



THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

READINGS FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

1ST READING: ISAIAH 2:1-5

Isaiah sees the Temple of Jerusalem being exalted, and being visited by God himself. This is fulfilled in Christ, who is the Law who goes out from Zion, and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

2ND READING: ROMANS 13:11-14

Light is always associated with God in the sacred scriptures. With the coming of Christ in the Incarnation, we are living in one long day of the Lord. Jesus himself is the Light of the World. We should try and live up to the luminous integrity he shows us.

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 24:37-44

The Son of Man has already come once, at an hour that no-one expected, when he took flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary. He will come again at the end of time, to judge the living and the dead.

DOMINICAN RITE MASS:

EPISTLE: (SEE ABOVE ROM 13)

GOSPEL: LUKE 21:25-33

People have often said that Our Lord was wrong about the passing of the generation and the second coming of Christ. However, as the Fathers teach us, "generation" can stand for great periods of time in biblical language. Think of the generation from Adam and Eve until the flood. Since the Incarnation, we are all living in the last generation, looking for the coming of the Lord.

NEXT SUNDAY –

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A)

"The only true riches are those that make us rich in virtue. Therefore, if you want to be rich, beloved, love true riches. If you aspire to the heights of real honor, strive to reach the kingdom of Heaven. If you value rank and renown, hasten to be enrolled in the heavenly court of the Angels."

Pope St Gregory the Great

Give to the poor in handfuls!

Blessed Edmund Rice

Pope Francis:

Amoris Laetitia

Apostolic Exhortation on the Family

"I sincerely believe that Jesus wants a Church attentive to the goodness which the Holy Spirit sows in the midst of human weakness, a Mother who, while clearly expressing her objective teaching, 'always does what good she can, even if in the process, her shoes get soiled by the mud of the street'." [308].

THE WORD AT WORK: OUR WEEKLY REFLECTION

ADVENT

As we enter the Season of Advent, Fr Fabian will reflect with us on the meaning of this special time, and the readings we hear at Mass each week.

Well, here we are, almost at the end of November. The turn of the year is not far away, the days are getting shorter and the nights longer. The temperature is dropping, and we dread the possibility of a cold, frosty and snowy winter. We can feel the year drawing to a close; then there will be a pause of stillness before new life, light and warmth gradually begins to return. The end of one year is also the beginning of the next.

This is the season of Advent, a time when we look forward, but when we are very much aware of the present and the past. The Scripture readings for today show this.

In the first reading, Isaiah takes a long look forward, to the 'days to come' when God will finally establish his Kingdom, which he calls Mount Zion, or Jerusalem. All the nations of the world will flock to it, to worship God, to know his ways and walk in his paths. It will be a time of peace and justice: no swords, only ploughshares, a time of perfect fulfilment for all. He uses images from his own time to describe what God will bring about in the ultimate future.

But Paul and Jesus, in the other two readings, are taking a much shorter view. They are writing about the present, and how we should live now. Paul says 'the time has come', that is, the time of Jesus, when God's final salvation through Jesus' life, death and resurrection is on offer to us all. So, he urges us all to live steadily in the light and life of Christ. And Jesus warns us to be ready for what he calls the 'coming of the Son of Man'. And by this he means not just some moment in the future, but also His being present continually with us – which is real, even when we often do not realise it.

So, he urges us 'to be aware'. In the time of Noah, he says, people went about their ordinary business, unaware of the impending future, so they were unprepared for the flood which swept them all away. The 'coming of the Son of Man' is a crisis hanging over us, but far more important than the flood. Some will be ready for it, some will not. It's like two men working in the fields, or two women grinding corn together. Their work is the same, but one will be ready and the other will not. You never know when the burglar will break in. If you are not prepared, you will suffer the consequences. It's a rather grim message. But the vision that the prophet Isaiah offers, will give assurance and hope. And Jesus has promised to be with us, to the end, if we keep ourselves open to him.

Fr Fabian Radcliffe OP

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 FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION IS ON 8TH DECEMBER.
PRAY THE MEMORARE IN PREPARATION FOR THIS FEAST**

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To you do I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2016

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A

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

FROM THE PRIOR'S DESK

Here we are again, at the beginning of a new Church Year. Beginning today, we enact the story once again, journeying together with Christ as he shows the Father's love in action in our lives at all the different moments of the Liturgical Year. We proclaim the same Mystery in a world of change, with different challenges in our lives and all around us.

