



# HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT, YEAR A

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

## FROM THE PRIOR'S DESK

*The month of March is certainly in session, and this weekend we look forward to welcoming the Irish Community from Leicester and Leicestershire for the annual St Patrick's Procession. It's a great opportunity to celebrate the culture and tradition of the Irish people throughout the world, rooted as it is in the faith proclaimed by St Patrick so many generations ago.*

*It's true our fortunes on the rugby field were not so strong against the Welsh this weekend. Fr Robert has obviously been praying the hardest. However, this week we all have a chance to be Irish. Among other things, St Patrick's Day has always given us that bit of Lenten 'respite', and a chance to express our happiness.*

*Always, though, we are reminded of the dangers of over-indulgence and recklessness in enjoyment. St Patrick's Day is nearly always in Lent, so it is a time for us to reflect on moderation and holy living. That sense of justice and happiness is the real heart of Irish culture. The joy of our national pride is rooted in the faith taught by St Patrick. **Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig oraibh!***

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

*Fr David*

## LOOKING INTO LENT

The Holy Season of Lent begins this week, with Ash Wednesday falling on 1<sup>st</sup> March. Masses will be celebrated here at Holy Cross at 8am, 12:30pm, 6:10pm, and 7:15pm. In addition, Ashes will be distributed to children in our schools, and to the sick and housebound by arrangement

## 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 with Fr David if interested.

## UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Students from both our Universities are reorganising their Catholic Societies, so if you're a student, and you're interested in getting more involved with other Catholics at University, contact George who will point you in the right direction. [george.ralph@english.op.org](mailto:george.ralph@english.op.org)

## 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 March, after the 10:30am Mass in St Clement's Hall.

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CONFIRMATION

Please get in touch with the Priory Office if members of your family wish to celebrate these sacraments.

### 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 – BACK NEXT 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*. There are two further sessions this term, focussing on just war, and vice and virtue. We hope to develop further themes next term. 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. More information will be available soon.

## LENTEN APPEAL FOR COMBONI MISSIONS IN SUDAN

During Lent, we are receiving second collections for the work of the Comboni Fathers missions in South Sudan. We hope this will go some small way to help alleviate the devastation and poverty there.

## HOLY CROSS RACE NIGHT – SATURDAY 25 MARCH

There are just two more weeks until our Race Night, the proceeds of which will help to develop our priory buildings. There are two sessions, 3pm to 5:30pm and 7pm to 9:30pm, and food will be provided. The cost is £5 (£2 concessions) and children are welcome. This is a good way to support our community.

## MARCH FOR LIFE IN BIRMINGHAM – 20 MAY

A bus will leave from Holy Cross to arrive in Birmingham in time for 10am Mass at the Cathedral. More details soon

## THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Our Sunday Holy Hour, 6-7pm – Rosary, Compline, Benediction.
- Organ recitals, first Friday of each month at 1:15pm. A very nice way to spend a lunchtime.
- Race Night - Saturday March 25<sup>th</sup> at Holy Cross. Tickets available now in the shop. Please see the additional attachment for more details.
- Blackfriars' Market – is being planned for June this year. Please contact Jeff on [hcross.social@gmail.com](mailto:hcross.social@gmail.com) if you can help in any way. Please see the additional attachment for more details.

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### 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:

**£ 1458.39**

(Gift aided: £ 575.80)

Second Collection –  
Comboni Fathers

**£628.28**

(Gift aided: £ 71.00)

### Woodhouse Collection

**£ 124.67**

(Gift Aided: £91.00)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
CONTINUED SUPPORT!**



# THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

## SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

### ISAIAH 49:14-15

When Paul or one of his disciples writes, they often incorporate some catechism-like expressions. Thus, the argument of the second letter to Timothy is introduced with tight expressions of faith worthy of much commentary. Take the words: "... God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace." (v.9) The mention of grace is now expanded and explained. "This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus..." (v.10) "Purpose and grace" emerge as holding together the Gospel of which Paul has no reason to be ashamed but, instead, for which he is honoured to be imprisoned. Today's lectionary ordo is content to retrieve that journey back to Abram through the transfiguration of Jesus in the presence of Moses and Elijah before the disciples. The purpose-filled relationship which God has with us makes possible Paul's confession of hope: "...for I know the one in whom I have put my trust". (v.12) It is at this point that the Psalm picks up the story, even to its retrieval "before time begins."

