



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 14TH APRIL 2019

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

And so we arrive at the beginning of the greatest week in the Church year. Everything that we do leads us to this great series of celebrations, and everything that we are - as baptised Christians, as a community, as members of the universal Church - is echoed in the week ahead.

Our celebration of Holy Week is an opportunity to pray for the growth of the Dominican Order and of the Church, and to be in solidarity with fellow Christians who are prevented from the support of their ministers and of gathering together with ease. We also remember in a special way the sick and housebound of our community, those in hospital, and our prisoners.

Please take note of the timetables over Holy Week and Easter. After the Easter holidays, we will be able to continue our preparations to mark the 200th Anniversary, and as we enter a time of renewal together

We hope you will join us for the liturgies of the Sacred Triduum, and as we make our Retreat together in Holy Week.

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

Fr David

FR FABIAN RADCLIFFE OP, 1928 - 2019

Many thanks to all those who attended the funeral liturgies for Fr Fabian, who died on Monday 1 April. Fr Fabian was 90 years of age and has been a Dominican for 65 years, and a priest for 60 years. He has been in Leicester for half of his Dominican life, since 1987, and for three years was our Prior and Parish Priest. He was a person held in deep affection by so many people, and we have been overwhelmed by the extent of the good wishes we have received. We will miss his presence, but we must remember to pray for him. A second collection will be taken today, to help defray costs for his funeral and for the purchasing of his grave. We thank you for your generosity.

HOLY WEEK @ HOLY CROSS

Please see the separate flyers that have details of our Mass, Office, Service, and Confession times during Holy Week. Please note especially that there will be 7:15pm Mass on Monday and Tuesday, rather than 6:10pm Mass. **There will not be Mass on Wednesday, as that is the day of the Mass of Christ, Nottingham Cathedral at 11:30am**

HOLY WEEK AT A GLANCE

Monday and Tuesday: 8am Mass; 8:45am Office; 12:30pm Mass; 7pm Vespers; 7:15pm Mass. **Wednesday:** No Mass - 8:45am Office; 12:30pm Stations; 7pm Vespers; 7:15pm Holy Hour

TRIDUUM AT A GLANCE

Maundy Thursday Mass at 8pm; **Good Friday** Liturgy at 3pm, Stations at 7:30pm; **Saturday** Easter Vigil at 8pm. **Tenebrae and Retreat Talk** each day at 9am.

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 7 April 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 again in the Autumn.

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

ARRANGEMENTS FOR EASTER WEEK

During Easter Week, Mass will be celebrated each day at 12:30pm only, after which the Church will be closed

DEVELOPING 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. **Update this week:** we have begun to receive quotations for the works and we are looking forward to analysing and discussing these. ***There will be more news during Eastertide Please do pray for the success of the project.***

RETREAT IN HOLY WEEK

Unfortunately, our planned Retreat Master is unable to be with us this year. But it is a great joy to welcome Fr Simon Gaine, our Regent of Studies among is for our Holy Week Retreat. Fr Simon will be with us for the Triduum. The early days of the retreat will be preached in turn by the Dominican Fathers of the Community Please make a special effort to listen to the retreat conferences and homilies during the week. It is also a good opportunity this week to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation and availing of the extra times for confession during the week. We also welcome Fr Gregory Pearson and Br Luke Doherty to celebrate the week with us.

GIFT AID BOXES

Your new Gift Aid Boxes are available for collection. They are on the table by the Wellington Street Entrance. Thanks for your continued generosity. After Easter, we can think about how our finances are going and plan for our next steps together.

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 JOHN'S GOSPEL

Our scripture study sessions with Fr Matthew conclude this Monday until after Easter. The session will be in the Hall at 8pm.

O CRUX AVE, SPES UNICA!

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:

£ 1272.80

(Gift aided: £449.61)

Woodhouse Collection

£ 119.20

(Gift aided: £86.00)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!**

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

A THOUGHT FOR THIS SUNDAY

It is a moving experience each year on Palm Sunday as we go up the mountain with Jesus, towards the Temple, accompanying him on his ascent. On this day, throughout the world and across the centuries, young people and people of every age acclaim him, crying out: "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" But what are we really doing when we join this procession as part of the throng which went up with Jesus to Jerusalem and hailed him as King of Israel? Is this anything more than a ritual, a quaint custom? Does it have anything to do with the reality of our life and our world? To answer this, we must first be clear about what Jesus himself wished to do and actually did. After Peter's confession of faith in Caesarea Philippi, in the northernmost part of the Holy Land, Jesus set out as a pilgrim towards Jerusalem for the feast of Passover. He was journeying towards the Temple in the Holy City, towards that place which for Israel ensured in a particular way God's closeness to his people. He was making his way towards the common feast of Passover, the memorial of Israel's liberation from Egypt and the sign of its hope of definitive liberation. He knew that what awaited him was a new Passover and that he himself would take the place of the sacrificial lambs by offering himself on the cross. He knew that in the mysterious gifts of bread and wine he would give himself for ever to his own, and that he would open to them the door to a new path of liberation, to fellowship with the living God. He was making his way to the heights of the Cross, to the moment of self-giving love. The ultimate goal of his pilgrimage was the heights of God himself; to those heights he wanted to lift every human being.

