

# HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH



SUNDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2016

25<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C

· A ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH · THE DOMINICAN PRESENCE IN LEICESTER SINCE 1247 ·

## FROM THE PRIOR'S DESK

*A huge thank you to everyone who made Holy Cross Day such a success last Sunday. Fr Martin, our Provincial, was very pleased to be here, and all the careful preparations paid off. Getting our Patronal Feast right is an important thing to do. It helps us to realise how much we need to appreciate each other, and the service we are called to give one another. Also, to recognise the work we need to do if we are to sustain and develop our community.*

*This is where the idea of the forthcoming Holy Cross Assembly was conceived. It is a crucial moment in our history. All of us have a responsibility to grasp this opportunity for our future development here at Holy Cross, and for the Catholic life of Leicester. It is a way for us to ensure that we can continue to provide support and encouragement to one another in the Faith. All of us have our part to play in that.*

*The Assembly is just a few short weeks away – Saturday 15 October, beginning with Mass at 10am. We are fortunate to have Fr Chris Thomas from our Bishops' Conference, and Julia Palmer from the Diocesan Offices, as our facilitators. They are both good friends of ours, and will help us to start mapping out our priorities and design our future.*

*The year has got off to a good start. This week, we say farewell to Br Joseph, who has had a very productive placement with us. We wish him well in his studies. We also say farewell to Fr Thomas, who will be ministering in Ireland until Christmas. I am conscious that a number of our parishioners are quite ill, and some are preparing for operations soon. We need to ask God to show us his love and care, and to imitate it*

*Fr David*

## DEVOTION TO THE MOST HOLY ROSARY

Our **Living Rosary** Initiative is planned make the Rosary a greater part of our personal prayer, our family life, and our prayer as a community. *Please see the documents that explain how the Living Rosary works.* We also hope that many of you will join us on our **Rosary Pilgrimage to St Dominic's Priory in London, on Saturday 22 October.** The coach will leave the Priory here at 8am and the cost will be £15. On this occasion, **Cardinal Nichols** will institute our Priory there as a **Shrine to Our Lady of the Rosary.** Please place your names in the shop if you wish to attend this wonderful and historic pilgrimage. We hope to establish the first decades in October.



**IUBILÆUM 800 1216-2016**  
ORDO PRÆDICATORUM

## NOTICE BOARD

### BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you wish to have your child baptised, please attend one of our baptism preparation sessions. The next is Sunday 2 October, after the 10:30am Mass in St Clement's Hall.

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CONFIRMATION

Forms for children and young people who wish to receive these sacraments in the new academic year (2016-17) are now in the Church. Please fill in and return.

### MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Couples who are preparing for the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony should make an appointment with the Parish Priest in the first instance.

### BECOMING CATHOLIC

Any adult who wishes to become a Catholic or receive Confirmation should join our RCIA programme, which begins in the Autumn Term.

### VISITING THE SICK

The Faithful who are sick and housebound can arrange a visit from a priest or special minister by calling 0116 252 1501.

### FAMILY VISITS

Families who would like a house blessing or a pastoral visit at home, can make arrangements by calling 0116 252 1501

## HOLY CROSS ASSEMBLY AND QUESTIONNAIRE

The Holy Cross Assembly will take place on **Saturday 15th October 2016**. Everyone is **warmly invited** to attend this important event. The Assembly is an opportunity to gather together as a community to discuss the life of our community and to think together about **how we can build on the good** we already do in order to make things even better. We strongly encourage you and your families to attend this important event in the life of our community - we would very much like to hear your views and ideas.

To begin the process of gathering people's views the **Pastoral Core Group** has produced a **questionnaire** which will be distributed this weekend. Please make every effort to **complete the questionnaire** as fully as possible when it comes out and to **attend the Assembly** on 15th October. **Lunch will be provided.**

## SOME EVENTS COMING UP ...

- Gospel Choir – **Every Tuesday** at 7:00pm, St Clement's.
- Mass for St Teresa of Calcutta – 12:30pm on Saturday 24 September
- Brahms' German Requiem – 7:30pm on Saturday 24 September, see website [www.holycrossmusic.co.uk](http://www.holycrossmusic.co.uk) for more details

## BREAKFAST CLUB AND MEET FOR A TREAT

**Breakfast Club** after **8am Mass** and **Meet for a Treat** after **10:30am Mass** will start again on **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October** and take place on the first Sunday of each month. **Come along and join us**, and lend a hand if you can!

## MASS FOR ST TERESA OF CALCUTTA

On Saturday 24 September at 12:30pm, we will celebrate a special Mass of Thanksgiving for the Canonisation of St Teresa of Calcutta.

## ST CLEMENT'S HALL RENOVATIONS

Many of you will remember that St Clement's Hall was vandalised earlier in the year. It has now been repaired, with the projector replaced, and a new sound system has been installed, at a cost of £5,000. We are hoping that we can raise some money to cover the cost of this outlay. There will be collections after Mass today for this purpose. Thank you for your continued generosity.

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## THE DOMINICAN COMMUNITY

Fr David Rocks OP PP *Prior*; Fr Isidore Clarke OP; Fr Fabian Radcliffe OP;  
Fr Neil Ferguson OP; Fr Thomas Crean OP; Fr Gregory Murphy OP;  
Fr Robert Gay OP CC *Subprior, Bursar*.

