

Christ has already won the victory

St. Mark's Gospel and today's 2nd Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews look at Christ's work of salvation from two very different perspectives. Mark tells us that that will only be completed when Christ finally comes in glory to gather us into God's kingdom. Considered from our human, temporal point of view, that will be at some future unknown date.

But today's passage from the Letter to the Hebrews looks at salvation from Christ's eternal perspective, which is an everlasting 'now,' not a temporal sequence. From that perspective Christ has already completed his work of salvation. That he achieved through sacrificing Himself on the cross. Through that single sacrifice He gained the forgiveness of all our sins. He needs to do nothing more to achieve our salvation. He has already achieved His goal and has entered into glory with His heavenly Father. Now He sits enthroned, triumphant, in God's kingdom. In the eternal now He rejoices in the defeat of all God's enemies, through the victory, which he has already won on the cross. That victory is already guaranteed.

But what about us, who live in the dimension of time, not of eternity? We may well wonder, if Christ has already won the victory against evil, how can there be so much sin and suffering in the world? We know only too well that we can and do sin. Our personal salvation is by no means certain. This doesn't mean that Christ has failed and that there is more for Him to do. What it does mean is that with God's help we must embrace the salvation Christ has already gained for us. But He won't and can't force us to love Him.

St. Luke's Gospel expresses this very poignantly, *'Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!'*

But none of us can draw close to God without His help. So the Letter to the Hebrews tells us that Christ, the eternal priest, constantly prays for us. More than this, at each Mass Christ renews the unique sacrifice of Himself, made on the cross for the salvation of the world. When we come to Mass and enter into its spirit we make our own the salvation, which Christ has already gained for us on the cross. And we are nourished by the Body and Blood of our crucified and risen Lord. That gives us the strength to die to sin and rise to new life in Christ.

The perspective of the Letter to the Hebrews is very encouraging! We can so easily become depressed by so much evil in the world, and fear that Christ has failed. But this letter assures us that Christ has already won the victory. He's done all that is necessary. He's given us all that we need. All that remains is for the salvation He has already gained for us on the cross to become a reality in each of our lives.

Isidore O.P.

Thirty-third Sunday of the Year

Year B

15 November 2015

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

www.holycrossleicester.org



Entrance Antiphon:	The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.
1st Reading:	Daniel 12:1-3
Psalm R:	<i>At 10.30: Preserve me God, I take refuge in you. Otherwise: Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. (Ps 16)</i>
2nd Reading:	Hebrews 10:11-14. 18
Alleluia:	Watch at all times, praying that you may be able to stand before the Son of man.
Gospel:	Mark 13:24-32
Communion Antiphon:	<i>Either: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful waters he leads me. Or: The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus in the breaking of bread.</i>

Baptism Preparation: the next session is **Sunday 6 December**; please come to the sacristy at the end of the 10.30am Mass. If you wish to have your child baptised here, you need to attend one of these sessions, usually held on the first Sunday of each month.

Donations for the Advent Market on Sunday November 29. We appreciate your efforts to donate any of the following goods. Prizes, cakes and biscuits, unwanted gifts, bottled goods, fair-trade goods (chocolates, coffee, sugar, honey, etc), good-quality paperbacks, DVDs, bric-a-brac, toiletries, raffle prizes, chocolate, sweets, pickles and jams, toys, games all welcome. (Sorry – we cannot accept video cassettes, clothes or electrical items). If you would like to run a stall at the Advent Market, your input and ideas would be very welcome; please contact any member of the community or email social@holycrossleicester.org. For further ways you can help, see overleaf.

Pray for Priests: A new prayer group has started on Thursdays following the 12:30pm Mass and will continue throughout the year. This is a meditative Rosary to pray for priests and is part of our celebration of 800th Anniversary of the approval of the Order of Preachers. All welcome. If you cannot join us on a Thursday, we invite you to consider offering your family prayers for priests each Thursday.

November is the month in which we remember the dead. Envelopes are available for names to go on the Dead List, and Mass will be offered every day in November for the repose of the souls of those on the Dead List. **There will be a Parish Requiem on Wednesday 25 November at 7.15pm** for everyone who is on the List, and for those who have died in the last year. There will be no 6.10pm Mass that day.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £930.93 (of which £299.00 was Gift Aided and £631.93 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 £1.82; Friends of Holy Cross £2.53; Holy Souls £3.56; Grenada Church Restoration £20.00.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

The Resurrection Choir of St Petersburg is visiting Leicester as part of its 2015 UK tour. They specialise in Russian liturgical music and folk song, and will be performing at Blessed Sacrament Church, Braunstone, on **Saturday 21 November** at 7.30pm. Tickets are £7.50 (concessions £5), and available from blessedsacrament@btinternet.com (or 0116 285 8795) or p.cusack@which.net (or 0116 239 3729), or on the door.