– *Pope Benedict XVI*

Responsorial Psalm: My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?

THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS OF THE CHURCH

In his humility Christ entered the dark regions of our fallen world and he is glad that he became so humble for our sake, glad that he came and lived among us and shared in our nature in order to raise us up again to himself. And even though we are told that he has now ascended above the highest heavens – the proof, surely, of his power and godhead – his love for man will never rest until he has raised our earthbound nature from glory to glory, and made it one with his own in heaven. So let us spread before his feet, not garments or soulless olive branches, which delight the eye for a few hours and then wither, but ourselves, clothed in his grace, or rather, clothed completely in him. We who have been baptized into Christ must ourselves be the garments that we spread before him. Now that the crimson stains of our sins have been washed away in the saving waters of baptism and we have become white as pure wool, let us present the conqueror of death, not with mere branches of palms but with the real rewards of his victory. Let our souls take the place of the welcoming branches as we join today in the children's holy song: *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the king of Israel.*

– *From the discourse "On the Palm Branches" by Saint Andrew of Crete*

CONTEMPORARY WITNESS

It takes great humility to do something only God can do, the type of thing only He can do which He nevertheless allows us to share in. Only the humble can do the works of God. The proud consider themselves and what they can do. They consider the skills they have, and what they can offer God – such as I am a doctor, I am a priest, I am a manager, etc. But God does not need our abilities to do what only He can do. He desires our willingness to share in what only He can do. Only the genuinely humble consider God and what God can do.

– *Fr Leon Pereira OP*

NEXT SUNDAY:
EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE
LORD (YEAR C)

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

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati OP

THE WORD AT WORK: OUR WEEKLY REFLECTION

THE HOUR OF THE SON OF MAN

Fr Bruno Clifton OP on "worms, graves and epitaphs"

The shadow of the cross always falls across Jesus's life. His 'hour' is always lingering on the side-lines, threatening to arrive. St John's gospel in particular does not allow us to escape the cross's shadow even at moments of hope, in signs of salvation. And Jesus cautions the sceptical Jews, 'the hour is coming and now is when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live' (John 5:25).

The wedding feast of the new creation (Isa 25:6); the dawn of God's new covenant (Jer 31:31; Tob 14:6); the resurrection of the dead (2 Macc 12:43), all meet in this hour of Jesus. An hour for which we are told to stay awake 'for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn...' (Mark 13:35).

Today we begin the Great Week, when the course of our liturgical year has come to focus upon the hour of the Son of Man, which is why we begin it with the story of the Passion. In St Mark's account, arrival of this 'hour' seems like a nightmare of darkness and chaos. Jesus and his disciples have just celebrated the Passover and in the night leave the upper room for the Mount of Olives. This journey of perhaps a mile takes them outside the city, down below the Temple through the Kidron valley (John 18:1); a valley of graves. At this Passover time, the full moon shines through the night mists, eerily illuminating whitewashed tombs (Matt 23:27). What a reminder of the looming 'hour.'

And so, at the foot of the Mount of Olives, Jesus and his disciples await this hour in a moonlit garden overlooking a valley full of bones... 'Son of Man,' (we hear whispered on the night breeze) 'can these bones live...?' (Ezek 37:3). At this dark moment, Jesus prays that the Son of Man's hour might pass him by (Mark 14:35): 'and a sudden fear came over him and great distress' (14:33). But this is also the hour his disciples are called to stay awake. Jesus had taught, 'Keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come' (Mark 13:33) and all through this Lent we have been reminded that the day of salvation, the favourable time, has dawned in Jesus (2 Cor 6:1-2).

And yet we fall asleep when the time arrives. And the hour of the Son of Man comes 'like a thief in the night' (1 Thess 5:2; cf. Mark 14:48). 'Simon,' (it could be any of us) 'are you asleep?' (Mark 14:37).

Jesus singling out Simon Peter reminds us of the disciple's protest of loyalty only a few minutes earlier on the moonlit walk to Gethsemane...and of Jesus's response: 'before the cock crows twice you will deny me three times' (Mark 14:30). Peter does not see that the master has come—in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, at dawn—and was handed over to sinners.

'Had you not the strength to keep awake one hour?' (Mark 14:37). Had we not the strength to keep our Lenten penances; to 'share our bread with the hungry and shelter the homeless poor' (Isa 58:7); to fast from sin and seek the mercy of God these forty days?

The hour when 'the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners' (Mark 14:41) is the hour that we create and yet ignore through our slothful sin. And so, when we hear the Passion once more today we cannot take the role of apologetic bystander, but of disciples of Jesus who fell asleep and more... 'All of them deserted him and fled' (14:50). 'But I am a worm and no man, scorned by men despised by the people' (Ps 22:6) is the psalm Jesus recalls from the cross (Mark 15:34).

Where is there hope in this Passion according to Mark? We have to go back to the beginning in that upper room before the little band headed out into the cool night. 'This is my body... this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many' (Mark 14:22-24). Here is the strengthening of the flesh that willing spirits desire so that they may follow their Lord.

So today let's talk of graves, of worms and epitaphs and realize that Jesus's epitaph has been transformed into a living title of our salvation.