



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 30TH OCTOBER 2016

31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C

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

FROM THE PRIOR'S DESK

It's hard to believe it has been a whole week since our wonderful pilgrimage to London for the Rosary Shrine Pilgrimage. There were so many reminders of the links between our two priories that go back so many years. A week later, and with an extra hour in bed this Sunday, we are settling in for the winter. It is nice for us to have these things to look back on.

November is the month when the theme of remembrance is placed before us. We approach the end of the Church Year, and we reflect on how the joys of this world do fade all too quickly. Warm feelings of remembrance can help us to hope that we can experience the fullness of joy in God's presence. It is comforting to recall the love and care of those gone before us, and while we can't see them, they remain in our hearts and we still love them dearly.

As we celebrate the great feasts of All Saints and All Souls, we bear witness to the great work of salvation that God is accomplishing in each one of us. Daily in November, when Mass is offered for the Holy Souls on our November Dead List, we are united with the Saints in praying for our departed loved ones. We are closely united with them in the Mass.

This week, we begin our Novena to St Martin de Porres. He is one of the greatest saints of our Order. Let's commend all our petitions, and all the efforts of our community, to his powerful intercession

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

Fr David

LOOKING TOWARDS THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

Tuesday of this week, 1 November, is All Saints Day, a Holyday of Obligation. Masses are: Vigil on Monday at 6:10pm; 8am; 12:30pm; 6:10pm on Tuesday. Mass will be offered at St Edward's Aylestone at 7pm on Tuesday. Masses on 2 November, Each Sunday in November, there is a Holy Hour for all the Faithful Departed from 6-7pm, which includes the singing of Compline by the Dominican Fathers..

NEW YOUTH GROUP

A new Youth Group is the first fruit of our Assembly. The initial meeting is next Sunday 6 November after 10:30am Mass in the Hall. 10-18 year-olds.



NOTICE BOARD

BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you wish to have your child baptised, please attend one of our baptism preparation sessions. The next is Sunday 13th November, 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

THE ADVENT MARKET – SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER

It's that time of year again, when we get ourselves ready for the Advent 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. Please put the date in your diary and begin bringing in goods, buying tickets, inviting friends, and working together to ensure the event is a success.

THE LADY CHAPEL ALTAR

Earlier in the summer, we removed the posts and screen behind the Lady Altar to have them repainted and repaired, as they were in poor repair. They have been returned to us looking very beautiful. We had hoped to have them restored in time for Our Lady's Birthday back in September. Unfortunately, the gable wall of the Lady Chapel has been badly damaged with damp, and we have been unable to replace them. Our contractors advise that a concrete step which adjoins the wall is the source of our problem. We are having the step removed and then we will need to restore the wall

ST MARTIN NOVENA AND MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

Our Novena to St Martin begins this week at all Masses from 3-11 November. Please bring your petitions to the Priory so that we can pray for his intercession. The Annual Requiem Mass for all our deceased parishioners takes place on Wednesday 23 November at 7:30pm. Please take pictures of loved ones to be remembered on this occasion. Please place the names of your deceased loved ones, together with your donation, into the envelopes for the Dead List.g

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Each Thursday at 7pm – Catholicism 101 with Fr Robert. This week we will enjoy a curry. Video presentation followed by discussion.
- Our Sunday Holy Hour, 6-7pm – Rosary, Compline, Benediction. A precious time to give to the Lord.
- Organ Recitals – this **Weds 2nd Nov 1930hrs** – Alan Montgomery and **Weds 7th Dec 1930hrs** – Chris Ouvry-Johns (Director of Music at Leicester Cathedral) Drinks reception in hall afterwards.
- Nov 6th – Breakfast Club after 8am Mass and Meet for a Treat after 10.30am Mass, all welcome
- Informal Choir for the Advent/Christmas Period – Every Tuesday 1900-1930hrs, (before the Gospel Choir rehearsals)

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

CONFESION

Saturdays:

10:30-11:30am
5:00-6:00pm

MONEY MATTERS

Last week's collections:

£ 1,392.31

(Gift aided: £ 795.50)

Woodhouse Collection

£ 167.54

(Gift aided: £ 109.00)

Last week's second collection for Mission Sunday came to £128.65

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!**



THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

READINGS FOR THE 31ST SUNDAY

1ST READING: WISDOM 11:22-12:2

In one of the most beautiful parts of the Old Testament we read that God's creative love is the power that holds everything in being. One of the greatest proofs of God's love is that we exist in the first place, and everything is good in as much as it exists.

