

6B Eastertide - Christ's Farewell Discourse

Our Eastertide Gospels have been taken from Christ's Final Discourse before his departure, through his Passion and then his Ascension. He set out to prepare us, His followers, for the time when He would no longer be visibly present among us.

Before His departure, Jesus wanted to do two things: to reassure us that He would still be with us, and, in a few words, to sum up the heart of His teaching.

Let us take a brief look at Christ's final will and testament to us, His followers. Far from abandoning us, Jesus assured us He would remain with us through His love for us, ours for Him.

This idea is familiar to us. Couples who have to part for a time reassure each other that they will remain close in each other's love. The miles separating them will not undermine their love. They promise to remain faithful to their love. That is precisely what Christ does here: He reassures us that He will remain with us through His love for us, ours for Him.

And like the couple about to part, Jesus goes further. He urges us to remain faithful in our love for Him. That fidelity is shown by doing only what will please Him, and avoiding anything that will undermine or even destroy our love. He knows our love will be tested by temptations to sin.

Jesus then goes further to explain how we should love. He reminds us that our love for Him must embrace all God's children. We cannot really love the Father if we hate or harm any of His children. We cannot claim to have a private love for God which excludes them. In his 1st Letter, John goes so far as to say that if we cannot love the people we can see, we will not be able to love the invisible God.

Finally Jesus sums up how we should love, with the words, 'As I have loved you.' He then adds, 'Greater love has no man than to lay down his life for his friends.' Jesus proved the depth of His love for us by giving His very life, so that we could be happy with God. Christ's generous self-giving shows us how we should love God and each other. That involves life-long generosity in loving.

Christ's final will and testament is the Gospel of love. Towards the end of his life John sums up his understanding of God, with the words, 'God is love!' If we are to remain in God, we must remain in love for God and each other. Love is the only way to real, eternal happiness and joy. Being a Christian is all about learning to love in the same way as Christ loves His heavenly Father and each of us.

Isidore O.P.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Year B

10 May 2015

The Newsletter of **HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER**

www.holycrossleicester.org



Entrance Antiphon:	Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.
At 10.30am – page nos in Missale:	• Mass Ordinary, p 13; Mass Proper, p 95 • Credo III, p 216
1st Reading:	Acts 10:25-26.34-35.44-48
Psalm LXX:	<i>At 10.30am: The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations. Otherwise: The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power. (Ps 97)</i>
2nd Reading:	1 John 4:7-10
Alleluia:	All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them.
Gospel:	John 15:9-17
Communion Antiphon:	If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

Baptism Preparation: the next session is **Sunday 7 June**; please come to the sacristy at the end of the 10.30am Mass. If you wish to have your child baptised at Holy Cross, you need to attend one of these sessions, usually held on the first Sunday of each month.

The Pilgrimage to Walsingham will travel next Sunday, 17 May, leaving the priory at 8am, costing £15, with £10 concessions. Please put your name down in the sacristy or the shop.

Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes: Monday 8th - Friday 12th June. From Stansted, staying at the Agena Hotel. £425 per person sharing. Please contact Fr David.

News from the Parish Shop:

- ◆ We have cards for those who are receiving their First Holy Communion.
- ◆ May's edition of *Catholic News*, the diocesan newspaper, is available for 20p, and includes a report on the Holy Cross Gospel Choir.
- ◆ There is a good supply of the CTS's *Simple Prayer Book*. This has the Order of Mass, numerous prayers and devotions, and a section on Catholic teaching. All this for £1.95.
- ◆ We have a stock of "A Short History of the Dominicans in Leicester: Commemorating the 750th Anniversary of the Foundation of St Clement's Priory in 1247", written by Fr Isidore. Available at its 1996 price of £2.

The shop is open after the 12.30pm Masses during the week, on Saturdays from 11am until after the 12.30pm Mass, and after every Sunday Mass. The shop is in the room beyond the sacristy.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £1096.99 (of which £264.50 was Gift Aided and £832.49 was not) and in addition the parish receives approximately £240 per week in donations made by standing order, nearly all of which are Gift Aided; Solidarity Fund £0.62; Friends of Holy Cross £0.91; Holy Souls £1.04; Grenada Church Restoration £ - .

The Nepal Emergency Appeal has raised £1143.97 so far, and there will be a retiring collection again this week for the work of the Jesuit Missions in Nepal. Gift Aid forms are now available.

The new Gift Aid envelopes are now available on the table by the Wellington St entrance. If you have not already done so, please take the box with your name on it. If you are a UK income tax payer and are not yet enrolled as a Gift Aid donor, please see any of the Dominican friars. Gift Aid increases the value of your contribution to the church by 25%, at no extra cost to you. Many thanks.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

We are planning to hold Blackfriars Market on the weekend of 13/14 June this year. There will be a meeting in the Hall after the 10.30 am Mass today for those interested in helping to organise this important annual event.

In recent months, we have begun to celebrate Mass at 10:30am on Sunday mornings, and lots of people have been working together to establish this new pattern. In the weeks ahead, we must build on this excellent start. Thank you to all who are helping with this.

