

HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH



SUNDAY 24 JULY 2016

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C

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

FROM THE PRIOR'S DESK

As I write this, I'm speeding on a train through the Leicestershire countryside on my way to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes. I'll be there for most of the next week, as part of a pilgrimage with the Sovereign Military Order of Malta – one of the great lay organisations in the Church. Its charism is hospitality.

The wonders of "Dropbox" – a triumph in computer advancement, mean that I can edit this newsletter from outside the Priory, and the other members of our team can access it back there. I also wonder how many people are reading this newsletter many miles from Leicester through their email or on our website, members of the Holy Cross Family throughout the world, especially when so many of us are on holiday at this time.

Each time I travel to Lourdes, I remember the many times I have been before, and all the people I've met there. We always carry the intentions of so many people to Lourdes also. I will remember all of you in prayer there, and I will particularly ask Our Blessed Lady's intercession for the Holy Cross Assembly and all the things we hope will flow from that, as we work together.

Wherever we are in the world, we have the opportunity to be close to the Lord, and to one another, in the Mass. In the different places we find ourselves, let's recognise each other in the Eucharist. I will see each of you daily in Lourdes when I offer Mass there. Please pray for me, and for the pilgrims I am privileged to whom I am privileged to minister in the coming week.

Fr David

UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY IN LEICESTER

One of the great apostolates we are privileged to exercise here at Holy Cross is **chaplaincy to our two universities, DMU and the University of Leicester**. As part of our **development programme, On Firm Foundations**, we are looking towards development of this important ministry over the summer months and in the academic year ahead. Over the next few weeks, we'll be **asking for volunteers** to help us welcome the next crop of students during freshers' weeks. We would also like to hear ideas about how we can **get more involved** in the life of our universities as a parish community. Please email our **Lay Chaplain** to the Universities, **George Ralph**, at the email address: george.ralph@english.op.org



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 7 August, 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

You will be aware from previous announcements that 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 parish 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 parish - 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 is currently being piloted in the Woodhouse community and will be issued to all those who attend Holy Cross following the summer break and in readiness for the Assembly. 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.**

THE MERCY TOUR – SATURDAY 13 AUGUST

Some young people are involved in evangelisation for **the Year of Mercy** through this initiative, which will visit **Holy Cross on 13 August**. They will **engage in street evangelisation**, before welcoming people to Holy Cross in the evening to **pray and experience God's mercy**. Please contact George if you wish to get involved: george.ralph@english.op.org

BEEN TO MASS WHILE ON HOLIDAY?

If you're on holiday, do **make an effort to get to Mass** somewhere. Please pick up a newsletter, and **bring it back for Fr David**. Let's see how many different places we can cover.

ORGAN RECITAL @ HOLY CROSS

The next organ recital is on **Wednesday 3 August at 7:30pm**, followed by a glass of wine. The recitalist is **Michael Overbury**. Bring friends!

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

Lay University Chaplain: *Mr George Ralph* – george.ralph@english.op.org

Director of Music: *Mr Thomas Keogh* – thomas@thomaskeogh.co.uk

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

Holy Cross Priory, 45 Wellington Street, LE1 6HW. Tel: 0116 255 3856

For more details, visit: www.holycrossleicester.org

Holy Cross is part of the English Province of the Order of Preachers.
Registered Charity No 231192 in England and Wales. SC039062 in Scotland

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:

£ 1,088.44
(Gift aided: £ 437.12)

Apostleship of the Sea

£ 76.33

Woodhouse Community

£ 125.50
(Gift aided: £90.00)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!**



THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

READINGS FOR THE 17TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

1ST READING GENESIS 18:20-32

In what can be read as a slightly comic passage, a serious point is being made: the power of intercessory prayer. By praying, Abraham is not crudely seeking to change God's mind, but is exercising his priestly ministry of intercession, which God has already given him. Interceding for others is something we can all do.

2ND READING COLOSSIANS 2:12-14

All the sacraments get their power from Christ's death on the Cross. Baptism, symbolically and sacramentally, unites us to Christ's death, so that we can share his resurrection. We should no longer allow ourselves to be dominated by sin, as Christ has destroyed its power over us.

