

## The YEAR of MERCY – continued

Last Sunday the Holy Door at the west end of this Church was formally closed; and today it will be formally opened again, to mark the start of the Jubilee 'Year of Mercy'. And last Sunday, Fr Isidore used the Back Page of the Newsletter to introduce the theme of the Year of Mercy, quoting from Pope Francis's letter to the Church, 'Face of Mercy'. But of course there is much more to be said about God's mercy, and ours, than can be fitted on to one page. In fact, mercy is one of the great themes running through the Bible.

Take, for example, the parable of the Good Samaritan. You remember that in the story the traveller is attacked by thieves who steal his money and leave him 'half-dead'. A priest and a Levite pass by but do nothing to help. Then a Samaritan comes along and is 'moved with pity'; so he does something about it, dressing the traveller's wounds and taking him to the shelter and comfort of the inn. At the end of the story, Jesus says to his hearers: 'Which of the three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' They reply: 'The one who showed him mercy'. And Jesus says: 'Go and do likewise'.

So this is a story about one person showing mercy to another. His mercy is practical help given to another in his need. It is not to do with feelings, at least not with comfortable feelings. The Samaritan was 'moved with pity', realising that if he had been in the same position he would have had desperate need for help; so he gives the wounded man what he needs. That is true mercy. It is a story which shows one person giving mercy to another, even complete stranger, even though it costs him much.

But it is also a story about the divine mercy. Jesus is the Good Samaritan, who sees our wounds and our distress, and sets about to bring us healing and comfort, even at the cost of Calvary. In fact of course it is this divine mercy which comes first. Because God has shown mercy on us, we are able to have mercy on one another. And that is what this Year of Mercy is all about. Pope Francis calls us to have practical mercy on our needy brothers and sisters, because that is what God has done for us all. He echoes the words of Jesus: 'Go and do likewise'.

Fr Fabian OP

Gaudete Sunday

Year C

13 December 2015

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

[www.holycrossleicester.org](http://www.holycrossleicester.org)



<b>Entrance Antiphon:</b>	Gaudete in Domino semper! Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b>	Baruch 5: 1-9
<b>Psalm <del>88</del>:</b>	Zephaniah 3:14-18a
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b>	<i>At 10.30: Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. Otherwise: Shout, and sing for joy, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (Isaiah 12)</i>
<b>Alleluia:</b>	Philippians 4:4-7
<b>Gospel:</b>	The spirit of the Lord is upon me; he has sent me to preach good news to the poor.
<b>Communion Antiphon:</b>	Luke 3:10-18

**Baptism Preparation:** the next session is on **Sunday 3 January**; 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.

**Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy.** Holy Cross is one of the four churches in the diocese which have a Holy Door. The Door will be formally opened TODAY, Sunday 13 December, to mark the opening of the Jubilee Year and as a sign of God's opening a new pathway to salvation.

**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.

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

#### Events at Holy Cross

**Tuesday December 15:** Holy Cross Advent to Christmas Carols Social, from 7.00 to 9.00pm in the Parish Hall. An opportunity to listen to various parish groups perform Advent and Christmas music and join in if you wish. Entrance is free and Seasonal treats will be provided. You may bring some to share if you can.

**Sunday December 20:** Bring and Share Christmas Lunch after the 10.30am Mass in the Parish Hall. A chance to relax and enjoy the company of the people of Holy Cross and enjoy a spot of lunch too. Entrance is free. Please bring along a plate of food to share if you can.

**MONEY MATTERS:** Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £1538.58 (of which £581.50 was Gift Aided and £957.08 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 £4.34; Friends of Holy Cross £30.38; Holy Souls £5.80; Grenada Church Restoration £ - . The retiring collection for the Advent Market came to £484.21 (of which £30 was Gift Aided), bringing the total for the Market to around £4000. Congratulations to all involved in any way.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

“On behalf of the Retired Diocesan Priests Appeal I thank the African choir from Holy Cross who travelled to Mother of God parish to add so much to the ‘Songs of Praise’ fundraising event on Sunday December 6.” – John Curran, Appeal Chairman.

