

Consider your call

On Friday past we celebrated the feast of St Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Jesuits. On Saturday, we celebrated St Alphonsus Liguori, founder of the Redemptorists. Next Tuesday we will celebrate St John Vianney of Ars, the patron of parish priests; and next Saturday, St Dominic, our own founder. These were quite disparate characters but each of their lives show a common pattern – a generous offering of themselves to the Lord for his service, coupled with a Spirit-given discernment as to how they could most profitably meet the challenge of preaching the good news in their time.

St Dominic began life as a canon in Osma – a group of priests sharing a common life operating from a particular church. His experiences – especially when travelling through the region of southern France in which many had been led astray by the pessimistic self-hating ideology of the Cathars led him to a deepening and extension of the way of life he had known – the founding of an Order of preachers, that the true faith might be taught and the joy of the gospel be made evident to people where they were – in the newly burgeoning towns and cities of Europe.

St Ignatius and St Alphonsus were two whose charisms answered the needs of the counter-Reformation Church. Ignatius, nursing a wound obtained in the vain pursuit of military glory found himself bored by the tales of chivalry which had previously inspired him, turned in desperation to tales of the saints, and was hooked. He went through a long period of conversion which he distilled in his Spiritual Exercises to help others to learn from his experiences, focussing on personal conversion and individual sanctification as the keys to Catholic reform. Ignatius gathered companions around himself and eventually this company developed into the Society of Jesus. His innovation was responding to the developing individualism of the age – while living under a rule and in obedience to a superior members of the Society largely exercised their apostolate as individuals, not needing a community – where one Jesuit was, there was the Order. This ensured them a flexibility that allowed them to respond quickly to the needs of the church, especially in providing missionaries to Asia and to the New World (in European parlance) of the Americas; and of course in catholic Education.

Unlike Ignatius, a late developer, Alphonsus was a highly-successful barrister in Naples who underwent a process of conversion and became a priest. He earned a reputation as an unaffected preacher “forgetting himself and preaching Jesus Christ” and an effective confessor, treating his penitents as souls to be saved and not criminals to be punished or frightened. He established a congregation of missionaries (eventually, the Redemptorists) to work among the peasants, an original and daring enterprise in absolutist Bourbon Naples. He became a leading moral theologian, a reliable guide in a time (the late 18th century) of increasing secularisation, dying aged 91 in 1787.

As Alphonsus died Jean Vianney was one year old. It seemed he wanted to be a priest from an early age but his family were poor and could not afford to educate him. He lived through the religious devastation caused by the French Revolutionary armies – we in Britain often forget that the depredations of the Revolutionary armies in Catholic regions of France like the Vendee were similar to those of Cromwell’s puritans in Ireland – and eventually after a struggle caused by his poor education was ordained and became priest in the village of Ars. The people he ministered to had been largely dechristianised and brutalised by the decades of war, and Vianney through himself vigorously into reforming and catechising. He can come over as a killjoy, though his strictures against taverns and emphasis on strict religious practice were sometimes the only practicable means of helping poor families move from destitution to respectable poverty – as the contemporary Methodist movement was doing in Britain. Vianney showed great spiritual discernment and his fame as a confessor brought huge crowds out seeking him. One remark of his is worth quoting: “a priest is always for others, never for himself”.

St John Paul II has characterised our current crisis in (especially) priestly vocations as a failure on our part to respond – the Lord is still calling labourers to his vineyard. Are we too easily distracted? Are we afraid to take on the risk of discipleship? Certainly those four characters who gave their lives to the Lord found themselves capable of more than they could have imagined; their lives full of difficulties, but also joy; pouring their lives out and gaining nothing less than the Kingdom. Are we listening?
Greg OP

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

2 August 2015

The Newsletter of HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER

www.holycrossleicester.org



Entrance Antiphon:	O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.
1st Reading:	Exodus 16:2-4,12-15
Psalm R:	The Lord gave them the bread of heaven. (Ps 78)
2nd Reading:	Ephesians 4:17,20-24
Alleluia:	Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.
Gospel:	John 6:24-35
Communion Antiphon:	<i>Either:</i> You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven, endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste. <i>Or:</i> I am the bread of life, says the Lord; whoever comes to me will not hunger and whoever believes in me will not thirst.

Baptism Preparation: the next session is on **6 September**; 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.

Ordination to the priesthood here at Holy Cross. You may recall that Bishop Patrick, in his pastoral letter last month, mentioned forthcoming ordinations in the diocese. One of the ordinands is Kevin Athaide, and many people may well recall that he was a server here some years ago (as was, incidentally, his brother Keith). His ordination will be on **Saturday 12 September at 11.30am**, and we do hope as many people as possible will be able to attend this very special occasion.

Saturday is the feast of St Dominic, and we will celebrate this occasion especially at the 12.30pm Mass. There will also be a sung Mass, in the Dominican Rite, at 7.15pm on Tuesday.