GOSPEL READING LUKE 11:1-13

We might be surprised that Jesus prayed, when we think that he is truly God. However, since it is proper to man to pray, as perfect man Jesus prayed perfectly. The "Our Father" is a summary of all of Jesus's prayer, and therefore, if properly understood, is the most perfect of all prayers.

DOMINICAN RITE MASS, IX SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

EPISTLE 1 COR 12:02-11

By the indwelling of the Holy Spirit we can confess the true humanity and divinity of Christ. The gift of the Spirit should lead to unity and not dissension.

GOSPEL LUKE 18:9-14

One of the prerequisites for genuine prayer is humility. Prayer is something that God moves us to do, so even our prayers come from Him, but are still genuinely our prayers. The publican knows this and realizes that, as St Augustine says: "We are all beggars before God."

NEXT SUNDAY –

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY *PER ANNUM*; ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (EF)

"WERE WE TO KNOW THE MERIT AND VALUE OF ONLY GOING FROM ONE STREET TO ANOTHER TO SERVE A NEIGHBOUR FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, WE SHOULD PRIZE IT MORE THAN SILVER AND GOLD."

"LET US DO EVER SO LITTLE FOR GOD, WE WILL BE SURE HE WILL NEVER FORGET IT, NOR LET IT PASS UNREWARDED."

BLESSED EDMUND RICE

THE WORD AT WORK: OUR WEEKLY REFLECTION

THE SEVENTH CORPORAL WORK OF MERCY: BURY THE DEAD

"BURYING THE DEAD" is the last in the list of Corporal Works of Mercy. Well may we ask, "Where is the mercy in burying the dead?" Funerals take place through the arrangements made between the bereaved, the funeral parlour and, maybe, with a minister of religion. A funeral commences once it is known that a person has died. Friends and family converge to comfort, console one another and pray together. It does happen that those who long have not been on speaking terms are brought together by grief.

Martha wept at the tomb of her brother, Lazarus; her sister wept in the privacy of their home. When Jesus wept for Lazarus, Martha and Mary, people remarked, "*See how much He loved.*" There's something very personal in the way each of us handles sorrow in his own way. This should be respected rather than be the subject of mean-minded gossip!

Martha, in the midst of her sorrow, found the faith, the courage, to exclaim: "*I know my brother will rise again at the resurrection on the last day,*" (Jn.11). We, as Christians, must bring such confident expectation to the burying of our own dead. Building on this Jesus then took Martha still further, "*I am the resurrection. Anyone who believes in me, even though that person dies, will live and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.*" Jesus, in making an enormous, extravagant, claim for Himself, challenges Martha, "*Do you believe this?*" "*Yes, Lord,' she said, 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'*"

These weighty words of Jesus and the forceful response of Martha must be at the core of any Christian burial. Through the hymns we choose, the sermons we preach we, as Church, should align ourselves with the death, resurrection, and entry into glory of Jesus. Following an early Christian practice, we pray for the dead - that God would purify, cleanse them of their sinfulness; that in His loving mercy, He would relieve them of penance still to be endured because of their sins. Through our loving prayer we play our part in their preparation for an eternity with God – their entering the Holy of Holies.

For us Christians a burial should be a deeply religious event reflecting our conviction:
WE COME FROM GOD –at the moment of our being conceived in our mother's womb;
WE JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE TOWARDS GOD –with His accompanying and assisting us
WE RETURN TO GOD – when we die...
WITH JESUS EAGER TO WELCOME US! WITH JESUS EAGER TO WELCOME US!"

We conclude this reflection with these words of St. Paul to the people of Thessalonika: "*We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, to make sure that you do not grieve for them, as others do who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that in the same way God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.*" (1 Thess. 4.13).

Let us ensure the funerals we celebrate have A FAITH-FILLED, HOPE-FILLED RESONANCE. This is what we Christians are to live by, this is what we are to die with

Peter and Isidore Clarke O.P.