



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2016

SOLEMNITY OF JESUS CHRIST, UNIVERSAL KING

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

FROM THE PRIOR'S DESK

Each year, the Solemnity of Christ the King marks the last Sunday of the Church Year, and we prepare to repeat the cycle again. We tell and retell this same story, reflecting on its significance for us as the times and seasons of our lives change. This year, it marks the conclusion of the great Jubilee of Mercy. We have all had the opportunity to experience God's mercy in a way during the past year, and to reflect on it more deeply. Mercy changes us, and so all of us are different than we were before.

During the season of Advent, we are invited to reflect on God who comes to visit his people and redeem them. That has happened in the coming of Jesus, who remains with the Church until the end of time. But it happens too in each one of us, as the loving-kindness of our God shines through our Christian living. We are invited to leave behind our old and unhelpful ways, and to live anew.

During the Year of Mercy, there has been a great deal happening here at Holy Cross. Things are different than they were before, and our work together at the Assembly has enabled a space in our community for God to show us his loving-kindness. It is my hope that, during Advent, we might work and pray together to prepare a place for the Lord to demonstrate his mercy in our community.

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

Fr David

THE ADVENT MARKET – SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER

Next week, 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. Please come along and bring your friends, there is something for everyone. If each of us does one small thing, we can be sure that we will together to ensure the event is a success!

THE HOLY CROSS REQUIEM – WEDNESDAY @ 7:30PM

In the **last week of the Church Year**, we gather to remember all those who are dear to us who have died, and all those who served Holy Cross so well. There will be a **candlelit procession** in memory of all our loved ones. **Please also bring pictures** of those who are deceased. Tea and coffee afterwards.



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.

TOWARDS ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Next week, the times and schedules for Christmas will be made 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.

PRO LIFE WITNESS – PRESENTATION NEXT SUNDAY

The Helpers of God's Precious Infants, a group of lay people, will be present at Masses next weekend, to discuss the important prayer apostolate they have to help people who are harmed or in danger of harm through abortion.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Each Thursday at 7pm – Catholicism 101 with Fr Robert. This week we will enjoy 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 20th November from 11.30-14.30pm in St Clements Hall (Light Lunch provided). Sunday 4th December, at 'Meet for a Treat' event after 10.30am Mass.
- 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:

£ 1,160.83

(Gift aided: £ 450.50)

Woodhouse Collection

£ 145.48

(Gift aided: £ 79.00)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!**



THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

READINGS FOR THE 34TH SUNDAY

1ST READING: MALACHI 3:19-20

As we near the end of the Church's liturgical year the readings direct our thoughts to the end of all to the end of all time and the day of Judgement. For some it will be a disaster, for others, their moment of glory.

2ND READING: THESSALONIANS 3:7-12

The common good is one of the main elements in our social and political lives. St Paul reminds us that those who are capable should work to maintain themselves and contribute to the general good of society.

GOSPEL READING: LUKE 21:5-19

Despite the certainty of the end, the Lord teaches us not to speculate too much about it, or believe those who say they know the day and the hour. Everything is accomplished in God's own time and not ours. In the meanwhile, we have plenty to do bearing witness to Christ. We might spare a thought here for our fellow Christians in the Middle East, who bear such moving witness to their faith in Christ.

DOMINICAN RITE MASS: 7TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

EPISTLE: THESSALONIANS 1:2-10

Once again St Paul mentions one of his favorite themes: The Theological Virtues. Here Paul rejoices that the Thessalonians have embraced the Gospel so wholeheartedly, and they themselves now bear witness to it.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 13:31-35

"Nothing great has great beginnings", is an old saying that resonates with today's Gospel. Even the pagan poets noted this general rule, *crescit occult velut arbor aevo* (Horace Odes 1:12). One of the signs of the Church's holiness is her small beginnings and eventual flourishing throughout the world. As a one-time Prior, of Holy Cross, Fr Vincent McNabb, used to say: "The best proof of the acorn is the oak."

NEXT SUNDAY –

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A)

"Oh, what happiness would be Ours if all men, individuals, families, and nations, would but let themselves be governed by Christ!"

Pope Pius XI – Quas Primas

Pope Francis:

Amoris Laetitia

Apostolic Exhortation on the Family

"It is one thing to be understanding of human weakness and the complexities of life, and another to accept ideologies that attempt to sunder what are inseparable aspects of reality. Let us not fall into the sin of trying to replace the Creator. We are creatures, and not omnipotent. Creation is prior to us and must be received as a gift.

At the same time, we are called to protect our humanity, and this means, in the first place, accepting it and respecting it as it was created."

THE WORD AT WORK: OUR WEEKLY REFLECTION

EPILOGUE TO THE WORKS OF MERCY - FAMILY LIFE AND THE WORKS OF MERCY

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.

Now that we've concluded our reflections on each of the Works of Mercy I'm going to suggest that in our homes there are plenty of opportunities for each of us to put them into practice. We can all give a helping hand around the house. We can all show an interest in how different members of the family have spent the day. This calls for loving sensitivity and compassion, as we make time for each other.

But even in the most loving of families we sometimes tread on each other's toes –hopefully accidentally. We sometimes say and do things, which hurt those closest to us. If so, God expects us to apologise for the pain we have caused, and forgive those who have hurt us. Without the resilience of mercy family life will be so brittle it will fall apart.

In our families, there are many opportunities for us to be God's voice in comforting, encouraging and teaching. Through our hands He heals the sick, clothes the naked and feeds the hungry. Such activities cause us to reach out unselfishly to others in their need -to be generous givers of ourselves.

Sometimes we will have to care for a sick member of the family. When there's a death in the family we will need to draw, close and comfort each other. It's so important that we should pray for each other, preferably together.

Loving care for our nearest and dearest should come naturally. But as we share in God's own infinite love and compassion what seems trivial and transitory assumes an eternal value. We become God's channels and ministers of mercy!

There's a great need for us to make quality time to enjoy each other's company, to listen to each other's joys and sorrows. No one should be allowed to feel neglected and lonely. And yet we can become so absorbed in electronic gadgetry, that we literally have no time for each other. Such indifference can spell the death of family life!

Learning to be compassionate and considerate in the home should inspire us to respond to the needs of those in the 'outside world' -the work place, school, or playground, people suffering severe hardship in distant lands. Pope Francis sees a desperate need for us to overcome the modern evil of what he calls, 'globalized indifference' to the needs and feelings of others.

Let us start in the home to undermine this 'globalized indifference' and reach out to the world through the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy! They are meant to provide a programme for action, not just a subject for pious reflection.

Peter and Isidore Clarke O.P.

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.