### MATTHEW 6:24-34

The Transfiguration of Jesus is unifying for the disciples who begin to integrate the deeper meaning of what they see and feel. This is preparation for the mystagogy of the post Paschal season. (Matthew 17:9) "While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" " (Matthew 17:5) Thus, the epiphany, to use the word of 2 Timothy, has no other purpose than to convince us that God's purpose is God's grace, God's steadfast love. Love is its own justification, its own purpose. God is love. The Transfiguration of Jesus leads to surrender on the part of the beloved, Jesus to God's purposes, and the disciples to the purpose of Jesus. Teresa of Lisieux was transformed into God's purpose for her when she discovered that her vocation in the church was love. There is none other. God's love is God's purpose in all creation and in all redemption.

### NEXT SUNDAY –

### THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A)

*'If any dust of imperfection cling to your heart, be not troubled, but consume it immediately in the fire of divine love, and, sorrowfully asking forgiveness, continue to live in peace.'*

St. Paul of the Cross

*Pope Francis*

**Evangelii Gaudium**

*The Joy of the Gospel*

"The parish is not an outdated institution; precisely because it possesses great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community. While certainly not the only institution which evangelizes, if it proves capable of self-renewal and constant adaptivity, it continues to be 'the Church living in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters.'"

## THE WORD AT WORK: OUR WEEKLY REFLECTION

### GOOD THAT WE ARE HERE

*"No more birthday party for me"*. Such were the words of one of our youngest parishioners as he watched the banners coming down, the characters being put away, and the room returning to how it always looks. It's wonderful when you're always learning, when experience and discovery are almost indistinct concepts. Good things come to an end – that's not the easiest of discoveries. When you've been on the birthday party circuit, marking those all-important milestones at the beginning of life, when "I'm three" "I'm four" "I'm five" "I'm big" are important and veracious statements of achievement and self-realisation; when you've been looking forward to your turn and then realise it's over and it had to pass, it stings a little. Back to the mundane. Plenty more to discover, lots to look forward to – you'll be even bigger next year. But nothing is quite the same as your birthday, and it's still a long way before Christmas. Still, it is good that we have been here. That is a nice thing to discover.

Treasured memories of grace-filled moments are priceless. They are milestones for us, reminders of God's favour. They justify our hope and inspire greater faith. It is good that we have been here. They are, however, insufficient. There is a certain lack of completeness. Wonderful as these moments were, and can be, their fleetingness betrays the greatest single flaw – they are not eternal. But that leads to hope, that something even more wonderful will come upon us. Oh that we could have that experience now! Oh that we could experience that sweet bliss forever!

Good things must pass away so that the everlasting joy can be received. Peter wanted the fullness of the glory then and there, on the high mountain. How quickly it was gone, yet how full would be its return. Until then, there would be a path to travel, marked by the Lord's Cross. Peter, not alone among the disciples, recoiled from the Cross. This moment of transfiguration gave him a profound hope, for he writes: "We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, 'This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.' We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain." (2 Peter 1:16-18). Truly this was a treasured memory for Peter, an experience that would give him the resources to endure the trials he would be called to face in the future. It would help him to learn the lessons of the Cross, and to open himself to acceptance of it in every facet of his being.

Truly it was good for him to be here. In the presence of the transfigured Lord, he personally encountered the Law and the Prophets, those great symbols of hope for God's people that were not a fulfillment themselves, but are fulfilled by Christ and his embracing of the Cross. For us, it is good that we are here, in this graced season. Through self-denial, we encounter the fleeting goodness of the world, and receive the opportunity to reach for an eternal reality. We do so secure in the knowledge and experience of God's goodness, and with a profound insight into the depth of his love for us.

All of our experience of passing joys and sorrows points to the reality that we will have our own encounter with death. The Christian life sets out to prepare us for that encounter. The disciples saw the glory and the majesty on that high mountain, but there was still a way to go. You and I have still a way to go until the encounter with the Cross. We may not know the when and where, but it is good for us to be here. There's plenty more to discover, and much to learn. The courage to endure will be granted through prayer.