

# HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH



SUNDAY 16 APRIL 2017

EASTER SUNDAY

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

## FROM THE PRIOR'S DESK

*The day of Resurrection has arrived, and glorious sunshine has flooded the Priory Garth as the final preparations are being made for the Easter Vigil. Hopefully the warmth and brightness of the light of the Resurrection will fill our hearts and homes. And we need good weather for the Easter Fire, too!*

*In Holy Week, we pass through the emptiness and darkness of the wages of sin, and today we are faced with the emptiness of the Tomb. The joy of the resurrection is placed before us. It is our work, throughout the year, to make that joy present for one another. Earlier in the year we were making great headway on this matter with the Holy Cross Assembly and On Firm Foundations. This has taken something of a back seat, while our Dominican Community has experienced unexpected and radical change. We're ready again to begin looking at what we can do, and we need your help to develop it again.*

*After Easter, we have some nice things to look forward to, and then we will have some new arrivals in the Community! In the meantime, I wish to pay tribute to our Dominican Community here who are working so hard at the present time, and to our staff team, Nick, George, Rachael, and Tom. Their support is invaluable, and bolstered by the many volunteers.*

*We are very grateful for your kind support at this time. Be intent on prayer, and all that may happen will turn to our good.*

*Fr David*

## EASTER AND THE DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

Please note that there will only be one Mass celebrated each day this week, at 12:30pm. The Priory Office will be closed until Wednesday morning. Each day, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy will be prayed at 3:00pm in the church, before the newly drawn Image of Mercy. Our thanks go to all those who have helped with Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum this year – readers, servers, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, music, flowers, sacristy, and a whole host of ways. Next Sunday is Divine Mercy Sunday. The Image of Mercy will be blessed at 3pm with the recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and Adoration until 7pm. Please take the leaflets and pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet at home.

## THE EASTER DUTY

At Easter, the Catholic Church requires that all Catholics who have made their First Communion receive Holy Communion sometime during the Easter season, which lasts through Pentecost Sunday, 50 days after Easter. (They should also take part in the Sacrament of Penance before receiving this Easter communion.) This reception of the Eucharist is a visible sign of our faith and our participation in the Kingdom of God. Of course, we should receive Communion as frequently as possible; this "Easter Duty" is simply the minimum requirement set by the Church.

## NOTICE BOARD

### BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you wish to have your child baptised, please attend one of our baptism preparation sessions. The next is Sunday 2 April 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

## MARCH FOR LIFE IN BIRMINGHAM – 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY – **BREAKING NEWS**

The Authorised Relic of the Miraculous Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe will now be present at the March for Life at St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham, Saturday 20th May, for veneration. St John Paul II authorised the creation of 220 digital replicas of the original for worldwide distribution. These images have been declared as authorised relics that will extend the graces of evangelisation, conversion and truth to nations in which they are placed, offering the same graces as extended in 1531, equal in graces to that of the original first class Relic. Reserve your place on the coach to St Chad's now by contacting the office at Holy Cross. Cost: £10 adults, under-14s free.

## SOCIAL NEWS

On the weekend of May 6 and 7 - we are planning events after the vigil Mass and all the Sunday Masses and will be launching this year's Blackfriars' Market Raffle. Details to follow.

## VISIT OF THE NATIONAL PILGRIM VIRGIN OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA

The Statue will visit on 1 June, after Easter we will start to make preparations for the visit. A Solemn Mass to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Apparitions, and in thanksgiving for the Canonisations of St Francisco and St Jacinta, will be celebrated on Saturday 13 May at 12:30pm in our church.

## DOMINICAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

This year on Sunday 14 May, leaving the Priory at 8am. Cost will be £15. Please join us for what is always a beautiful occasion and a wonderful way to mark Our Lady's month.

## EASTER WEEK AND DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

There will only be one Mass each day in Easter Week at 12:30pm. The Church will remain open for the afternoons so that the faithful can pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy before the Image of Mercy in the Church. Divine Mercy Devotions will take place at 3pm on Divine Mercy Sunday, and the Image will be blessed. This year, we will bless a new Image of Mercy, hand drawn in pencil for our Priory by one of our parishioners in HMP Leicester.

