



# HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2017

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

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

## FROM THE PRIOR'S DESK

*It was not a great day for the Irish as we sat down to finish off the Newsletter this week. Perhaps England will have better luck. By the time you read this, we will know the details. Hopefully we can all remain friends, and be pleased to rejoice in the success of others. It's sport, after all, and is all about human flourishing.*

*Human flourishing is the theme of Catholicism 101 this term. That's what the Church calls us to in her moral teachings. Too often, the Church's teaching is presented in a negative manner. But the great challenge of that teaching is to choose to live more fulfilled lives. If we're listening carefully, that's what Pope Francis is challenging us to do, in reflecting on how well we live that teaching out, and communicate it with joy. That's what we hope to do in Catholicism 101 this term. Please join us. We start on Thursday at 7pm*

*This week we said farewell to Fr Neil, who has gone to spend some time away in preparation for his new assignment to the missions in Quito, South America. Our Community is going through a time of transition, and we are grateful to you all for your continued support. Fr Isidore is feeling well in himself, and thanks you for all the prayers and concern. Please continue to pray for our community and our life and mission. We are busy preparing to welcome two new priests in the summer.*

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

*Fr David*

## DOMINICAN COMMUNITY – AN UPDATE

Fr Neil has now left our community in preparation for his new assignments to the missions in South America. We thank him for all his contributions during the last number of years. This means that the Dominican Community is reduced significantly. We expect two new priests to be assigned to the community in the summertime. In the meantime, we are grateful for your understanding and continued support for all of 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 – THIS THURSDAY AT 7PM

Catholicism 101 this term will focus on the Church's moral teaching, and is entitled: Living Life to the Full – becoming a joyful and faithful Catholic. The first session, led by Fr Robert, will explore what it is to be a human person, and how we can celebrate that especially as Catholics. The sessions start at 7pm with baked potatoes. Please come along and bring your friends.

## 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.

## DOMINICAN ROSARY PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY IN JUNE

From Wednesday 14-21 June 2016, a pilgrimage to sites associated with Our Lady and the Holy Rosary, including Loreto, the site of the Holy House, the great Franciscan Shrines at Assisi, St Padre Pio's Shrine in San Giovanni Rotondo, and Pompei, the Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary. Inclusive price: £1,165. Please see the flyers, and make contact if interested.

## 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 today, 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' after Mass today, 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.

---

### THE DOMINICAN COMMUNITY

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

**£ 1341.01**

(Gift aided: £ 614.00)

### Woodhouse Collection

**£ 229.00**

(Gift aided: £ 187.00)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
CONTINUED SUPPORT!**



# THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 5:13-16

In today's Gospel using two bold and surprising images, Jesus lets us know what he thinks of and expects from his followers. They don't need to be always thinking about their own interests, their own prestige, their own power. Even though they are a small group in the midst of the huge Roman Empire, they need to be the «salt» and the «light» that the world needs.

«You are the salt of the world». The simple people of Galilee spontaneously catch on to Jesus' language. Everyone knows what salt is good for: above all giving food flavor and conserving it from spoiling. In the same way, Jesus' disciples need to contribute to helping people savor life without ending up spoiled.

«You are the light of the world». Without the sun's light, the world stays dark and we can't find our way or enjoy life in the midst of darkness. Jesus' disciples can carry the light that we need to find our way, to probe the deepest meaning of life, to walk with hope.

These metaphors have in common something quite vital. If it stays isolated in a shaker, salt doesn't do anything. Only when it enters into contact with food and dissolves in the food can it give flavor to what we eat. The same thing happens with light. If it stays closed up and hidden away, it can't enlighten anyone. Only when it is in the middle of the dark can it illuminate and guide. A Church isolated from the world can be neither salt nor light.

NEXT SUNDAY –

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

*'True consolations and divine lights are always accompanied by a deep humility and such a knowledge of self and of God that we put ourselves under the feet of all. Moreover, they impart sometimes, though not always, clear understanding of heavenly things, along with peace, joy, the love of virtue, and a longing for grace.'*

St Paul of the Cross

Pope Benedict XVI:

"Every human life is precious in God's sight and no effort should be spared in the attempt to promote throughout the world a genuine respect for the inalienable rights and dignity of individuals and peoples everywhere."

# THE WORD AT WORK: OUR WEEKLY REFLECTION

## THE SAVOUR OF SALT

Doctors warn that salt is something to be reduced in our diet. Yet salt is a necessary thing. After a prolonged session of 'mansplaining' to which his friends subject him, Job attempts to justify himself and he notes at one point, 'Can the unsavoury be eaten without salt, or is there taste in the white of an egg?' (Job 6:6). An egg eaten without salt is not worth eating. We add salt to eggs—and food in general—not for the flavour of salt (the flavour of salt is just saltiness!), but to bring out the savour of the egg itself.

Likewise in winter everything can seem gloomy and dull on those endless grey days. But when summer comes and sunlight dances upon things, we see their inherent beauty. It is not the light itself that we admire (the light by itself would blind us!), but the light alighting on things shows us the beauty of the things themselves. Salt and light reveal the beauty in nature, and, like grace, they elevate and perfect it. As Gerard Manley Hopkins says,

'And for all this, nature is never spent;  
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things.'

Two weeks ago, preaching on this very gospel for the close of the Dominican Order's 800th year Jubilee, the Holy Father contrasted Christian living (as salt and light) with what he called 'the carnival of human curiosity', a 'pseudo-festive superficiality', a 'culture of the ephemeral'. This is the world of purely human oracles and their mantra, 'Baby I was born this way', as though nature unaided by grace has reached its goal. Without grace it is true we are born *this way*: to sin and to die. This is the world of mercy without repentance, a mockery of true salvation and the mother of dissolution (so says our master St Thomas). This is the world of conscience undermined of its dignity, reduced to a subjective lack of self-reproach. The world without salt and light—without grace—is insipid and dark. It merely rehashes some ancient error or lie, rebranded and marketed for humanity left hungering in the dark.

Jesus does not call us Christians *to become* salt and light to the world. He says we are that already. But through infidelity to Christ we will (as salt) lose our savour and be thrown out and tread upon, or (as light) be put under a bushel and presumably extinguished.

Immediately before these verses come the Beatitudes, addressed in general terms: to the poor, to those who mourn, etc. Right at the end of the Beatitudes Jesus shifts His language to the second person: blessed are *you* when *you* are cast out, when *you* are persecuted, when *you* are calumniated. He says that to be a Christian is to be persecuted. So we are salt and light only because we are *persecuted*. That is, because we are conformed to Christ, the Persecuted One, the Saviour of salt itself, the True Light coming into the world.

The Holy Father reminds us that the context of our preaching, with words and deeds, is to a world running after novelties of rehashed lies, to those with *prurientes auribus* (2 Timothy 4:3), itching ears! Itching ears ache for the balm of unstinting approval and lies. And so our temptation as evangelists becomes very strong: to water down Truth, and to offer the world the savourless darkness it has become comfortable with—repackaged to look shiny and tasty!—but still the same old errors. Jesus says, 'The Light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than Light, because their deeds were evil' (John 3:19). And Pope Francis warns, 'Woe to salt that loses its savour! Woe to the Church that loses her savour!'

The Truth that is Christ is a hard truth, but it is the only Truth. The Love that is the Spirit is a hard love to accept, but it is the only Love that makes all loves possible. Our savour, our light is from fidelity to Christ. Only such Love and Truth can be recognized as coming from the Father, that *men may see your good works and give glory to the Father in Heaven!*