Office Administrator: *Mrs Rachael Powell* – [leicester.admin@english.op.org](mailto:leicester.admin@english.op.org)  
Lay University Chaplain: *Mr George Ralph* – [george.ralph@english.op.org](mailto:george.ralph@english.op.org)  
Director of Music: *Mr Thomas Keogh* – [thomas@thomaskeogh.co.uk](mailto:thomas@thomaskeogh.co.uk)

For the Office Administrator, please call **0116 252 1501**

**Holy Cross Priory, 45 Wellington Street, LE1 6HW. Tel: 0116 255 385**

For more details, visit: [www.holycrossleicester.org](http://www.holycrossleicester.org)

## MASS TIMES

### Sundays:

8am; 10:30am (sung);  
12:30pm (old rite);  
7pm

### Weekdays:

8am (old rite);  
12:30pm; 6:10pm

### Saturdays:

8am (old rite);  
10am; 12.30pm;  
*6:10pm Vigil Mass for Sunday*

## CONFESSION

### Saturdays:

10:30-11:30am  
5:00-6:00pm

## MONEY MATTERS

Last week's collections:

**£ 874.98**

(Gift aided: £ 285.00)

**Woodhouse  
Community**

**£ 117.50**

(Gift aided: £ 72.00)

*Last week's second  
collection for the Catholic  
Education Service  
(CESEW) came to £139.72.*

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
CONTINUED SUPPORT!**



# THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

## READINGS FOR THE 24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY

### 1<sup>ST</sup> READING: AMOS 8:4-7

Amos reminds the people that not only correct belief, but correct action is part of living an authentic life of faith. As the Catechism reminds us, we must never defraud the laborers of their wages.

### 2<sup>ND</sup> READING: TIMOTHY 2:1-8

Here Paul expresses the beautiful teaching that God wishes everyone to be saved. Human society is itself good, despite the many evils that afflict it. We should pray and work to improve it, not hatch schemes of destruction.

### GOSPEL READING: LUKE 16:1-13

It takes a sort of single-mindedness to stay on the way of salvation. Just as the dishonest steward focused all his energies on saving his skin, so we must focus all our energies, even among the trial of this world, on reaching a blessed eternity.

## DOMINICAN RITE MASS, XVIII SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### EPISTLE 1: COR 1:4-8

It is only by God's grace that we Our Lord Jesus Christ in this life, and only by the gift of perseverance that we can remain faithful until the end.

### GOSPEL: MATTHEW 9:1-8

Our Lord graciously confirms his gifts of grace with public manifestations of his divinity. So we have both an inward and outward conviction of his saving power. Only God can forgive sins, only God can heal by a word.

### NEXT SUNDAY –

### TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY *PER ANNUM*; EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (EF)

God does not call you to be successful.

He calls you to be faithful.

*St Teresa of Calcutta*

### ***The Jubilee Prayer***

God, Father of mercy, who called your servant St Dominic 800 years ago to found the Order of Preachers in the service of your Gospel, renew within the Church as we celebrate this Jubilee the Spirit of the Risen Christ, that we might faithfully and joyfully walk with St. Dominic as pilgrims and preachers of grace. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# THE WORD AT WORK: OUR WEEKLY REFLECTION

## A DOMINICAN ROAD MAP – DEVOTION TO MISSION

*Fr David continues his series of reflections on the Dominican way of life, inspired by the 800<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of our Order and the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy.*

The final Pillar of Dominican Life that we need to consider is Mission. As I described a few weeks ago, the edifice of Dominican Life needs to be sturdy. What we have considered already looks good on the basis of our three other pillars – prayer, study, community. The final column completes the symmetry. And it is this very word, symmetry, that is necessary when we consider Dominican devotion to Mission.

Dominican preaching makes no sense if it is not missionary. Unless the Preacher understands himself to be called to the service of others, and to devote himself entirely to this calling, he is doomed to failure. His whole life is ordered in this way, and the path he follows only makes sense in this context. But the Dominican is so engrossed with the other tasks placed upon him that he may struggle for time for this ministry. Except that he must realise that the demands made of him, and the life that he leads, is itself a mission. Dominican Life lived well is a most beautiful sermon, a full and rich act of preaching, a devoted service to the Church.

Beginning in mercy, and sustained by charity, the Dominican Preacher is invited into a constant contemplation of God. In every aspect of his life, he experiences that. God's love is constantly demonstrated to the Preacher in a variety of ways, and the life to which he is called demands a constant reflection on that wonderful reality. A life lived in this way makes preaching, mission, an imperative. In prayer, he has learned to taste God's mercy and experience his share in God's intimacy. He has studied that experience, recognising God's action in the lives of others and in the beauty of creation. In community he has put his experience and learning into action. In all of these moments, he has been faithful to his mission, bringing what he has received to others. This kind of holy life is a privilege for him, and through it God has enabled the Preacher to be greater than himself, to be a chosen instrument of salvation for the world.

It is a wonderful life. But it is lived in a hostile world. Preaching can be exhausting, especially when it is ignored. And because Dominican Preaching is not something that can be left aside, it demands constant attention. There are no holidays from being a Dominican – even when there are times of rest and regeneration, they are ordered to preaching and are moments of mission also. It is all too easy to be discouraged, and to stop preaching. To give it up is to step off the Dominican way. Yet there are so many temptations to do so, too many reasons why it might seem futile. This is why the pillars are so important, because there is always sustenance in prayer, in study, and in community. There are always new reasons to be found, consolations to be shared. There is the constant presence of God. There is a deep well from which we drink and know refreshment.

Dominican life is a great joy and privilege. Our devotion to mission means we have to share that with others, and that is a real grace, a true gift. It is by the example of our lives that we preach God's mercy. That's not terrifying, it's uplifting. The cracks in our person that need God's mercy allow it to be demonstrated in our lives, and to offer our constant conversion as a service to others. Let's follow this Dominican path together, in our own ways. It can only lead to beauty.

*Fr David Rocks O.P.*