

Mary's Magnificat is the canticle of the People of God

Today, on the First Sunday of Advent, we begin a new liturgical year; that is, *a new journey of the People of God* with Jesus Christ, our Shepherd, who guides us through history toward the fulfilment of the Kingdom of God. Therefore, this day has a special charm, it makes us experience deeply the meaning of history. We rediscover the beauty of all being on a journey: the Church, with her vocation and mission, and all humanity, peoples, civilizations, cultures, all on a journey across the paths of time.

But where are we journeying? Is there a common goal? And what is this goal? The Lord responds to us through the prophet Isaiah, saying: "It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths'"(2:2-3).

This journey never comes to an end. Just as in each of our lives we always need to begin again, to get up again, to rediscover the meaning of the goal of our lives, so also for the great human family it is always necessary to rediscover the common horizon toward which we are journeying. *The horizon of hope!* This is the horizon that makes for a good journey. The season of Advent, which we begin again today, restores this horizon of hope, a hope which does not disappoint for it is founded on God's Word. A hope which does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints! He is faithful! He does not disappoint! Let us think about and feel this beauty.

The model of this spiritual disposition, of this way of being and journeying in life, is the Virgin Mary. A simple girl from the country who carries within her heart the fullness of hope in God! In her womb, God's hope took flesh, it became man, it became history: Jesus Christ. Her *Magnificat* is the canticle of the People of God on a journey, and of all men and women who hope in God and in the power of his mercy. Let us allow ourselves to be guided by her, she who is mother, a *mamma* and knows how to guide us. Let us allow ourselves to be guided by her during this season of active waiting and watchfulness.

From a sermon given by Pope Francis

First Sunday of Advent

Year C

29 November 2015

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

www.holycrossleicester.org



Entrance Antiphon:	To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.
1st Reading:	Jeremiah 33: 14-16
Psalm 113:	To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. (Ps 25)
2nd Reading:	1 Thessalonians 3:12 - 4:2
Alleluia:	Show us your merciful love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.
Gospel:	Luke 21: 25-28. 34-36
Communion Antiphon:	The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

Baptism Preparation: the next session is next 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.

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

Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. Holy Cross is one of the four churches in the diocese which will have a Holy Door. The Door will be formally closed on Sunday 6 December, and opened on Sunday 13 December to mark the opening of the Jubilee Year and as a sign of God's opening a new pathway to salvation. A jubilee year is a special year called by the Church to receive blessing and pardon from God and remission of sins. The Church has called jubilee years every 25 or 50 years since 1300 and has also called special jubilee years from time to time, known as extraordinary jubilee years. The last jubilee year was held in 2000 during the papacy of Pope John Paul II and was known as "the Great Jubilee". The last extraordinary jubilee year was held in 1983 to celebrate 1,950 years since the death and resurrection of Jesus.

**** The Advent Market is being held today, Sunday, all morning ****
Please visit the Market in the Parish Centre

Parish Advent retreat weekend, 5 & 6 December. Fr Gregory Pearson OP from London will be here for the weekend. He will preach at the 10am Mass on the Saturday, and give a talk between that Mass and the 12.30pm Mass. He will also preach at the morning Masses on the Sunday. There will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament between the Sunday morning Masses.

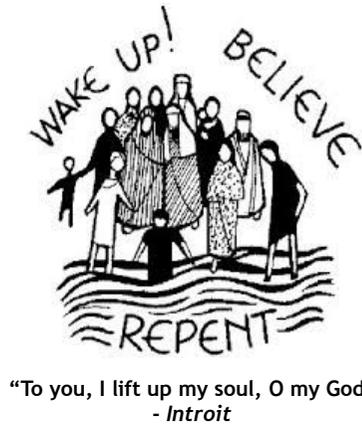
MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £858.55 (of which £314.50 was Gift Aided and £544.05 was not), and in addition the parish receives approximately £240 per week in donations made by standing order, nearly all of which are Gift Aided; Solidarity Fund £6.70; Friends of Holy Cross £14.20; Holy Souls £10.61; Grenada Church Restoration £ - .

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

There will be a Bring & Share meal after the 10.30am Mass on the 4th Sunday of Advent, 20 December.

Interested in becoming a Catholic? The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) course takes place each Monday 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.

Follow us on 'Facebook Holy Cross Priory Leicester (Dominicans)' for the latest news and updates on events here at Holy Cross.



