

HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH



SUNDAY 31 JULY 2016 EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C

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

FROM THE PRIOR'S DESK

It seems like such a long time since I sat down to think about the newsletter last week. Sometimes, the holiday change of routine means that the weeks seem longer. The change can be 'as good as a rest', they say. But we must also remember those for whom the holiday period is stressful and uncertain.

Having said that, it has been a very busy week. While I've been in Lourdes, I've also been aware of the many things happening throughout the world. Some of our young people have managed to travel to World Youth Day in Poland, and encountered delays on their route. The pictures coming back are amazing, and I'm sure they're praying for us back home. Meanwhile, over in Bologna, the General Chapter of our Order is meeting in this 800th Year. Our own Fr Neil is there as one of the translators

In the midst of what has been a time of great grace, we have also witnessed the horror of the murder of Fr Jacques Hamel in France this past week. So many things have been said about this terrible happening, and the threat of terrorism looms large in our society. We need to pray for peace.

During my time in Lourdes this week, I was blessed to witness the selfless service of young pilgrims travelling with the Order of Malta. Many of them are people of great privilege and achievement, working hard to serve pilgrims of great mental and physical limitation. This kind of living out the Gospel is what is required of us all, and particularly at this moment.

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

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



IUBILÆUM 800 1216- 2016
ORDO PRÆDICATORUM

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

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:

£ 1040.93

(Gift aided: £ 303.11)

Woodhouse Community

£ 111.90

(Gift aided: £71.50)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!**



THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

READINGS FOR THE 18TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

1ST READING ECCLESIASTES 1:2, 21-23

The world-weary author of this book, Qoheleth, can appear rather negative to us. However, he is viewing the fickle fortunes of the world from the stand point of eternity. Compared to the great treasure that awaits us in heaven, everything on earth can seem paltry.

2ND READING COLOSSIANS 3:1-5, 9-11

St Paul continues the theme that compared to Christ, everything on earth that seems to promise happiness is, ultimately, futile. Our fallen humanity is tempted to create idols to adore, but we have had our minds and hearts renewed by Christ.

GOSPEL READING LUKE 112:13-21

What we put our effort into shows what sort of person we are. If we are superficial, we will concentrate only on the good things in this life. If we are renewed by Christ, we will store up treasure for ourselves in heaven, by true faith and good works.

DOMINICAN RITE MASS (EXTRAORDINARY FORM) XI SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

EPISTLE 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-10

Here St Paul gives a powerful profession of faith and links the articles of the Creed with the Apostolic witness and succession: "I handed on to you what I received..."

GOSPEL MARK 7:31-37

Our Lord cures a deaf and speechless man in a beautiful rite which involves all the five senses. This healing is made sacramentally present to us in the Ephpheta rite during the Sacrament of Baptism. All the Sacraments are, in sense, a prolongation of the Incarnation.

NEXT SUNDAY –

NINETEENTH SUNDAY *PER ANNUM*; TWELTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (EF)

*'IN ORDER TO MAKE GOOD USE OF TIME WE MUST LOVE ARDENTLY AND CONSTANTLY;
WE MUST SURRENDER OURSELVES ENTIRELY TO LOVE, LEAVING IT TO ACT FOR US.
BE SATISFIED TO ADHERE TO IT IN EVERYTHING, BUT ALWAYS WITH PROFOUND HUMILITY.'*

ST. MARGARET MARY ALACOQUE

THE WORD AT WORK: OUR WEEKLY REFLECTION

THE CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY – AN EPILOGUE

He'd come home from work, tired. You might say 'stressed-out.' He didn't simply sit down on an easy chair. He collapsed into it. As usual she brewed him a cup of tea. As usual she slammed it onto the table beside him. As usual, he gave her a feeble grunt of acknowledgement. She had done one of the Corporal Works of Mercy – hadn't she? No way! There was nothing of the 'rider' – 'as often as you did this...you did it to me!' Never, would she have treated Jesus in this rough, offensive way. And Jesus would never have used such insulting rudeness when receiving even the most grudging kindness! In composing our meditations on the Corporal Works of Mercy we have become convinced that they are about far more than meeting the physical needs of a human body -- nourishment, clothing, healing, housing.

Works of Mercy must be about one person helping another – with compassion, sensitivity, respect, love. . . a wholesome reaching out to the wholeness of another person. Each is ennobled with a God-given dignity -both the giver and receiver of merciful kindness. We would hope that the one who receives kindly consideration would show a friendly gratitude. In doing any of the Works of Mercy our attitude should be, 'I'm doing this for you because I know God wants me to. You're precious to me because you're precious to God.' It's all about our having a Christ-like attitudes towards people.

This kindles a closeness to them, a reverence for them. Our deep awareness of the loving kindness of our God, as expressed through the caring ministry of Jesus, should condition us to have an interest in people, to care about them, have time for them, and even to take care of them. We must never let ourselves become like the grumpy woman who had given her husband a cup of tea but nothing of herself - no warmth of love or friendship. It was for him to drink it– It was none the sweeter to him, because he had received from her! Nowadays, we have so many ways of short-cutting acts of kindness... the 'remote mentality' of recruiting someone to deliver our generosity so as to save us the trouble of taking it ourselves. Providing a service can easily become more important to us than being a face to face friend, who offers a warm embrace and engages in some cheerful chatter!

Surely the purpose of our reflecting on the Corporal Works of Mercy has been that all of us should have become more sensitive, more responsive to the physical needs that people have. We should have been inspired to do more for others, to love them more and to treat them with greater consideration and respect. We all have the privilege, the dignity, of being Ambassadors for Jesus, the Divine Physician, the Good Shepherd. We represent Him. He makes Himself present to us and through us. Jesus wants us to be the channels of His loving mercy. Such is our glorious vocation as followers of Jesus.

These reflections on the Corporal Works of Mercy have drawn their inspiration from the teaching of Jesus on the Last Judgement (Matt. 25). He wants us to realise that our Christian Spirituality, our Eternal Salvation, stands or falls on whether we are or are not merciful to those in need. We owe it to ourselves that we should hear these words, ***"Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take as your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world."***

Peter and Isidore Clarke O.P.