

Brigid Brings the Spring!

I have always disliked January, and so I continue to hold fast to the Irish tradition that the first day of February is the first day of Spring! It is said that this day was in ancient times kept as the Day of Welcoming for Spring by the ancient Celts. It is also the Feast of St Brigid, Patroness of Ireland. One of the many legends told of St Brigid is that she was the druidess of a temple dedicated to the Celtic goddess of the same name, and converted the temple into a Christian monastery.

The following day, Candlemas, is the day when our Nativity scenes are put away. Forty days have passed since Christmas, and these have been days when the light has been precious. The blessing of candles on this day reminds us how important it is to be illuminated in the darkness, and as we begin to look forward for the extra daylight that is promised by the springtime, we hope that the season of Lent which will soon be upon us will be a time of light and grace in all of our lives.

This year, we have been particularly blessed to have the beautiful Nativity scene outside our church, on New Walk. So many people have stopped to comment on it and pray there. Later this week, it will depart for storage until next Advent. It was very moving to stand there on Christmas Eve, following the Vigil Mass, and sing carols with all our families. How distressing it was, just some days later, when parishioners and friars found the shattered remains of the Christ Child. So many people have sent messages of sorrow and regret.

The shattered pieces of the Christ figure remind me of the many children whose lives are shattered through abuse, neglect, violence, conflict, and other things of the sort. Our cruelty and inhumanity to one another is brought home to us most profoundly when we see children suffer. How many of us were moved to action some months ago when we saw the images of the drowned child on the beach, his parents having taken huge risk that he might know a better life.

The days of springtime ahead bring the assurance that things are getting better. It may be true that "we don't get great summers these days", but a dreary day in July is never as bad as in January. The season of Christmas having passed, we are all invited to embrace the promise of a better life through the season of Lent that lies ahead.

So as our nativity scenes are put away, let's pray that we will all be converted to live a better life. And let's remember all those whose lives have been shattered or damaged. Dwelling with us in our most extreme brokenness is the broken Body of Christ.

Fr David, OP

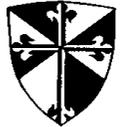
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year C

31 January 2016

The Newsletter of HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER

www.holycrossleicester.org



Entrance Antiphon:	Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.
1st Reading:	Jeremiah 1: 4-5. 17-19
Psalm R:	At 10.30: My lips will tell of your help. Otherwise: My mouth will tell of your salvation, Lord. (Ps 71)
2nd Reading:	1 Corinthians 12:31 - 13:13
Alleluia:	The Lord has sent me to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives.
Gospel:	Luke 4: 21-30
Communion Antiphon:	<i>Either:</i> Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you. <i>Or:</i> Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the land.

Baptism Preparation: the next session is **NEXT Sunday, 7 February**; 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 Leicester Theological Society's next talk, will be given on **Friday 12 February** by Dr Ann Conway-Jones, Honorary Research Fellow, Department of Theology and Religion, University of Birmingham, and the talk is entitled "Moses and the life of prayer". Meetings are held here at Holy Cross, in St Clement's Hall on Fridays at 7:30pm. Visitors are welcome (£5; students no charge).

News from the Parish Shop

- ◆ We have a range of Bibles and children's books at a variety of prices.
- ◆ There is a special section devoted to Divine Mercy.
- ◆ We have new rosaries.
- ◆ The latest issue of *Catholic News*, the diocesan newspaper is available for 20p, and includes an article on the work of 'Seeking Sanctuary' in helping migrants in the camp at Calais. See seekingsanctuary.weebly.com.

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.

Organ Recitals: 'First Wednesday' Concert Series at Holy Cross

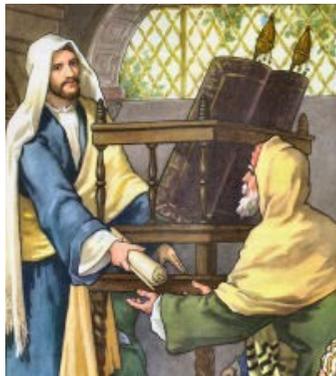
The next recital in the series will be held **this Wednesday, 3 February**, at 7.30pm, given by Ben Horden of Oundle School. Details of the other concerts in the series, on the first Wednesday of every month up to October, are given on flyers available from the tables by the doors. Admission is free, and there is a drinks reception in St Clement's Hall afterwards. In March the recital (to be given by Mr Thomas Keogh, our Director of Music) will be on the second Wednesday to avoid a clash with the Station Mass.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £1060.24 (of which £295.00 was Gift Aided and £765.24 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 £5.08; Friends of Holy Cross £7.68; Holy Souls £26.25; Grenada Church Restoration £ - .

