

OPENING of YEAR of MERCY

During Advent we think of our need for God to save us from the destructive power of sin. His response can be summed up in the word, 'Mercy.' Mercy, Pope Francis tells us, is the 'Face of God.' Since He has made us in His own image and likeness mercy must be the face of us, His children.

Pope Francis has declared a YEAR of MERCY, beginning on Tuesday, the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Especially during this year we will be urged to seek His mercy and to show His mercy.

Today I'm going to quote from the document proclaiming the Year of Mercy, and will focus on the '*corporal and spiritual works of mercy.*'

Pope Francis writes, "Let us rediscover these *corporal works of mercy*: to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead. And let us not forget the *spiritual works of mercy*: to counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, comfort the afflicted, forgive offences, bear patiently those who do us ill, and pray for the living and the dead.

"We cannot escape the Lord's words to us, and they will serve as the criteria upon which we will be judged: whether we have fed the hungry and given drink to the thirsty, welcomed the stranger and clothed the naked, or spent time with the sick and those in prison (cf. Mt 25:31-45). Moreover, we will be asked if we have helped others to escape the doubt that causes them to fall into despair and which is often a source of loneliness; if we have helped to overcome the ignorance in which millions of people live, especially children deprived of the necessary means to free them from the bonds of poverty; if we have been close to the lonely and afflicted; if we have forgiven those who have offended us and have rejected all forms of anger and hate that lead to violence; if we have had the kind of patience God shows, who is so patient with us; and if we have commended our brothers and sisters to the Lord in prayer. In each of these "little ones," Christ himself is present. His flesh becomes visible in the flesh of the tortured, the crushed, the scourged, the malnourished, and the exiled ... to be acknowledged, touched, and cared for by us. Let us not forget the words of Saint John of the Cross: "as we prepare to leave this life, we will be judged on the basis of love."

"*Merciful like the Father*' is the "motto" of this Holy Year....Let us open our eyes and see the misery of the world, the wounds of our brothers and sisters who are denied their dignity, and let us recognise that we are compelled to heed their cry for help! May we reach out to them and support them so they can feel the warmth of our presence, our friendship, and our fraternity! May their cry become our own, and together may we break down the barriers of indifference that too often reign supreme and mask our hypocrisy and egoism! ..." ('Face of Mercy,' 15).
Isidore O.P.

Second Sunday of Advent

Year C

6 December 2015

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

www.holycrossleicester.org



Entrance Antiphon:	O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.
1st Reading:	Baruch 5: 1-9
Psalm R:	<i>At 10.30: What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. Otherwise: The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad. (Ps 126)</i>
2nd Reading:	Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11
Alleluia:	Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight; all flesh shall see the Salvation of God.
Gospel:	Luke 3: 1-6
Communion Antiphon:	Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

Baptism Preparation: the next session is **TODAY, 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.

FREE CAKE and a BIG Sing – join us in the parish hall after the 10.30 Mass today 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!

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 TODAY, Sunday 6 December, and opened next Sunday, 13 December, to mark the opening of the Jubilee Year and as a sign of God's opening a new pathway to salvation.

Tuesday is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and there will be an extra Mass, at 7.15pm, sung and celebrated in the Dominican Rite.

The Leicester Theological Society's next talk will be given on **Friday 11 December** by Dr John Young, a trustee of St Philip's Centre, and the talk is entitled "Radical Orthodoxy - 14th century style: Piers Plowman". Meetings are held **here at Holy Cross, in St Clement's Hall** on Fridays at 7:30pm. Visitors are welcome (£5; students no charge).

The Parish Advent retreat weekend is THIS 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 £1057.02 (of which £415.35 was Gift Aided and £641.67 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 £9.20; Friends of Holy Cross £22.65; Holy Souls £21.40; 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.

Following discussions and a series of meetings earlier in the year, a Pastoral Core Group is now up and running and beginning to work on planning future developments for Holy Cross. Information will be available shortly in the form of leaflets and on our website and Facebook page. We are aiming to hold a Parish Mission in springtime which will help us to gather your ideas and concerns and incorporate them into our mission and strategic plan.

The Year of Mercy Parish Pilgrimage to Florence, Bologna and Siena will take place from 1 to 7 July. The cost will be £869, and Fr David has all the details.

The new Dominican Provincial Ordo gives details of the feasts observed by the Province throughout 2016. It is available to download from english.op.org (go to 'News & Events', then 'Ordo'), and there is a link to a website from which printed copies may be ordered.

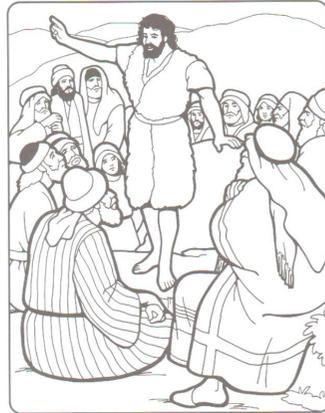
Follow us on 'Facebook Holy Cross Priory Leicester (Dominicans)' for the latest news and updates on events here at Holy Cross.

A parishioner is seeking part-time work, has well-rounded admin, writing & public speaking experience but other roles considered. Please contact Francisca on 07943 711549.

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 now begins 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.

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.



John went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Year II	This week's calendar & Mass Intentions	Psalter Week 2
Sunday	Second Sunday of Advent. Today is Bible Sunday.	
Vigil	18.10 Pat Farr 8.00 Quigley family	
Sung	10.30 Mr Alistair Best & family, Orthopaedic Surgeon (LRI) (thanksgiving)	
OP Rite	12.30 <i>Pro populo</i> 19.00 ✕ Eileen Brady	
Monday	St Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	
OP Rite	8.00 Special intention 12.30 Irena & Roman Olszewski 18.10 Fr Alastair McKay Csr	
Tuesday	THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, solemnity. There will be an extra Mass today at 19.15, sung in the Dominican Rite.	
OP Rite	8.00 ✕ Dead of the Order of Preachers 12.30 ✕ Marion Peutrell 18.10 ✕ Izzy Smith	
Wednesday	Feria	
OP Rite	8.00 ✕ All Holy Souls 12.30 ✕ Sheila Shanahan 18.10 ✕ Chris Hirrell	
Thursday	Feria	
OP Rite	8.00 Bernice Lichfield 12.30 For priests 18.10 ✕ John Johnson	
Friday	Feria	
OP Rite	8.00 Bernice - spiritual and temporal welfare 12.30 ✕ Patrick Farragher 18.10 Evelyn Harin	
Saturday	Feria	
OP Rite	8.00 Bernice Lichfield 10.00 ✕ Chris Hirrell 12.30 Sica's intentions	
Next Sunday – Third Sunday of Advent - 'Gaudete' Sunday.		
Readings:		
Zephaniah 3:14-18	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:10-18

News from the Parish Shop:

- ◆ There will be the usual pop-up shop in the church before and after the 10.30 Mass on Sunday. Please make a bee-line for it and purchase Christmas presents, cards, etc, all at very competitive prices.
- ◆ Christmas Novena cards are available. Enrol people in the Novena and send them the cards so that they know they will be prayed for.
- ◆ The Diocesan Yearbook for 2016 is now available, still at £3.
- ◆ The December edition of *Catholic News*, the diocesan newspaper, is available for 20p, and it has an article on Holy Doors and the Year of Mercy.

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.

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.
Parish Website: www.holycrossleicester.org Website & Newsletter Editors: web@holycrossleicester.org holycrossnewsletter@gmail.com
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Parish Priest Fr David Rocks 0116 252 1512 leicester@english.op.org