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.

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.



Today's Gospel: "If anyone has two tunics he must share with the one who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same."

**City of Sanctuary: raffle prizes for Refugees and Asylum Seekers.** City of Sanctuary are having their last drop-in before Christmas on **Wednesday December 16th** (Holy Cross Centre, 11am to 2pm) and are having an ‘everyone wins’ raffle as well as little presents for the children. All their members, volunteers and supporters are invited – they have an enormous amount of takeaway pizza to get through so they have got to invite a lot of people. **They need prizes, and lots of them, however small.** So it's time to look through the cupboards and find all those lovely things you've always meant to give away but have not got round to. You can even come along and find out who wins them. Suggestions: woolly hats, scarves, socks, smelly stuff, something quintessentially British, food items, vouchers, something seasonal. **Please bring gifts to the sacristy after any Mass or take to the Parish Centre on Wednesday, or you can phone Mick on 07443 418430.**

**Pray for Priests:** The new prayer group on Thursdays now meets 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.

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](http://english.op.org) (go to ‘News & Events’, then ‘Ordo’), and there is a link to a website from which printed copies may be ordered.

Year II	This week's calendar & Mass Intentions	Psalter Week 3
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent - 'Gaudete' Sunday</b>	
	Vigil 18.10 Private intention 8.00 Bunten family	
	Sung 10.30 Maureen Fernandes (thanksgiving)	
	OP Rite 12.30 S M Nyahwa Foundation's work for peace & reconciliation 19.00 <i>Pro populo</i>	
<b>Monday</b>	<b>St John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church</b>	
	OP Rite 8.00 ☩ Deceased members of the Martinez family 12.30 Intentions of Fr Neil 18.10 Intentions of Fr Isidore	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Feria</b>	
	OP Rite 8.00 ☩ Dead of the Order of Preachers 12.30 ☩ Deceased members of the Lyons family 18.10 ☩ Deceased members of the Martinez family	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Feria</b>	
	OP Rite 8.00 Intentions of Fr Robert 12.30 Thanksgiving 18.10 Intentions of Fr David	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Feria</b>	
	OP Rite 8.00 Intentions of Fr Fabian 12.30 ☩ Jimmy Gallagher (anniversary) 18.10 Intentions of Fr Thomas	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Feria</b>	
	OP Rite 8.00 ☩ Holy Souls 12.30 ☩ Holy Souls 18.10 Intentions of Fr Neil	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Feria</b>	
	OP Rite 8.00 ☩ Holy Souls 10.00 ☩ Margaret Crossan 12.30 ☩ Deceased members of the Freaney family	
<b>Next Sunday – Fourth Sunday of Advent. Please pray for expectant mothers today. Readings:</b>		
Micah 5:1-4	Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-44

**News from the Parish Shop:**

- ◆ The usual pop-up shop in the church will be available after the 10.30am and 7pm Masses today. 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.

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.

REGULAR SERVICE TIMES
<b>SUNDAYS</b> 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
<b>MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS</b> 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
<b>SATURDAYS</b> 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
<b>HOLYDAYS OF OBLIGATION</b> 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
<b>BANK HOLIDAYS</b> 7.30 Lauds 8.00 Mass (Dominican Rite) 12.30 Mass, after which the church is closed
<b>Royal Infirmary Chaplaincy:</b> 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.
<b>Universities' Chaplain:</b> Fr David Rocks: 0116 252 1512
<b>Baptism Preparation:</b> 1st Sunday of month after the 10.30 Mass. <b>Baptisms:</b> Saturday afternoons.
<b>Parish Website:</b> <a href="http://www.holycrossleicester.org">www.holycrossleicester.org</a> <b>Website &amp; Newsletter Editors:</b> <a href="mailto:web@holycrossleicester.org">web@holycrossleicester.org</a> <a href="mailto:holycrossnewsletter@gmail.com">holycrossnewsletter@gmail.com</a>
<b>CONTACT DETAILS</b> 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 <a href="mailto:leicester@english.op.org">leicester@english.op.org</a>