



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 22ND JANUARY 2017

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

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

FROM THE PRIOR'S DESK

As the Newsletter was being prepared, we were watching the Holy Father celebrate Mass in the Lateran Basilica to mark the end of the 800th Year celebrations. It was nice to see familiar faces on the screen, recognising Dominicans from all round the world. Some of them have welcomed us to their countries over the years, some have worked and lived with us at different stages, and all gathered round the altar while Pope Francis celebrated Mass so beautifully. It was nice to be able to join this celebration through the marvels of modern media.

It seems like such a long time since we opened the Jubilee Year on 7 November 2015. On that day, our bells at Holy Cross featured in an online project to mark the beginning of the year, and the Order prepared for a whole series of special events. It coincided with the great Year of Mercy, and there has been much to think about.

Next week, it will be wonderful to be joined by our Bishop to give thanks for this year, and to pray that what we have learned and experienced will bear a new kind of fruit in our ministry here in Leicester. We have worked hard to develop our apostolate over the last year, and there is a great deal more to do. Please God we will have the grace to do it.

But we begin by giving thanks. Lifting our hearts in heartfelt thanksgiving to God allows us to see what he has already done for us, and helps us to be open to his grace doing even more wonderful things!

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

Fr David

800TH JUBILEE – A CELEBRATION OF THANKSGIVING

We are delighted that **+Patrick our Bishop** will join us for a **Mass of Thanksgiving for Dominican Life in our Diocese** on **Saturday 28 January 2017 at 12:30pm**. This will be an opportunity to give thanks for everything we have celebrated during this special year, and to look forward to what we can achieve together in the future

THE DOMINICAN COMMUNITY

Fr Isidore is back with us at the Priory, and is continuing to rest and recover from his recent illness. We are grateful for all the prayers and good wishes that have been sent his way, and for all those who have offered their help during the period of his illness.

NOTICE BOARD

BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you wish to have your child baptised, please attend one of our baptism preparation sessions. The next is Sunday 5 February, 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



MISSION APPEAL: MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA

Many thanks for your generosity and welcome for Fr Joseph last weekend. We have been able to send him over £1,000, which is very generous. Your prayers and support for the Missionary activity of the Church are greatly appreciated. Many thanks once again.

OCTAVE OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

This is the traditional time of prayer for Christian Unity, between 18-25 January. We ask that all Christians may be drawn together in Christ, and we pray that through our unity many more people will come to know the Lord. There is a special service for Christian Unity which will take place on Wednesday 25 January at 7pm in Leicester Cathedral. Please join in this special act of worship in our city during this Octave of Prayer, together with our Christian neighbours.

CATHOLICISM 101 BEGINS AGAIN SOON

Last term we used Bishop Robert Barron's videos to look into our faith more deeply and reflect on our Catholicism together in a very basic way. This term we will delve into our faith life again, and in particular reflecting on the moral teachings of the Catholic Church. The sessions will begin on 9 February at 7pm. Please save this date and tell those who may be interested.

BECOMING A CATHOLIC

An information evening for any adult who is interested in becoming a Catholic will be held on 26 January at 7pm in the Hall. Please spread the word!

PRIORY AND PARISH FINANCES

There has been a severe delay in preparing our annual accounts for the year that ended on 30 September 2016. However, our finished accounts arrived on Friday, and so we will be producing a report very soon. The good news is that we are now healthily in the black on both sides, and this is down to your support for us.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Our Sunday Holy Hour, 6-7pm – Rosary, Compline, Benediction.
- Catholicism 101 restarts in February, 7pm on Thursdays 9, 16, 23 February.
- Shared Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – 7pm at Leicester Cathedral, 25 January 2017. Organised by Churches Together.

THE DOMINICAN COMMUNITY

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

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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:

£ 1059.18

Woodhouse Collection

£ 211.00

(Gift aided: £ 107.00)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!**



THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1ST READING: ISAIAH 8:23–9:3; SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-13. 17

What is striking and moving in today's readings is the line: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." That line must have boosted the troubled Israelites in the 8th century BCE with the spirit of hope, and as recycled by Matthew it underlines the huge leap of hope that the appearance of Jesus brought. History is numbing, meaningless, depressive, ghastly, yet "hope springs eternal in the human breast." Many dismiss it as childish wishfulness, but others celebrate the incredible power of hope — "A beat of wings! and aeons lie behind us" (Goethe) — and hope is along with faith and love one of the three powers that are fundamental to the New Testament and its message of the Kingdom of God.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 4:12-23