"To you, I lift up my soul, O my God"
- Introit

Events at the Aquinas Institute, Oxford. • 'Care of Our Common Home – Reflecting On *Laudato Si'*', Saturday 5 December; • the annual Aquinas Lecture at 5pm, by Prof. Herwi Rikhof of the Thomas Instituut te Utrecht on 'The Treasure of St Thomas' Theology of the Trinity'; • the annual Aquinas Seminar series on "Aspects of Aquinas' Anthropology" begins on 28th January, Thursdays at 4.30pm, until 10th March, except for 3rd March when there will be an afternoon conference on "mourning" jointly sponsored by the Humane Philosophy Project; • Dr. William Carroll will give a special lecture at 8pm on 1st March, on "Time and Creation in Albert, Bonaventure, and Thomas". Contact the Director of the Aquinas Institute at richard.conrad@bfriars.ox.ac.uk.

Irish Society Christmas Party: Saturday 5 December, 8:00pm 'til late at St Patrick's Parish Centre, Beaumont Leys Lane. Dancing to Irene & Tom. Non-members welcome. Tickets in advance: £12 includes buffet. Contact Elaine (tel: 07753 693917).

FREE CAKE and a BIG Sing – join us in the parish hall after the 10.30 Mass on Sunday December 6 for a big sing of 'Deck the Hall'. No experience or talent needed but enthusiasm is essential! The aim is to have a bit of fun and prepare the carol to sing over Christmas. It should finish by 12.15. See Jeff Henry for more details or just come along after Mass – there WILL be FREE CAKE!

Holy Cross Advent to Christmas Social – Tuesday December 15 from 7.00-9.00pm in the parish hall. All welcome. Seasonal snacks and drinks provided (please bring some to share if you can). Entrance is FREE (although we do appreciate donations towards expenses). There will be Advent and Christmas carols to listen to or join in with if you wish .

Pray for Priests: The new prayer group on Thursdays will now begin at 12noon, and will continue throughout the year. This is a meditative Rosary to pray for priests and is part of our celebration of the 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.

Year II	This week's calendar & Mass Intentions	Psalter Week 1
Sunday	First Sunday of Advent	
Vigil	18.10 In thanksgiving - Juan Diego 8.00 ☩ Deceased members of the Andrade family	
Sung	10.30 <i>Pro populo</i>	
OP Rite	12.30 ☩ November Dead List 19.00 Allister & Milly - intentions	
Monday	ST ANDREW, APOSTLE, PATRON OF SCOTLAND	
OP Rite	8.00 ☩ Romeo & Noel Fernandes 12.30 ☩ All the souls 18.10 ☩ November Dead List	
Tuesday	Feria	
OP Rite	8.00 ☩ Dead of the Order of Preachers 12.30 Gloria - thanksgiving 18.10 ☩ Sean Grady	
Wednesday	Feria	
OP Rite	8.00 ☩ Diego Rodrigues 12.30 ☩ Joe & Doris Pinto 18.10 Hemanti Chauhan	
Thursday	St Francis Xavier, Priest	
OP Rite	8.00 Bernice - thanksgiving for graces received 12.30 ☩ David Lyons (anniversary) 18.10 Niru Chauhan	
Friday	Feria	
OP Rite	8.00 Bernice - for the Holy Souls in Purgatory 12.30 ☩ Lawrence Smith 18.10 Mrs Margaret Forde	
Saturday	Feria	
OP Rite	8.00 Bernice - in honour of the Holy Guardian Angels 10.00 Carlos Mol Vargas 12.30 ☩ Roy Jones	
Next Sunday – Second Sunday of Advent. Today is Bible Sunday.		
Readings:		
Baruch 5:1-9	Philippians 1:4-6.8-11	Luke 3:1-6

News from the Parish Shop:

- ◆ This week there is no pop-up shop in the church as the shop will be open throughout the Advent Market, and will signposted. Please make a bee-line for it and purchase Christmas presents, cards, etc, all at very competitive prices.
- ◆ We now have a section dedicated to St Martin de Porres. Do please come and have a look at the devotional items now available.

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.

VACANCY: A Programme Facilitator (1 year fixed term contract with hope to extend), to assist in leading retreat programmes for young people age 11-18 at the Briars Youth Retreat Centre, Derbyshire. £14k pa, plus accommodation suitable for a single person. Contact Angela Gillespie at angela@ndcys.com or 01773 852044. Closing date: Friday 4 December.

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
HOLYDAYS 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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