



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 19TH MAY 2019

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

It's that time of year again, when I start to get anxious about the weather forecast as we prepare for our annual pilgrimage to Walsingham. Travelling from different parts of the country, it's a great opportunity to catch up with brethren and friends, and to ask the intercession of Our Blessed Lady for the success and development of our mission.

We all look forward to the months ahead with (hopefully) lots of good weather. It's an opportunity for us to be grateful for the many wonderful things God gives to us. We can really celebrate the beauty of creation, and seek to become ever more responsible in our stewardship of it.

As we work together to make Blackfriars Market a success, it is important for us to continue our reflection on developing the life and mission of our community. Today I will be asking the intercession of Our Lady for wisdom and guidance as we go forward on the journey together.

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

Fr David

THE MONTH OF MAY – THE MONTH OF OUR LADY

The month of May is traditionally devoted to particular devotion to Our Blessed Lady. Please do enthrone the image of Our Lady in your homes during this month, and bring flowers of the rarest, and blossoms the fairest to honour the Queen of the May.

BLACKFRIARS MARKET – SUNDAY 9 JUNE 2019

It's that time of year again, and our most important fundraising event of the year is planned for Sunday 9 June from after the 8am Mass until around 1pm. We aim to raise £10,000, and if everyone in our community manages to contribute something, this target is very small indeed. Next week, we launch the raffle, and this week you can take away a bottle bag and return with your donation next week. This year, Blackfriars Market is aimed at raising funds for our 200th anniversary redevelopment plan – the Frassati Centre and securing our future.

THE NARTHEX OF OUR CHURCH

During the Good Friday Liturgy at 3pm, there was a most unfortunate and distressing accident, in which a young person fainted and fell into the glass narthex doors, shattering the glass. Our thoughts and prayers are very much with this young person and their family. As a precaution, the narthex is now out of bounds, except in controlled circumstances. We have arranged for the remaining glass to be replaced with reinforced glass in due course. We thank those who assisted during the incident, most especially the off-duty medical professionals.

DOMINICAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM – SUNDAY 19 MAY

The Dominican Pilgrimage to Walsingham will travel today, please pray for all those who are travelling on the pilgrimage

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 1 June 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

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 are now expecting the last quotations for the works and we are looking forward to presenting these to the Provincial Council for decision and commissioning the works. **There will be more news during Eastertide Please do pray for the success of the project.**

SCRIPTURE STUDY – THURSDAY AT 7PM

Fr Matthew will resume scripture study sessions on Thursday evenings, focussing on the Gospel of St John. We look forward to seeing you there.

MAY PROCESSION – SUNDAY 26 MAY AT 11:45AM

We will have our annual May Procession on the final Sunday of the month, Sunday 26 May. Please bring flowers to honour Our Lady during the Procession.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION – SUNDAY 7 JULY 2019

This year, we will celebrate First Holy Communion for children aged 7 and above on Sunday 7 July at 10:30am Mass. There will be a meeting for children and their parents on Sunday 2 June after 10:30am Mass.

FRASSATI GROUP FOR YOUNG ADULTS – FIRST MEETING THIS WEEK!!

Inspired by the legacy of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, a new initiative meeting alternately on Monday evenings and Saturday lunchtimes: Saturday 25 May; Monday 10 June; Saturday 29 June; Monday 8 July; Saturday 27 July. Monday evenings will include a talk by a Dominican friar. As usual, we start with bring-and-share food at 7pm, followed by talk and discussion, finishing with Compline just before 9pm. Saturdays will follow this pattern: 10.30am Adoration and Confession available in the church 11.00am Tea/coffee in St Clement's hall 11.30am Video on a Catholic topic (about 30 mins) 12.15pm Benediction 12.30pm Mass 1pm Lunch in St Clement's, when we can continue a discussion about the video, perhaps plan other activities, and finish at 2pm. The Saturday meetings will be child-friendly and have more of a social feel alongside the prayer and liturgy in church. Mondays will be more study-focused around the talk and discussion. Future topics will include Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, our patron, and the Christian attitude to work. If you wish to invite young adults, or would like to know more, please email Fr Matthew at matthew.jarvis@english.op.org

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:

£ 1164.59

(Gift aided: £313.00)

Woodhouse Collection

£ 96.50

(Gift aided: £86.00)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!**

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - LOVE

A THOUGHT FOR THIS SUNDAY

"I, John, saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God" (Rv 21:1-2).

The splendid vision of the heavenly Jerusalem, which today's Liturgy of the Word presents to us again, closes the Book of Revelation and the whole series of sacred books which comprise the Bible. With this magnificent description of the City of God, the author of Revelation indicates the definitive defeat of evil and the achievement of perfect communion between God and men. From the beginning, the history of salvation aims at this goal.

Before the community of believers, who are also called to proclaim the Gospel and to witness to their own faith in Christ amid various trials, the supreme goal shines forth: the heavenly Jerusalem! We are all advancing towards that goal, where the saints and martyrs have preceded us down the centuries. On our earthly pilgrimage, these brethren of ours, who have passed victoriously through "great tribulations", serve as an example, incentive and encouragement to us. The Church which "continues her pilgrimage amid the persecutions of the world and the consolations of God" (St Augustine, *De Civitate Dei*, XVIII, 51:2), knows she is sustained and encouraged by the example and communion of the heavenly Church.

