

The Newsletter of
HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER

www.holycrossleicester.org



Let us entrust to Mary the expectation of peace

For three weeks we have been experiencing the liturgical Season of Advent: a season of openness to the future of God, a time of preparation for holy Christmas when he, the Lord, who is the absolute innovation, came to dwell among this fallen humanity to renew it from within. A message full of hope resounds in the liturgy of Advent, inviting us to raise our gaze to the ultimate horizon but at the same time to recognize the signs of the God-with-us in the present. In Advent the Word of God acquires the moving tones of the so-called “Second Isaiah”, who announced to the Israelites, tried by decades of bitter exile in Babylon, liberation at last: “Comfort, comfort my people”, the Prophet says in God’s name. “Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended” (Is 40: 1-2). This is what the Lord wishes to do in Advent: to speak to the heart of his people and through it to the whole of humanity, to proclaim salvation. The Church too raises her voice: “Make straight in the desert a highway for our God” (Is 40: 3). For the peoples worn out by poverty and hunger, for the hosts of refugees and for all who are suffering grave and systematic violations of their rights, the Church stations herself as a sentinel on the lofty mountain of faith and proclaims: “Behold your God! Behold, the Lord God comes with might” (Is 40: 10).

This prophetic announcement is fulfilled in Jesus Christ, who with his preaching and, later, with his death and Resurrection, brought the ancient promises to fulfilment, revealing an even deeper and more universal perspective. He inaugurated an exodus that was no longer solely earthly, in history, hence temporary, but rather radical and definitive: the transition from the kingdom of evil to the Kingdom of God, from the dominion of sin and death to that of love and life. Therefore, human hope goes beyond the legitimate expectations of social and political liberation because what Jesus began is a new humanity that comes “from God” but, at the same, time germinates on our earth, to the extent that it lets itself be fertilized by the Lord’s Spirit. Thus it is a question of fully entering the logic of faith: believing in God, in his plan of salvation, and at the same time, striving to build his Kingdom. Justice and peace are in fact gifts of God, but require men and women to be the “good ground” ready to receive the good seed of his Word.

The first fruits of this new humanity is Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary. She, the Virgin Mother, is the “way” that God prepared for himself in order to come into the world. With all her humility, Mary walks at the head of the new Israel in its exodus from all exile, from all oppression, from all moral and material slavery, toward the “new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” (2 Pt 3: 13). Let us entrust to her maternal intercession the expectation of peace and salvation of the people of our time.

From a sermon of Pope Benedict, delivered in 2008

Entrance Antiphon:	Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.
1st Reading:	Micah 5:1-4a
Psalm R:	<i>At 10.30: God of hosts bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. Otherwise: Restore us, O God, let your face shine, that we may be saved. (Ps 80)</i>
2nd Reading:	Hebrews 10:5-10
Alleluia:	Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord: let it be to me according to your word.
Gospel:	Luke 1:39-44
Communion Antiphon:	Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a Son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

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. A plenary indulgence may be gained by making a pilgrimage to our Holy Door (or any other). Please see the leaflet available on the tables by the doors.

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.

On Christmas Day, the Dominican Rite Mass will be at 12noon. There will be no evening Mass on Christmas Day.

Saturday, Boxing Day, is a Bank Holiday. Masses will be at 12.30pm and 6.10pm only, and the church will be closed between these Masses.

Last Advent Event at Holy Cross

TODAY, 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 £1323.63 (of which £609.50 was Gift Aided and £714.13 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 £2.27; Friends of Holy Cross £6.94; Holy Souls £6.48; Grenada Church Restoration £ - . The retiring collection for the Advent Market came to £71.43, bringing the total for the Market to around £4500. Congratulations to all involved in any way.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

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.



Today's Gospel: As soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb.

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.

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 (go to 'News & Events', then 'Ordo'), and there is a link to a website from which printed copies may be ordered.

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.

The Dominican Community wish all our parishioners and visitors a happy and holy Christmastide and New Year

Year II	This week's calendar & Mass Intentions	Psalter Week 4
Sunday	Fourth Sunday of Advent. Please pray for expectant mothers today.	
	Vigil 18.10 ✕ Jimmy Gallagher (anniversary)	
	8.00 ✕ Joseph Johnstone (anniversary)	
	Sung 10.30 ✕ Peggy Gale	
	OP Rite 12.30 <i>Pro populo</i>	
	19.00 Genevieve, Dan & family's intentions	
Monday	Feria	
	OP Rite 8.00 ✕ Dead of the Order of Preachers	
	12.30 ✕ Michael Downey	
	18.10 Intentions of Fr Thomas	
Tuesday	Feria. Anniversary of the approval of the Order of Preachers, 1216.	
	OP Rite 8.00 ✕ Simon Ya'u	
	12.30 ✕ Lilian & Arthur Fowell	
	18.10 ✕ John McFerran	
Wednesday	Feria	
	OP Rite 8.00 Private intentions	
	12.30 ✕ Cecil McBurney	
	18.10 ✕ Holy Souls	
Thursday	Feria, and Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord	
	OP Rite 8.00 Intentions of Fr Neil	
	12.30 D'Silva - intentions	
	Vigil 18.10 Dominican Community. <i>Children's Mass.</i>	
	Midnight Mass 23.30 <i>Pro populo</i>	
Friday	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	
	8.00 Charles Street Buildings Ltd	
	Sung 10.30 Peggy Ahearn (sick)	
	OP Rite 12.00 ✕ Holy Souls	
Saturday	ST STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR	
	OP Rite 8.00 NO MASS at this time today	
	10.00 NO MASS at this time today	
	12.30 ✕ Holy Souls	
	Vigil 18.10 <i>Vigil Mass of Sunday</i>	
Next Sunday – THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH.		
Readings:		
Sirach 3:3-7.14-17 or 1 Samuel 1:20-22.24-28	Colossians 3:12-21 or 1 John 3:1-2.21-24	Luke 2:41-52

Events at the Aquinas Institute, Oxford: • the annual Aquinas Lecture on Wednesday 27 January 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: Director of the Aquinas Institute at richard.conrad@bfriars.ox.ac.uk.

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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