The organ sortie after the 10.30 Mass today: Prelude in C minor (BWV 546i) J S Bach.

The next organ recital will be on Wednesday 2 December at 7:30 pm. Simon Headley (Assistant Director of Music at the Cathedral) will play a programme of Advent organ music.

Today's Gospel: "At the end which is to come they will see the Son of Man coming in great power and glory ... but about that day and hour no one knows."

Interested in becoming a Catholic? The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) course will begin on **Monday 16 November** at 7pm. This programme is aimed at those who are interested in becoming Catholics, whether they have not been baptised or baptised in a different Christian tradition, and it is geared to the reception of sacraments at Easter. It also caters for adult Catholics who have not been confirmed, or those who simply feel it is time for a refresher course. Please see Fr David.

Time to show that you do care for the climate and put *Laudato Si* into practice! As the world leaders gather to contemplate the future of the planet, this is to give Leicester a voice to send a message to them in Paris that they need to make their talks count, and they need to bring about change! **On Saturday 28 November at 10.45am** there will be a short service at St John's Church in Clarendon Park Road followed by a march at 11.45am from Victoria Park Pavilion to Jubilee Square. We would love to enable people to see the march as an act of worship where they stand up for the planet we have been given responsibility for, and call for God's intervention and blessing on the talks as they take place. **There is also a national march in London on Sunday 29 November** – CAFOD are running coaches from Derby and Nottingham, but not Leicester – details from cj.mottram@ntlworld.com.

Rosmini Centre: Healing Mass, Friday 20th November, 7.00-9.00pm. Rosmini Centre House of Prayer, 433 Fosse Way, Ratcliffe on the Wreake, LE7 4SJ. (Half mile north of Ratcliffe College on A46).

News from the Parish Shop:

- ◆ In the coming weeks there will be a **pop-up shop in the church** before and after the 10.30am Mass on Sundays. Please make a bee-line for it and purchase Christmas presents, cards, etc, all at very competitive prices.
- ◆ The November issue of *Catholic News*, the diocesan newspaper, is now available, price 20p.

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.

Year I	This week's calendar & Mass Intentions	Psalter Week 1
Sunday	Thirty-third Sunday per annum	
Vigil	18.10 <i>Pro populo</i> 8.00 ✕ Holy Souls	
Sung	10.30 ✕ November Dead List	
OP Rite	12.30 Edmund Olaf, Leana, Anita 19.00 Genevieve, Dan & family's intentions	
Monday	St Margaret of Scotland	
OP Rite	8.00 ✕ November Dead List 12.30 Irena & Roman Olszewski 18.10 ✕ Ellen Connell	
Tuesday	St Hugh of Lincoln, Bishop	
OP Rite	8.00 ✕ Dead of the Order of Preachers 12.30 ✕ November Dead List 18.10 ✕ John Grady	
Wednesday	The Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts Peter and Paul, Apostles	
OP Rite	8.00 ✕ Jones & O'Neil families 12.30 ✕ Amy & Michael Lawrence 18.10 ✕ November Dead List	
Thursday	Feria	
OP Rite	8.00 ✕ November Dead List 12.30 ✕ Nicholas & Mary Fernandes 18.10 For Priests	
Friday	Feria	
OP Rite	8.00 ✕ Allwyn Francis 12.30 ✕ November Dead List 18.10 ✕ John Grady	
Saturday	The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
OP Rite	8.00 Bernice - for all souls of family 10.00 ✕ Deceased members of the Pinto family 12.30 ✕ November Dead List	
Next Sunday – OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE. <i>Today is Youth Day. Readings:</i>		
Daniel 7:13-14	Revelation 1:5-8	John 18:33-37

This year's Advent Market will be held on **Advent Sunday, 29 November**. This is a very important fund-raising event and there are **six easy ways you can support our fund-raising and help us to maintain and improve Holy Cross Priory and Church:**

- ◆ Buy and sell raffle tickets in advance of the Advent Market – please take some books of tickets to sell;
- ◆ Enter the raffle for Fr Isidore's latest painting;
- ◆ Bring in donations for the Advent Market (see the list on page 1);
- ◆ Come to the Advent Market and have a great time!
- ◆ Visit the Christmas shop for all your cards, calendars and gifts;
- ◆ Join us for the parish Christmas lunch (provisional date, Saturday December 5) and Advent/Christmas Carols Social (Tuesday December 15).

REGULAR SERVICE TIMES
SUNDAYS 8.00 Mass 9.00 Lauds 10.30 Sung Mass 12.30 Mass (Dominican Rite) - sung on 1st Sundays 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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