



THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

READINGS FOR THE 27TH SUNDAY

1ST READING: ACTS 1:12-14

St Luke presents us with an image of the infant Church at prayer. Of course, they had inherited all the great traditions of prayer from the Old Testament, but are now renewed entirely by the giving of the spirit of the Risen Christ. The Church never prays without Our Lady, and Our Lady is always praying for the Church.

2ND READING:

GOSPEL READING: LUKE 1:26-38 – (SEE BELOW)

DOMINICAN RITE MASS: ROSARY SUNDAY

EPISTLE 8:22-35

Hear Wisdom speaks, as it were, *in persona Christi*, as the 2nd Person of the Blessed Trinity. These words can be applied by extension to Our Lady, who is the *Sedes Sapientiae*, the Seat of Wisdom, and among all people shares most deeply in the Wisdom of God.

GOSPEL: LUKE 1:26-38

It is impossible to meditate enough on the Gospel of the Annunciation. Here we see the perfect co-operation between grace and nature, even our human nature which in the case of Our Lady, was preserved entirely free from the stain of original sin. "O Blessed Virgin, speak your human word and conceive the Divine Word. Pronounce the transitory word and embrace the everlasting Word." (St Bernard of Clairvaux)

NEXT SUNDAY –

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY PER ANNUM; TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (EF)

*I have found the paradox, that if you love until it hurts,
there can be no more hurt, only more love.*

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 – 2: COUNSELLING THE DOUBTFUL

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.

"Let your acquaintances be many. but let your advisers be one in a thousand, "
(Ecclus.6.6).

So many of us have anxieties and doubts, even about God Himself and His Church. So many people do need wise, Godly advice. But what a huge responsibility to attempt the 2nd Spiritual Work of Mercy –to Counsel the Doubtful.

In the Prophecy of Isaiah God promised to send a '**WONDERFUL COUNSELOR,**' (Isaiah 9.5). Christians believe this was Jesus. He proved to be compassionate and wise. He spoke of Himself as the Good Shepherd, searching, reaching out to those who had lost their way in life. What is more, He claimed to be, '**the Way, the Truth and the Life!**' (Jn.14.6). Someone to turn to, someone to cling to.

Jesus knew a time would come when He would return to His Heavenly Father. Then He would act through His Church. He would prompt those with spiritual, religious doubts and problems to search out people who could continue His sensitive ministry of counselling. In assisting them we were to share God's truth, God's wisdom...not our personal opinions and piety. Even as pious people, especially as pious people, we must know our limitations. It would be irresponsible, even dangerous counselling, to tell someone, "If you have faith and I pray for you, all your problems will be solved." That person may urgently need to see a doctor, a psychiatrist, or a professional counsellor.

Like Solomon of long ago, we must pray for the humility to want the Wisdom that comes from God (Wisdom 9.3). We must also pray for those coming to us with their religious doubts and problems...that they may receive the grace to act upon the GODLY WORD they have heard – perhaps from us.

Today there are so many self-appointed shapers of public opinion; so many mixed messages, so much confusion! We should note well what St. John wrote in his First Letter, "**My dear friends, not every spirit is to be trusted, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets are at large in the world,**" (Ch.4.1).

There is a desperate need for this 2nd Spiritual Work of Mercy - Counsel the Doubtful. It is indeed a great act of mercy for godly sanity to save the world from the self-destruction it is bringing upon itself through the persuasive lunacy that advocates the soft option rather than the tough necessity!

Does anyone seriously believe that "The Voice of the People is the Voice of God?"

Peter and Isidore Clarke O.P.



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 2 OCTOBER 2016

27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C

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

FROM THE PRIOR'S DESK

Rosary Sunday is always a very special Sunday in our Dominican Churches. I always remember my Grandmother preparing and cultivating her rose garden so that the prime blossoms would be prepared for bringing them to be blessed on Rosary Sunday. The blessed roses are a great comfort to the sick and housebound.

This year it comes just before our Assembly, and in this Year of Jubilees it comes as we are thinking particularly about the Living Rosary Apostolate. Bishop Patrick has asked us to consider what the legacy of this year might be. We can use the Assembly and the Living Rosary to take a greater degree of responsibility for our preaching ministry to one another, and to think of ways to become more involved in spreading God's mercy.

Our Assembly is just a few short weeks away – Saturday 15 October, beginning with Mass at 10am. We hope that many of you will also join our Rosary Pilgrimage to London the following week. Later in November we will have the St Martin Novena, and we can use that to think of all the different ways we can show mercy here in our city of Leicester.

We are continuing to welcome our new students, and to see some of the old faces back again. Next week we will be praying for all those involved with our prisons. All our different apostolates are important and can be enriched when we work together.

Be intent on prayer, and whatever may happen will turn to our good. Cast all your cares on divine providence.

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 join us for 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 is almost upon us! It takes place **on Saturday 15th October 2016, beginning with Mass at 10am**. Everyone is **warmly invited** to attend this important event. The Assembly is an opportunity to gather together as a community to discuss how we do things 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.

CATHOLICISM 101 – A NEW PROGRAMME STARTING SOON

Using Bishop Barron's stunning series Catholicism, exploring our Catholic Faith, he journeys through many countries using art and the living Faith of Catholics, to help us discover the full meaning of our Faith. We will be using our beautifully refurbished St Clement's Hall to watch these films **each Thursday at 7pm**, beginning with a pizza, beginning on 13 October. Please take and share the flyers.

THINGS TO NOTE

- 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. Please see Fr Robert.

FUNERAL NEXT WEEK

The Funeral Mass of Ron Arnold will be celebrated next week on **Friday 14 at 2pm**. Ron's remains will be brought to Holy Cross on **Thursday at 5:30pm** and then we will celebrate the 6:10pm Mass together. Ron died just before Cecelia's funeral, and they have been members of our Holy Cross Family for many years. *Eternal rest grant unto them.*

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR PRISONERS 9 – 15 OCTOBER

This takes place next week, and at our 10:30am Mass, Fr Robert, our new Prison Chaplain, will take his Oath of Office. The Second Collection will be for Prison Chaplaincy here in Leicester, and there will be opportunities to reflect on how we can all get involved with Fr Robert's work in different ways.

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:

£ 1153.64

(Gift aided: £ 401.47)

Woodhouse

£ 147.50

(Gift aided: £ 107.00)

Last week's second collection for the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham came to £153.06

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!