "sorry," the generosity to forgive.

Especially during this Lent let's determine to be peace seekers and peace makers. Let's make Lent a special time for bridge building, for repairing the damage caused by demolition experts, including ourselves!

Isidore Clarke O.P.