



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2016

26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C

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

FROM THE PRIOR'S DESK

One of our teachers said to me this week that September is always a horrible month. I for one will be glad to see the back of September 2016. I've felt particularly close to families who are grieving and those accepting illness this September. At times when we are in pain, we can really experience God's grace. But for many people, pain is overpowering. There is a great need for us to pray for each other and become a caring community.

Life must go on. September brings with it the memories of bright summer days, and the fruits of their abundance. Things begin to settle in for the winter. Everything that we've shared comes to be appreciated. It can be difficult to rejoice in this at times, but we see God's goodness in one another.

Our Assembly is just a few short weeks away – Saturday 15 October, beginning with Mass at 10am. It is a great opportunity to reflect on the fruits of God's grace in our community. We are truly blessed to have such giftedness at our service in the Holy Cross Family. We need to recognise that, and be thankful. It can make our burden lighter.

It is wonderful to welcome all our new students to Leicester and DMU, and to welcome back our returning students. Our Universities give so much to our city and our community. George, our Lay Chaplain, has been doing great work. Please do send any students you meet in his direction, and look out for him on Campus.

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

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.

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.**

THINGS TO NOTE

- Gospel Choir – **Every Tuesday** at 7:00pm, St Clement's.
- The Trustees of St Philip's Centre want a new member in June. Sheila Brucciani has the details.
- Italian Mass, once a month – 14 October is the first one. Fr Robert is your man.
- Next Sunday is Rosary Sunday. Blessed Roses at all our Masses

FUNERAL THIS WEEK

The Funeral Mass of Cecelia Arnold will be celebrated this week on **Friday at 2pm**. Cecelia's remains will be brought to Holy Cross on **Thursday at 5:30pm**

and then we will celebrate the 6:10pm Mass together. Cecelia has been a central member of our Holy Cross Family for many years. *We send our love to Ron and all the family as we give thanks to God for what she has given. Eternal rest.*

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.

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 255 385

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:

£ 1140.64

(Gift aided: £ 449.47)

**Woodhouse
Community**

£ 79.50

(Gift aided: £ 72.00)

Last week's second collection for the renovations for St Clements Hall came to £321.03.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!**



THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

READINGS FOR THE 26TH SUNDAY

1ST READING: AMOS 6:1,4-7

Amos warns those who are blinded and coarsened by the pleasures of the flesh they will be the first taken into exile, in image for eternal punishment.

2ND READING: TIMOTHY 6:11-16

Paul advises the young bishop Timothy, but his advice can be taken by all of us! Paul ends with a powerful confession of the divinity of Christ.

GOSPEL READING: LUKE 16:19-31

This is possibly one of the examples of our Lords extremely dry sense of humour. He refers in a deeply ironic way to his own future resurrection, and how ineffectual it will be in turning people to God. Some will continue to disbelieve, despite the witness of the Sacred Scriptures and the Resurrection.

DOMINICAN RITE MASS, XIX SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

EPISTLE 4:23-28

St Paul talks about how the grace of Christ can renew and strengthen our minds. It is not the external imposition of laws but in interior renovation and illuminating of our very selves. This leads us to do good works.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 22:1-4

The marriage feast is one of the great images of the Kingdom of God. Our Lord confirms this image by his actions at Cana. The wedding garment is the sanctifying grace we receive at Baptism, itself signified sacramentally by a white garment.

NEXT SUNDAY –

TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY *PER ANNUM*; NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (EF)

We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean.

But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.

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

SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY – 1: INSTRUCT THE IGNORANT

Our Twin Clarke Team return for their series on the Spiritual Works of Mercy as the Jubilee Year draws to a close. This series will be interspersed with reflections from Fr Greg on some of the Dominican Mystics.

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect," (1 Peter 3. 15).

Gentleness and respect – that must always be our approach when teaching and preaching. We've all started off ignorant and have had to learn before we could teach. Never can we drain the inexhaustible fountain of the mysteries of faith. Each and every one of us, and the Church as a whole, must constantly be learning, constantly teaching.

Through our baptism we have been consecrated to share in Christ's Prophetic Mission of handing on the Faith we have received. That's a wonderful privilege and also a daunting responsibility. To make up for our deficiencies Jesus has sent the Spirit of Truth to help us.

He works within both the sharer and receiver of the Good News, giving us the sensitivity, the instinct, to discern what is true or false, right or wrong, to have a correct appreciation of the goodness of this world, and the awesome majesty of God. In other words, through the Holy Spirit we gain the mind of Christ. This sensitivity grows from our closeness to God, rather than our academic prowess.

St. Mark's Gospel tells us how 'instructing the ignorant' is a Spiritual Work of Mercy. ***"When Jesus went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and He felt compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and He began to teach them many things,"*** (Mk. 66. 34). We have been called to follow the compassionate Christ in instructing the multitude. Deep within each one of us there's a hunger for more than a materialistic world can offer. According to the prophet Amos the worst thing that could happen to us would be, ***"not a famine of bread, or a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord,"*** (Amos 8. 11). That would mean that communication between God and man, and therefore our relationship with Him, had broken down.

It's our responsibility to ensure that that does not happen –to provide this spiritual nourishment. While realising that we are to be shepherds, guiding people to the Kingdom of Heaven, we must always remember that we, too, are ignorant sheep, who need to follow the Good Shepherd. As the Father said on the Mount of Transfiguration, ***"This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him."*** He is the only way to the Father!

Peter and Isidore Clarke O.P.