Advent is a time of preparation. Not just for Christmas – there's life after Christmas too. But for the whole of the proclamation of the Mystery of Faith. It's an important time for new beginnings, and so we should undertake to follow some simple Advent practice – a penance or a certain spiritual work, to encourage our hearts and minds to be prepared to receive Christ's love and mercy. It is an important time for the Sacrament of Confession, also

With the past year, being a Year of Mercy, and our 800th Jubilee, we've managed to achieve much. The Holy Cross Assembly gave us a great legacy, and it is setting our agenda for the next year, and the years beyond that. For us, as a Faith Community, Advent is a special time of prayerful preparation for the work we must begin to do together. Please God, all our hearts and minds will be formed by Christ's love and mercy, so that we can do this great work together.

Be intent on prayer, and whatever may happen will turn to our good.

Fr David

THE ADVENT MARKET – SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER

Today, the First Sunday of Advent, is our Market! This year, **we hope to raise £5,000** which helps to maintain and improve our Church and Priory buildings, parts of which are in very poor repair. Over the last number of years, the Advent Market and Blackfriars Market have raised over £30,000. There is something for everyone, so please do stay and join in the efforts. If each of us does one small thing, we can be sure that we will together to ensure the event is a success! A huge thanks to all who have worked so hard to make it happen.

TOWARDS ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

The times and schedules for Christmas will soon be available. Fr Oliver Keenan OP, one of our newly ordained priests, will lead our Advent Day of Recollection on 17 December, and will remain with us to preach on Sunday at Masses in preparation for Christmas. More details next week on our Pathway through Advent.



NOTICE BOARD

BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you wish to have your child baptised, please attend one of our baptism preparation sessions. The next is Sunday 4 December, 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

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PASTORAL COUNCIL – NATIVITY PLAY

This is a new initiative, aimed at encouraging some of our young people to demonstrate their leadership skills within our community, and to organise events and initiatives for others. Their first event is to organise the Nativity Play which is such an important part of our Christmas Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve at 6:10pm. The Council is jointly chaired by Raymond and Monica Ogunbowale. They write:

The Young People's Pastoral Council are organising a Nativity Play for Christmas Eve Mass and would like to involve children from the congregation in this special event. Parents may be able to help get the costumes and making the props for the play. The planning is on Sunday 4 December after 10:30am Mass. Please come if you would like your child to be part of this play.

LEICESTER WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

One Roof Leicester is coordinating this year's Winter Night Shelter which will rotate around 7 venues across the City. Opening from 12 December 2016 to 27th February 2017 the shelter will offer a warm and welcoming environment for our guests. We have a range of tasks and duties for volunteers to help make it a success. If you want to find out more about the project and the different duties and shifts you can go to: www.nightshelter.uk.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Each Thursday at 7pm – Catholicism 101 with Fr Robert. Please bring food. Video presentation followed by discussion.
- Our Sunday Holy Hour, 6-7pm – Rosary, Compline, Benediction. Organ Recital – **Weds 7th Dec 1930hrs** – Chris Ouvry-Johns (Director of Music at Leicester Cathedral). Drinks reception in hall afterwards.
- Informal Choir for the Advent/Christmas Period – Every Tuesday 1900-1930hrs, (before the Gospel Choir rehearsals).
- Sunday 4th December, Big Day for Events – Breakfast Club after 8am Mass. 'Meet for a Treat' event after 10.30am Mass, treats with a ginger and spice theme provided and 1600-1700hrs – Advent Service with mince pies and mulled wine afterwards in St Clements Hall.
- If you would like any more information, please email Rachael at leicester.admin@english.op.org or call her on 0116 2521501.

THE DOMINICAN COMMUNITY

Fr David Rocks OP PP *Prior*; Fr Isidore Clarke OP; Fr Fabian Radcliffe OP;
Fr Neil Ferguson OP; Fr Greg 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 252 1501

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:

£ 1,017.94

(Gift aided: £ 420.40)

Woodhouse Collection

£ 107.20

(Gift aided: £ 71.00)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*