The Influences of the Dominican Order in the Middle Ages. This three-day conference in Oxford will have as its keynote paper ‘The Vital Impact of the Dominicans on Books at the University of Paris, 1217-1350’. The programme will feature papers on the Dominican influence in England, Northern Europe, Italy, Eastern Europe, and the Byzantine world; the influence of Friars on other movements and communities; Dominican influence on architecture, art, books, music and liturgy; and influential Dominican philosophers and theologians. In addition, the conference will include a walking tour of medieval Oxford, and a concert of music that can be associated with the Dominican Order. **Thursday, September 10, 2015 (all day) to Saturday, September 12, 2015 (all day).** See english.op.org/latest-news.

Please join us in the Parish Hall after the 10.30am Sunday Mass each week 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.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £956.57 (of which £359.08 was Gift Aided and £597.49 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 £26.43; Friends of Holy Cross £13.15; Holy Souls £18.70; Grenada Church Restoration £ - . The retiring collection for the Day for Life came to £155.93.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

Lost Property. If you have left anything in the church, please reclaim it from the sacristy – just see any friar or server. We have a selection of hats, spectacles, etc...

Friars Preachers. The Summer issue of this, the Newsletter of the Dominicans in England and Scotland, is available on the tables by the doors. Please help yourself to a copy.

Meister Eckhart and Divine Justice. The annual conference of the Eckhart Society will take place in Leeds from 4 to 6 September, including talks by three Dominicans, including Fr Greg. For details see www.eckhartsociety.org.



Today's Gospel:
"I am the bread of life".

World Youth Day July 2016 – Kraków. Celebrate your faith with Pope Francis and 2 million young people from all over the world! You are invited to join a small local group (minimum age 18 years by next July). Cost: approx £400 including travel, meals, accommodation, all events and insurance. Limited places. **To find out more come to a short meeting at St Peter's Church, Hinckley Road, LE3 0TA at 6:45pm on Tuesday 18 August.** Contact: Angela Bailey tel: 07758 270044.

News from the Parish Shop:

- ◆ The August edition of the Diocesan newspaper, *Catholic News*, is now available, price 20p.
- ◆ The latest issue of *The Vatican, past and Present* is available for £3.50. This glossy magazine has articles on the Pope's encyclical on climate change *Laudato Si'*, the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Migrants and Itinerant Peoples, and on the Apostleship of the Sea.

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.

Companions of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (CoM). The CoM is a key volunteer force for the charitable work of the Order of Malta in the UK. The CoM is keen to establish a Branch in Leicester and the East Midlands. Those who would like to join in the CoM's mission 'to practise our faith and to practise charity' are invited to meet Richard Fynes in the Parish Centre after the 10.30 Mass on **Sunday, 9 August**. Richard will be helping to co-ordinate the CoM's work in the area and he can be contacted by email at fynesclinton@yahoo.com.

Rosmini Centre: Wednesdays 6.00-7.00 pm. Adoration and Intercession. Changes – Fr. David Tobin leaves for Rugby and Fr. Binu Palakapally will take over in coordinating the Centre in mid August. Fr Ted Mullen stays as Fr President of Ratcliffe College. Fr David will be working on the spirituality and teaching of Blessed Rosmini.

Year 1	This week's calendar & Mass Intentions	Psalter Week 2
Sunday	Eighteenth Sunday per annum.	
Vigil	18.10	
	8.00 <i>Pro populo</i>	
Sung	10.30 Thanksgiving for Dr Rita Pal	
OP Rite	12.30	
	19.00 Private intention	
Monday	Feria	
OP Rite	8.00	
	12.30	
	18.10	
Tuesday	St John Mary Vianney, Priest	
OP Rite	8.00	☩ Dead of the Order of Preachers
	12.30	
	18.10	
Wednesday	Feria	
OP Rite	8.00	
	12.30	
	18.10	
Thursday	THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD	
OP Rite	8.00	
	12.30	
	18.10	
Friday	Feria	
OP Rite	8.00	Bernice - In honour of Holy Guardian Angels
	12.30	
	18.10	
Saturday	OUR HOLY FATHER DOMINIC, PRIEST	
OP Rite	8.00	Bernice - For the Holy Souls in Purgatory
	10.00	
	12.30	Divine Mercy - intentions and good health of Kester & Nel Rose Rocha
Next Sunday – Nineteenth Sunday per annum. Readings:		
1 Kings 19:4-8	Ephesians 4:30-5:2	John 6:41-51

Ride & Stride. We have been invited to join the Leicester Cathedral Walking Group on a walk around the City Centre churches, starting at St James the Greater at 9.45am on Saturday 12 September. Please get sponsorship beforehand, and there is nothing to stop you breaking off the walk at 11.30am to come to the Ordination here.

VACANCY: Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Education Service (NRCDES) are seeking to appoint a new Director of Education. Further details are available from either Julie Sweeney – julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk – or from the Diocesan Education Service website – www.nottingham-des.org.uk. Closing date 10th September 2015.

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 11.00am and on Saturdays from 10.30am.

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.
Parish Website: www.holycrossleicester.org
Website & Newsletter Editors: web@holycrossleicester.org holycrossnewsletter@gmail.com
CONTACT DETAILS
Holy Cross Priory 45 Wellington Street, LE1 6HW
Priory phone: 0116 255 3856 For home visits/recorded times of services: 0116 255 3856 Fax: 0116 255 5552
Parish Priest Fr David Rocks 0116 252 1512 leicester@english.op.org