



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2017

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

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

FROM THE PRIOR'S DESK

Even with Lent beginning at one of the latest times, it is still hard to believe that it is upon us! Lent always comes as a prolonged period of preparation and penance, but at a time of the year when we are often in the middle of projects and plans that we have been working towards during the course of the year. It helps us to bring refreshment to our lives, so that we can see where the Lord is directing us, and how best we can serve him.

The season of Lent, characterized by penance and sacrifice, helps us to prepare for the challenge of gazing on Christ on the Cross, and encountering that mystery in our own lives. That takes courage. In today's Gospel, the Lord invites us to abandon worry and anxiety and embrace only this mystery – the troubles for today, our daily bread.

As the beauty of springtime reminds us during Lent, we are called to encounter the glory of God in every moment. The challenge of the Gospel is to see God's grace active in those around us, in the gifts we have been given, in the burdens that are ours now. This glory will be revealed in its fullness. Don't worry – it's already there in you and me!

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 1st 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

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*. This week we take a break during the first few days of Lent. The next session will explore the theme of conscience as we continue our reflections on the morality of the human act. The sessions start at 7pm and there will be food. Please come along and bring your friends.

PILGRIM VIRGIN STATUE VISIT TO HOLY CROSS – JUNE 1ST

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. We will begin our preparations by keeping the First Saturday devotions, with the first occasion being Saturday 4 March at 12:30pm Mass.

MARCH FOR LIFE

In 50 years, nearly nine million babies have been killed by abortion. But with new technology proving the humanity of the unborn child, the tide is starting to turn. 'Pro-choice' is increasingly seen as the choice to end the life of an infant human being and few women are given any real choices by the abortion industry. You can help lift our voices to God by taking part in this year's **March for Life**, a peaceful, prayerful, pro-life rally which takes place in Birmingham on **Saturday 20th May**. It's also a great opportunity to make a pilgrimage to the replica image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

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 25th at Holy Cross. Tickets available now in the shop.
- Blackfriars' Market - May 2017, Planning meeting 6th March -1930hrs, please come along and help make it a success and contact Jeff on hcross.social@gmail.com if you can help in any way.
- 8.00 Mass Breakfast Club and 10.30am Meet for a Treat continues on Sunday 5th March. 8am is Continental Breakfast and 10.30am is Sweet treat for Goa, please bring and share (Bring to the hall before Mass)

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

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:

£ 1087.95

(Gift aided: £ 423.41)

Woodhouse Collection

£ 171.18

(Gift Aided: £105.00)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*



THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ISAIAH 49:14-15

A lovely image of divine providence is portrayed by Isaiah in the rhetorical question:

*Does a woman forget a baby at the breast?
or fail to cherish the son of her womb?
Yet even if these forget,
I will never forget you.*

People's fears are real enough. It seems that we are afraid of *something* all of the time and of everything some of the time. Many are afraid of failure, afraid of letting others down and of being let down ourselves by others. We may be afraid to love somebody because they might not love us; afraid of losing our jobs, our health, our security, our grip. We are afraid of growing old and of dying. Fear comes in a wide variety of forms, stress, doubt, tension, pressure, anxiety. It manifests itself in ways from a nervous tic to a nervous breakdown. So we all of us have a lesson to learn from the great teacher of wisdom who said, "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

MATTHEW 6:24-34

When Jesus tells us not to be anxious about life His words should be seen in the context of the whole of the Sermon on the Mount. For those who live the Beatitudes, those who build their lives on the solid rock of Jesus' teaching, there is no need to be anxious about life. This is because the Sermon on the Mount is more than just a list of rules. To understand this it is important to see how any instruction we accept for our lives depends upon the authority of the one who gives it. This is true for technical instruction, such as how to drive a car. We listen to those who are competent to teach us how to drive. A driver with thirty years of safe driving experience has more authority to teach us than someone who has never driven. If this is true for limited parts of our life, how much more important is it to trust in a competent authority when it is a question of how to live our life as a whole.

NEXT SUNDAY –

FIRST 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

LENTEN REFLECTION FOR CATHOLIC FOCUS 2017

"FOR THE SAKE OF THE JOY THAT LAY AHEAD OF HIM"

(HEBREWS 12. 2)

The Son of God was a very, very focused person! He knew exactly why His Heavenly Father had sent Him into the world to be the Son of Mary, the Son of Man... to love in the way only God can love; this love to be expressed in a way that only we human beings can love, **"No-one can have a greater love than to lay down His life for his friends,"** (Jn.15.13). Indeed. The whole of the life of Jesus can be summed up in these words from the Acts of the Apostles, **"Because God was with Him, Jesus went about doing good,"** (Acts.10.38). We know that during His Public Ministry day after day He gave Himself to others to the point of exhaustion.

During this Lent I want to explore the very idea that the whole life of the Son of God on earth was an outpouring of sacrificial love. Jesus knew very well where such total self-giving love would take Him, **"He began to teach them that the Son of man was destined to suffer grievously, and to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death,"** (Mk.8.31). Jesus was forthright in telling His disciples, "If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me," (Mk.8).

Jesus wants you and me to realize there's no getting round the fact that following Jesus involves Christ-like sacrificial love on our part. In his First Letter St. John helps us harness our everyday giving of ourselves for the sake of others to the sacrificial self-giving of Jesus throughout the whole of His life. **"This is the proof of love, that he laid down his life for us, and we too ought to lay down our lives for our brothers."** (1Jn 1.18).

This means we should not espouse that individualism in which people are self-centred and interested mostly in themselves. It is a fact of life that we need people to give of themselves to us; we need to give of ourselves to them...in the home the work-place...everywhere! Such sacrificial love causes us to allow ourselves to be put to some inconvenience for their sakes even when they are neither loving nor lovable towards us.

Our commitments, our obligations, our caring love, can be seen as being our crosses. We, like Jesus, will not find this easy. For Him, step after heavy step was an expression of His sacrificial love - for His Heavenly Father, for sinners like ourselves. We read in the Letter to the Hebrews that Jesus was even filled with joy!

"Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which lay ahead of him, he endured the cross, disregarding the shame of it, and has taken his seat at the right of God's throne". (Heb. 12. 2). Joy at the happy outcome spurred on Jesus to continue His sacrificial loving during His Dreadful Passion and Death.

For so many being available for others can be an inescapable necessity, even a drudgery -for us, possibly, for others certainly. A Fact of Life. This Lent I want to suggest it can become a Fact of Faith whereby we see our own self-sacrificing efforts as sharing in the sublime, the ultimate, sacrificial love of Jesus in His Passion, Death and Resurrection.

Can we actually find sheer joy in having within us this capacity, this determination, to love others generously rather than indulge ourselves selfishly; sheer joy that we share with Jesus the joy that such a quality of loving is bound to have a happy, glorious ending?

Peter Clarke, O.P.