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

Volunteer Befrienders for former homeless people. If you are interested in volunteering as a befriender for residents living independently in the community, 'One Roof Leicester' at St Martin's House is organising volunteers. If you are interested in being a befriender, training is required. The training will be over three hours and will cover: What is befriending, Roles and Responsibilities, and Ground rules and boundaries. If you have any questions then please email Santok Odedra at santok@oneroof.org.uk or call her on 07882 120 059.

A new style of Newsletter will be introduced in Lent. We hope that you will enjoy the new design!



"I tell you solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country" - *today's Gospel*

This year's Deanery Lenten Station Masses will be on Wednesdays at 7.30pm: St Thomas More, Knighton, 17 February; St Joseph's, Goodwood, 24 February; Holy Cross, 2 March; St Mary's, Wigston, 9 March.

Service of Reconciliation for the City and County of Leicester. Bishop Patrick will lead this service here at 7pm on Tuesday 1 March. We look forward to welcoming Bishop Patrick on his first visit to Holy Cross, and the pilgrims who will come to visit our Holy Door.

Year of Mercy: Prayers for Healing. Special prayers will be said for three days from the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Thursday 11 February. There will be a special Mass on Saturday 13 February at 12.30pm, and prayers for healing will be said at the 10.30am Mass on the Sunday.

Celebration of Married Couples. Bishop Patrick will say a special Mass at St Barnabas' Cathedral, Nottingham, on Sunday 21 February at 3pm.

The Dominican Jubilee 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.

Interested in becoming a Catholic? The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) course takes place each **Tuesday** at 7pm. This programme is for adults who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and First Holy Communion. Please see Fr David.

Please join us in the Parish Hall after the 10.30am Sunday Mass each week for tea, coffee, fruit juice etc. There is the opportunity for a chat with members of the Dominican Community and parishioners. We particularly welcome new students and other visitors.

Year II	This week's calendar & Mass Intentions	Psalter Week 4
Sunday	Fourth Sunday per annum.	
Vigil	18.10 ✚ Grahame Sturgess 8.00 ✚ Holy Souls	
Sung	10.30 ✚ Maria Fernandes	
OP Rite	12.30 Bridget Shearer 19.00 <i>Pro populo</i>	
Monday	Feria (St Brigid, Patroness of Ireland)	
OP Rite	8.00 ✚ John Beardsmore 12.30 ✚ Joan Stanley (1916-2016) 18.10 ✚ Nora Neale	
Tuesday	THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD	
OP Rite	8.00 ✚ Dead of the Order of Preachers 12.30 ✚ Holy Souls 18.10 Jan Staszczak	
Wednesday	St Blaise, Bishop and Martyr	
OP Rite	8.00 ✚ Maria Lubek 12.30 ✚ Maureen Walker 18.10 ✚ Holy Souls	
Thursday	St Gilbert of Sempringham	
OP Rite	8.00 Bernice - spiritual and temporal welfare 12.30 ✚ Roy Jones 18.10 ✚ Holy Souls	
Friday	St Agatha, Virgin and Martyr	
OP Rite	8.00 Bernice - Holy Souls in Purgatory 12.30 ✚ Rachel Stevens 18.10 ✚ Dora Frances Hoff	
Saturday	St Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs	
OP Rite	8.00 Bernice - Holy Guardian Angels 10.00 12.30	
Next Sunday – Fifth Sunday per annum. Today is the Day for Unemployed People. Readings:		
Isaiah 6:1-2,3-8	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Luke 5:1-11

Candlemas Day, or the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, is celebrated this Tuesday. There will be blessing of candles at all Masses. Please bring candles to be blessed.

The **Blessing of Throats** is traditionally imparted on the **Memorial of St Blaise**, which is on Wednesday of this week. The Blessing will also be imparted after Masses on **Sunday 7 February**.

The new Holy League. Cardinal Raymund Burke has encouraged Catholic men to consider joining a new 'Holy League'. The original Holy League was a union of committed Catholic rulers formed in the 16th century to counter the attacks of heresy and paganism. The new one is being formed for the sake of spiritual combat in our troubled times. We plan to hold a holy hour on the 2nd Friday of each month, with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a short spiritual talk and opportunity for confessions. **The first will be on Friday 12th February at 7:45pm.** The Holy League is open to any Catholic man aged 18 or more. For more information speak to Fr Thomas, or see the web-site <http://holyleague.com/>.

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.
Parish Website: www.holycrossleicester.org Website & Newsletter Editors: web@holycrossleicester.org holycrossnewsletter@gmail.com
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