2ND READING: THESSALONIANS 1:11-2:2

Following Our Lord's teaching, St Paul warns against those who try to hold God to a certain timetable. The end of the world will certainly come, but all in God's good time, not ours.

GOSPEL READING: LUKE 19:1-10

Zacchaeus embodies the joyful hope with which we should wait for the Lord. Perhaps with a certain irony, he climbs a tree to see the one who himself will be raised up on a tree, so that the whole of the human race can receive the mercy and conversation that Zacchaeus himself does.

DOMINICAN RITE MASS: SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING

In 1925 Pope Pius XI instituted this feast to help the Church contemplate the reality of Christ's everlasting reign. In a world, full of chaos and idolatrous government, we are strengthened by meditating on the one real sovereign, who reigned in triumph from a tree, and will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead.

NEXT SUNDAY –

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY PER ANNUM; TWENTY-FOURTH 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

Novena Prayer to St Martin de Porres

Most humble St Martin, whose burning charity embraces all, but especially those who are sick, afflicted, or in need; we turn to you for help in our present difficulties, and implore you to obtain for us from God, health of soul and body, and in particular the favour we now ask (here pause).

May we, by imitating your charity and humility, find quiet contentment all our days, and cheerful submission to God's Holy Will in all the trials and difficulties of life.

Pray for us, o St Martin. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray: O God, who exalts the humble, and who made St Martin your confessor to pass to the heavenly kingdom, grant by his merits and intercession that we may so imitate his charity and humility, so as to be exalted with him in heaven, through the same Christ our Lord, Amen

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

6TH SPIRITUAL WORK OF MERCY – COMFORT THE AFFLICTED

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.

Jesus used the Parable of the Good Samaritan to answer the lawyer's question, "Who is my neighbour, whom I'm supposed to love and comfort?" But according to Jesus that's the wrong question. Instead of trying to identify my neighbour, we should ask ourselves, 'What kind of neighbour am I?' Do I give someone in need the help I would welcome if I were in his situations?'

This approach is the very opposite of being a self-absorbed individualist. It belongs to our basic humanity – not something essentially religious –to respond to a casualty, as did the Good Samaritan...stranger to stranger. With Jesus, we could surely say, "***Even the pagans do as much, do they not?***" (Mtt.5.48). And some pious Christians do far less!

To be indifferent to other people's misfortunes is to be sub-human! Jesus' complete openness is very different, 'Come to me, all you who labour and are ***overburdened, and I will give you rest,***' (Mtt.11.28).

Did being the Son of God, make Jesus impervious to stress and strain? Certainly, not. Being human, He shared our frailty. During His Agony in the Garden He needed the presence and prayers of His closest friends. Deep was His sadness when they couldn't stay awake for even one hour, (cf. Mtt.26.40).

As He struggled on His way to Calvary He must have welcomed the comfort offered by the Daughters of Jerusalem and Veronica who wiped His sweaty, bleeding, face. Most of all, the loving support of His Mother, Mary, the other women and the Beloved Disciple standing at the foot of the Cross, must have meant so much to Him during the agony of His crucifixion.

There's much truth in the claim that we can only begin to understand and feel the impact of another's pain after we ourselves have had a taste of it! In becoming Man, the Son of God assumed the identity of the Suffering Servant described by the Prophet Isaiah, "***Yet ours were the sufferings he was bearing, ours the sorrows. He was carrying...we have been healed by his bruises.***" (Is.53). He alone was capable of carrying the burden of humanity's sinfulness, of making us totally acceptable to God. He alone could radically comfort us afflicted human beings, giving us a quality of peace that the world could never give.

Never should we think our efforts to comfort others in their afflictions are futile. For this and for all the other Works of Mercy the theme must surely be "***If I can help somebody as I pass along then my living shall not be in vain!***"

Peter and Isidore Clarke O.P.