

# HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH



SUNDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2017

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

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

## FROM THE PRIOR'S DESK

*We have just concluded our wonderful Mass of Thanksgiving for the 800<sup>th</sup> Jubilee. It was wonderful to welcome Bishop Patrick among us, and to hear his inspiring words. In private conversation, he mentioned how genuinely impressed he is with the On Firm Foundations project that we have here' looking towards renewal of everything that we are doing here. As the Bishop indicated in his Homily, he will watch with interest to see what we can achieve with it.*

*It has been a hectic week here at the Priory. Fr Isidore continues his recovery, and it is very good to have him back amongst us. He is still limited in regards to his physical strength and energy, but with his twin brother Fr Pete to encourage him on Skype, both brothers are busy preaching on the Internet. What a wonderful example of religious life he is for those of us in our youth.*

*Christian Unity week has passed also. We had a beautiful joint service at Leicester Cathedral, although it was a pity more people couldn't make it. The week ahead is busy too, with Candlemas and St Blaise, then on to the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, and praying for the sick and their carers. Do join us for that.*

*For those of us lucky enough to be Irish, we celebrate St Brigid's Day on Wednesday, and the first day of spring. Winter is passing by, and we look forward to brighter days. One fun thing this weekend is the great British bird watch. How many robins did you count on your way to Mass today?*

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

*Fr David*

## 800<sup>TH</sup> JUBILEE – A MESSAGE OF THANKS

Grateful thanks are offered to everyone who made the Mass of Thanksgiving such a wonderful occasion, but also for all of your prayers and support through the Jubilee Year. It has been wonderful to see what we can achieve together, and we have the opportunity to bring to fruition some of the things this year has enabled for us.

## FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES – 11 FEB

The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes is on Saturday 11 February. We will hold a Rosary Procession at 12noon, followed by the Mass of Healing at 12:30pm. During this Mass, we invite all health care workers to have their hands blessed, and we will hold the Blessed Sacrament Procession after Mass. There will also be a Mass for Healing and Procession at 10:30am on Sunday 12 February. Please do spread the word to anyone who might be interested.

## 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

## 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.

## PILGRIM VIRGIN STATUE VISIT TO HOLY CROSS – JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>

The National Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima will visit Holy Cross on Thursday 1 June 2017. The statue is making a pilgrimage round the country to mark 100 years since the apparitions at Fatima, and we are very privileged that it will come to Holy Cross. Over the next few months, we will be preparing to receive this statue and we will share more details with you in due course.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

Thursday this week is Candlemas, and there will be a sung Mass at 12:30pm, and an additional Sung Mass in the Old Rite at 7:15pm. Friday is the Feast of St Blaise. Blessing of throats at all Masses, and at Masses on Sunday.

## THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Our Sunday Holy Hour, 6-7pm – Rosary, Compline, Benediction.
- Catholicism 101 restarts in February, 7pm on Thursdays 9, 16, 23 February.
- 8.00 Mass Breakfast Club returns on Sunday February 5. Meet in the Parish hall after Mass for a bacon or egg bap and toast galore with tea/coffee/fruit juice. There is no charge for this and it's a great opportunity to meet up as a community. See you there.
- 10.30 Mass 'Meet for a Treat' returns on Friday February 5. Meet in the parish hall after Mass for a free treat with your tea/coffee/fruit juice. This month we are providing treats with a Polish/East European theme and would welcome anyone who would like to contribute some treats - just bring them along on the day.

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## 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](mailto:leicester.admin@english.op.org)

Lay University Chaplain: *Mr George Ralph* – [george.ralph@english.op.org](mailto:george.ralph@english.op.org)

Director of Music: *Mr Thomas Keogh* – [thomas@thomaskeogh.co.uk](mailto: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](http://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:

**£ 1050.01**

(Gift aided: £ 294.43)

### Woodhouse Collection

**£ 145.86**

(Gift aided: £ 77.00)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
CONTINUED SUPPORT!**



# THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1<sup>ST</sup> READING ZEPHANIAH 2:3, 3:12-13; SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:26-31

In the First Reading, Zephaniah describes the kind of people who find favour with God. The “remnant of Israel,” a people humble and lowly, who trust in the name of the Lord – will escape the severity of divine judgement at the end of time. In the second reading, Paul reminds us that we are to rely not on our own efforts, but on God’s power. Paul reminds his community in Corinth that their first converts came from among the poorer, socially deprived classes. They ought not now be arrogant and rebellious.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 4:12-23