Security. Please do not leave any valuables unattended in the church.

Please join us in the Parish Hall after the 10.30am Sunday Mass for tea, coffee, fruit juice etc. There is the opportunity for a chat with members of the Dominican Community and parishioners. We particularly welcome new students and other visitors.



From today's Gospel:

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

Our Children's Liturgy has been going for almost a year, and it is time now to develop and consolidate this important part of our parish apostolate. The Children's Liturgy takes place during the Liturgy of the Word at the 10:30am Mass. On Sunday 24 May, there will be a meeting for all those interested in developing and assisting with the liturgy and for developing other areas of catechesis for our children, of all ages. Hopefully this will enable us to put in place a plan and a structure for the Autumn Term that will help our children to cherish the Faith and grow in grace.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation: families worshipping regularly at Holy Cross who wish to celebrate these sacraments this year should come to a brief meeting in St Clement's Hall following the 10:30am Mass today, Sunday 10 May.

Fatima Devotions in May: During the month of May we will hold Devotions in Honour of Our Lady of Fatima each Saturday morning at 10am Mass. Please make a special effort to attend these devotions which will mark this special month of devotion to Our Blessed Lady.

A Novena to St Rita, Patroness of Impossible Cases, will start this Thursday, 14 May.

Year /	This week's calendar & Mass Intentions	Psalter Week 2
Sunday	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
Vigil	18.10 † Rodolfo Alonzo 8.00 † Brian Keenan	
Sung	10.30 Hazel Fernandes and family	
OP Rite	12.30 <i>Neglected Intentions</i> 19.00 <i>Pro populo</i>	
Monday	Easter feria	
OP Rite	8.00 Special Intention 12.30 Frances Levette 18.10	
Tuesday	Easter feria	
OP Rite	8.00 † Dead of the Order of Preachers 12.30 18.10 Madeleine McCann	
Wednesday	Easter feria	
OP Rite	8.00 12.30 Juan Diego - Lina McHenau Family intention 18.10	
Thursday	ST MATTHIAS, APOSTLE, <i>feast</i>	
OP Rite	8.00 12.30 18.10	
Friday	THE DEDICATION OF THE PRIORY CHURCH, <i>solemnity</i>	
OP Rite	8.00 12.30 18.10 For the good estate of Holy Cross Priory	
Saturday	St Simon Stock, Priest	
OP Rite	8.00 10.00 † Thomas Joseph 12.30 † Lyons Family	
Next Sunday – THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD. Readings:		
	Acts 1:1-11	Ephesians 4:1-13 Mark 16:15-20

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Adoration is a very important way of preparing for Mass and of deepening our understanding of the Mass. It takes place at Holy Cross on Sundays from 6.00-7.00 pm, on Wednesdays from 11.00 am and on Saturdays during the Fatima Novena.

Baptisms: we welcome into our Community of Faith James Patrick Donnacha Moran and Melchias Thierry Guga, who were baptised last week

Congratulations to Nicolas and Erika Bunes, who were married in Spain yesterday.

SAFEGUARDING. Holy Cross is a place where our children are cherished and protected. In order to ensure that our children are safe and feel safe, we have launched a safeguarding review, led by Ms Jane Jones, the Safeguarding Advisor to the Dominicans in England. At present, we are revising our Safeguarding Policies and Procedures to ensure a greater degree of safety for all of us. Keeping our children safe is a responsibility for all of us.

REGULAR SERVICE TIMES
SUNDAYS 8.00 Mass 9.00 Lauds 10.30 Sung Mass 12.30 Mass (Dominican Rite) 18.00 Exposition, Rosary, Compline & Benediction 19.00 Mass
MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS 7.30 Lauds 8.00 Mass (Dominican Rite) 11.00*Devotions & Exposition 12.15*Benediction 12.30 Mass (Rosary at 12.00) 18.10 Mass followed by Vespers *WEDNESDAYS ONLY
SATURDAYS 8.00 Mass (Dominican Rite) 9.00 Lauds 10.00 Mass 10.30 Devotions & Exposition 10.30 Confessions until 11.30 12.30 Mass (Rosary at 12.00) 17.00 Confessions until 18.00 17.45 Vespers 18.10 Vigil Mass for Sunday
HOLIDAYS OF OBLIGATION 18.10 (previous day) Vigil Mass followed by Vespers 7.30 Lauds 8.00 Mass (Dominican Rite) 12.30 Mass 18.10 Mass followed by Vespers
BANK HOLIDAYS 7.30 Lauds 8.00 Mass (Dominican Rite) 12.30 Mass, after which the church is closed
Royal Infirmary Chaplaincy: For urgent visits, ask ward staff to bleep the Roman Catholic Chaplain. For non-urgent visits, leave a message at the Priory or at the LRI Chaplains' Office. Messages may not be picked up until the end of the day.
Universities' Chaplain: Fr David Rocks: 0116 252 1512
Baptism Preparation: 1st Sunday of month after the 10.30 Mass. Baptisms: Saturday afternoons.
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