– *Pope St John Paul II*

Responsorial Psalm: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS OF THE CHURCH

Christ is risen! He has burst open the gates of hell and let the dead go free; he has renewed the earth through the members of his Church now born again in baptism, and has made it blossom afresh with men brought back to life. His Holy Spirit has unlocked the doors of heaven, which stand wide open to receive those who rise up from the earth. Because of Christ's resurrection the thief ascends to paradise, the bodies of the blessed enter the holy city, and the dead are restored to the company of the living. There is an upward movement in the whole of creation, each element raising itself to something higher. We see hell restoring its victims to the upper regions, earth sending its buried dead to heaven, and heaven presenting the new arrivals to the Lord. In one and the same movement, our Saviour's passion raises men from the depths, lifts them up from the earth, and sets them in the heights. Christ is risen. His rising brings life to the dead, forgiveness to sinners, and glory to the saints. And so David the prophet summons all creation to join in celebrating the Easter festival: *Rejoice and be glad, he cries, on this day which the Lord has made.*

– *From a sermon by Saint Maximus of Turin*

CONTEMPORARY WITNESS

The Easter message is a promise of our own physical resurrection. Our own knowledge of what this will actually be like is based upon the resurrection narratives of the Gospels. In heaven, we shall have a material body but everything will be subject to the soul in a more perfect way, as the soul itself is enlightened by the beatific vision. In the resurrection from death, this is what we hope in. In the new creation we shall have freedom from corruption, as well as a mysterious spiritual refinement of matter and an agility of the body. But what will happen to the created world in the resurrection? At the end of time, there will be some sort of universal reconfiguration of the cosmos that affects all things. We will be present at the end of time, and the world we live in now will not be left behind but reformed in a more beautiful and final way so to reflect the glory of the resurrected body of Christ and His Church.

– *Br Luke Doherty OP*

NEXT SUNDAY: SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (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

A NEW COMMANDMENT

Fr David Goodill suggests how the relationship between Jesus Christ and the Father transforms our humanity.

At the beginning of today's Gospel we are told that Jesus speaks after Judas has departed. This is during the Lord's last supper with his disciples, during which Jesus tells his disciples that one of them will betray him. It is the one to whom he will give a morsel of bread who will betray him. How does Jesus know that Judas will betray him? In our scientific age when we think about predicting the future images of numbers being crunched by super-computers spring to mind. If we allow this image to rule how we envisage Jesus' predictive power then he becomes super-human, a man who looks like the rest of us, but who conceals super-powers under his human clothing.

The Jesus we encounter in Scripture is a man of exceptional intelligence and insight, but this does not entail that he is a super-man with special super hero powers. If we want to understand what is exceptional about Jesus we need to attend to his own words. In today's Gospel he tells his disciples that he is the Son of Man, and that in him God has been gloried. All human beings are related to God as creatures that are made in God's own image. In Jesus Christ, however, the whole of the human race is represented in our relationship to God. There is a unity between humanity and divinity in the person of Jesus Christ which is unique, and which allows us to call God 'Our Father'. This unity entails that in his humanity Jesus Christ dwells constantly in the presence of God, and it is this indwelling which enables Jesus to have insight into the future.

This insight should not be considered just to be like watching a film of the future. If you watch the last five minutes of a film you can make very little sense of what is going on, unless you already understand a great deal about the story and the characters. In order to have real insight into what is going to happen next in the film you need to see more than just a set of moving images. It is the wider context of the film which allows you to see what is coming next, and for most films this wider context is the world of human behaviour. What happens next involves how the characters react to the events which life throws at them. These events often are unexpected, but the reactions of the characters to these events are largely predictable. There are cases in which unexpected reactions occur, a timid character shows great courage in adversity or a cynical business man is found to have a heart, but these only make sense because they are exceptions to the normal reactions of such characters.

In real life it is far harder to make sense of other people's reactions than it is in a film. Life is far more complicated than even the most sophisticated of films, and we are involved in a manner which makes it difficult to always keep things in perspective. The intimate union Jesus has with his Father means that he is able to see the truth of life in a way which no one else can. But far from removing him from involvement in life this union with the divine enables him to be more truly human than any other human being. He is the Son of Man, and can read the heart of all people. This is not the distant knowledge of a neutral observer, but the intimate knowledge of one who loves. There is nothing neutral about Jesus' knowledge of our hearts, and as he reads Judas' heart his own heart is breaking.

And so he tells his disciples that they must love one another as he has loved them. The truth of life which he reveals to them is the truth of the human heart, as we are loved and transformed with the love which he has received from his Father. In each of our lives there is the invitation of an unexpected event, something which shakes all of our expectations and makes us into a new creation. Our reactions are predictable but through the friendship of the Son of Man our predictable lives are given an extra-ordinary ending: the living of his new commandment of love.

.Fr David Goodill OP

The Memorare – a prayer for the month of May

REMEMBER, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.