Today’s Gospel reading which recalls Christ’s preaching of the Beatitudes is one which causes a lot of soul-searching for Christians, something which is evidenced by a certain feeling of unease every time we hear them. Yet Christ never intended that they should be anything other than an encouragement to us. They make no demands, they are not a law, they do not lay a new yoke on Christ’s disciples. They are a description in eight striking sentences of the marvellous freedom which the truly devout soul enjoys. Jesus is speaking from experience, because he himself lived the Beatitudes in his own life, and it is only by living them also in our lives that we can discover how true they are. In line with the Old Testament, it would seem that St Matthew’s “poor in spirit” was a reference, not so much to those lacking worldly possessions, but rather to those who found themselves in humble circumstances and continued to make do without complaint, those whose spirits remained free despite their lowly social standing and their servile behaviour, which were in such stark contrast to the arrogance and assertiveness of those who controlled the sources of wealth, and also were its principal beneficiaries.

### NEXT SUNDAY –

### FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

*If I have any worth, it is to live my life for God so as to teach these peoples;  
even though some of them still look down on me.*

St Patrick  
Apostle of Ireland

Pope Benedict XVI:

“The life of the community, both domestically and internationally, clearly demonstrates that respect for rights, and the guarantees that follow from them, are measures of the common good that serve to evaluate the relationship between justice and injustice, development and poverty, security and conflict.”

# THE WORD AT WORK: OUR WEEKLY REFLECTION

## CLOSING THE JUBILEE YEAR – POPE FRANCIS REFLECTS

*The Holy Father preached beautifully at the conclusion of our 800<sup>th</sup> Jubilee. We do well to reflect on his words.*

The Word of God presents us today two opposite human scenarios: on one hand the 'carnival of worldly curiosity' and, on the other, the glorification of the Father through good works. And our life always moves between these two scenarios.

In fact, they exist in every age, as Saint Paul's words to Timothy demonstrate (cf. 2 Timothy 4:1-5), and also Saint Dominic and his first Brothers, who moved between these two scenarios 800 years ago.

Paul warns Timothy that he must proclaim the Gospel in the midst of a context where people are always looking for new teachers, myths, different doctrines and ideologies ... "Prurientes auribus" (2 Timothy 4:3).

It is the carnival of worldly curiosity, of seduction. Therefore, the Apostle also instructs his disciple with strong words, such as "urgent," "convince, rebuke," "exhort", and then "be steady," "endure sufferings" (vv. 2-5).

It is interesting to see how already then, two thousand years ago, the Apostles of the Gospel found themselves before this scenario, which in our days has developed and globalized, given the seduction of subjectivist relativism.

The tendency to seek novelties, proper to the human being, finds its ideal environment in the society of appearance, of consumption, in which often old things are recycled, but what is important is to make them seem new, attractive, captivating.

Truth is also made up. We move in the so-called 'liquid society,' without fixed points, without axes, deprived of solid and stable references, in a culture of the ephemeral, of usage and of discarding. Highlighted clearly in face of this worldly 'carnival' is the opposite scenario that we find in the words of Jesus, which we just heard: "Give glory to your Father who is in Heaven."

And how can one pass from this pseudo festive superficiality to glorification? It is realized through the good works of those who, becoming disciples of Jesus, have become "salt" and "light."

"Let your light so shine before men – says Jesus – that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in Heaven." In the midst of yesterday's and today's 'carnival,' this is the answer of Jesus and of the Church, this is the solid support in the midst of a 'liquid' environment: the good works we can do thanks to Christ and to His Holy Spirit, and which gives birth in the heart to gratitude to God the Father, praise, or at least to the question "Why," "Why does that person behave like this?," disquieting the world in face of the testimony of the Gospel.

However, for this 'shakeup' to happen, salt must not lose its taste and the light must not be hidden (cf. Matthew 5:13-15).

Jesus says it very clearly: if salt loses its taste, it's no longer useful. Alas if salt loses its taste! Alas a Church that loses her taste! Watch out for a priest, a consecrated person, a Congregation that loses its taste!

Today, we give glory to the Father for the work that Saint Dominic carried out, full of the light and salt of Christ, 800 years ago; a work at the service of the Gospel, preached with the word and with life; a work that, with the grace of the Holy Spirit, has helped so many men and women to not be dispersed in the midst of the 'carnival' of worldly curiosity, but who instead savoured the taste of healthy doctrine, the taste of the Gospel and became in turn light and salt, craftsmen of good works ... and true brothers and sisters that glorify God and teach <others> to glorify God with the good works of life."

**+ Francis**  
*Bishop of Rome*