Today's Gospel is about Jesus beginning his mission, calling his first disciples, and beginning to travel from place to place, to proclaim that the kingdom of God was close at hand. It marks the beginning of the ministry of Jesus. John had been arrested, so that was the end of the ministry of John. The gospel tells us that instead of going to Nazareth (in other words, instead of going home), Jesus went to Capernaum. The show was on the road, as it were. As it happened, the prophet had foretold that this would happen. I don't think that the sayings of the prophets are what influenced Jesus. He was led by the Spirit, and that led him into the fulfilling of all the prophecies. Aren't they powerful words used by the prophet to describe what happens when Jesus appears among them? "The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who lived in the land where death cast its shadow, a light has shone."

NEXT SUNDAY –

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

The limitless loving devotion to God, and the gift God makes of Himself to you, are the highest elevation of which the heart is capable; it is the highest degree of prayer. The souls that have reached this point are truly the heart of the Church.

St Theresa Benedicta of the Cross
(Edith Stein)

Pope Benedict XVI:

"There is nothing more beautiful than to be surprised by the Gospel, by the encounter with Christ. There is nothing more beautiful than to know Him and to speak to others of our friendship with Him."

THE WORD AT WORK: OUR WEEKLY REFLECTION

THE GOSPEL THIS WEEK – THE DANGERS OF LOVE

Fr Timothy Radcliffe ponders the dangers of falling in love with the One who is Love incarnate.

After the testing in the wilderness, Jesus is ready to begin his preaching, but everything seems to go wrong. John the Baptist is arrested and so Judea, the heart of the Holy Land, becomes too hot for Jesus. He even leaves his home territory of Nazareth for Capernaum, “the Galilee of the Gentiles”, as it was called.

But as so often, this apparent setback is a new beginning. It foreshadows the community which will come to be, of Jews and Gentiles. It is here Jesus meets his first disciples. When we are forced out of our “comfort zone”, God’s grace brings new things into existence. This too is the experience of those whom Jesus calls. These simple uneducated fisherman are called to leave behind the familiar life they inherited from their ancestors, taken out of their depth, and be caught up in the life of this alarming stranger. Eventually they will be despatched beyond the boundaries of the world they know.

Becoming a disciple of Jesus can be thoroughly unsettling. One has no idea what will be asked and how one will cope. It is a perilous adventure, especially alarming for our timid culture with its fear of risk and obsession with health and safety. The great preachers of the gospel are those who are not afraid to lose control of their lives. For example, Samuel Mazzuchelli, born to a wealthy Milanese family in 1806, alarmed his family by joining the Dominicans when he was seventeen. At the age of twenty-two he was despatched to preach the gospel in the wild forests of the upper Mississippi, almost entirely alone. It was mad and we would hesitate to take such risks today, but it led to the establishment of the Church there.

God’s love often propels us into deep waters where we must either sink or trust in him. To love anyone is risky. Who knows what it will involve? How much more dangerous to fall in love with the one who is love incarnate. This is an invitation to lose control of our lives. This frightening call is the heart of Pope Francis’ spirituality: ‘There is no greater freedom than that of allowing oneself to be guided by the Holy Spirit, renouncing the attempt to plan and control everything to the last detail, and instead letting him enlighten, guide and direct us, leading us wherever he wills.’ ‘I have the sense of being in someone else’s hands, as though God were taking me by the hand.’ So the Christian imagination should defy the timid neuroses of our time.

Last summer the Polish Province was dispatching a number of our young friars to work in the refugee camps around Erbil, in northern Iraq. Of course it is risky; Christianity always is. At Pentecost the disciples received the Holy Spirit that propelled them on a mission to the whole world. But they were reluctant to go and leave the small and familiar community of the early Church in Jerusalem. Finally it was persecution that dislodged them. God sometimes resorts to desperate means.

800 years ago, when St Dominic received the bull founding the Order of Preachers, he sent the brethren to preach and study all over the world. Some did not want to go but, for once, he insisted, saying ‘Stored grain rots’. Where might the Lord be sending us today? We must dare to grapple with questions to which we have no easy answers and try ways of preaching that may well fail. When the waters of the deep threaten to overwhelm us, then, like Peter further on in the adventure, we shall find a firm hand reaching out to lift us back into the safety of the boat. Let us not be afraid.

Fr Timothy 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.