## GIFT AID ENVELOPES

For the coming year, these are available for those on the envelope scheme for regular church giving. More details on finance after Christmas.

## THINGS TO REMEMBER

- No Holy Hour on Easter Day. Rosary and Vespers at 6pm.
- Organ recitals, first Friday of each month at 1:15pm

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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:

**£ 1255.02**

(Gift aided: £ 421.00)

Second Collection –

**£321.54**

(Gift aided: £ 64.06)

**Woodhouse Collection**

2.4.17

**£ 176.30**

9.4.17

(Gift Aided: £95.00)

**£ 125.51**

(Gift Aided: £48.51)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*

# THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

## EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

1<sup>ST</sup> READING: ACTS 10. 34, 37-43

In this sermon, St. Peter sums up Jesus' ministry. Peter stresses that although God was with Him, and He went about doing good, nevertheless He was executed on a tree. But God has raised Jesus from the dead. Peter and his companions are witness to all this and have been commissioned to proclaim forgiveness through belief in the name of Jesus, whom the prophets had foretold.

**Responsorial Psalm 117: 'This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad'**

2<sup>ND</sup> READING: COLOSSIANS 3. 1-4

Through our baptism, we have shared in the dynamism of Christ's death and resurrection, giving us a momentum towards God. That should change our whole perspective on life and death. Given hope of a glorious life beyond the grave we should set our sights on the things of God and allow nothing to hold us back.

GOSPEL: JOHN 20 1-9

Immediately after recording Jesus's death and burial today's Gospel provides John's first account of the resurrection. When Magdalen and her companions found Jesus', tomb empty they naturally thought His body had been removed. Nobody expected Jesus to rise from the dead, in spite of His telling them that He would. That was true of Peter and John who ran to the empty tomb. But when John saw the orderly disposition of the burial cloths he was given the grace to make the leap of faith and believed that the Lord had truly risen. He did so without having to see Him. That is true for us.

**NEXT SUNDAY –**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A)**

*"Our Lord needs from us neither great deeds nor profound thoughts.*

*Neither intelligence nor talents. He cherishes simplicity.*

Saint Therese of Lisieux

*Pope Francis*

**Evangelii Gaudium**

*The Joy of the Gospel*

*"Let me say this once more: God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy."*

## THE WORD AT WORK: OUR WEEKLY REFLECTION

EASTER SUNDAY

Most of us have had the sadness of mourning the death of our loved ones. They were part of our lives, and with their death part of us has died. We feel a deep sense of loss, a great emptiness. We grieve that the life of someone dear to us has come to an end. There's a mysterious finality about death, which we find difficult to handle. And yet we know that sooner or later each of us must die.

That was true for Jesus. By becoming man the Son of God chose to share our human vulnerability to death. He even chose to allow Himself to be brutally executed on the cross. In itself His death was evil, not only because it was so unjust, but also because it put an end to what was so good -His life. For most people death has the last word in their life-story. For them death reduces us all to nothingness. They, who live on, are left only with memories of the joys and sorrows they shared.

But as death extinguishes the spark of life, Easter shines forth as a bright beacon of hope. Jesus, who died on the cross, has risen bodily from the grave. That's a staggering claim, which we only believe because sceptical, reliable witnesses saw Him and risked their lives to share the Good News that the Lord had truly risen. His wounds and His words convinced them that He was the same person as the man whom they'd come to know and love and who had died on the cross.

Though He was not some kind of disembodied spirit, the quality of His life had changed. The crucified Christ had not been resuscitated to resume His former mode of existence. That was true for Lazarus and the other people Jesus raised from the dead. They all had to die again.

But not Jesus. His rising to new life was very different from theirs. While remaining the same person, before and after His death on the cross, His mode of existence has been transformed. Instead of remaining vulnerable to death He now enjoys the glorified life of the resurrection. We can't really understand what that's like, since it's way beyond our experience. But among other things, we do know that Jesus, the Son-of-God-made-man, now radiates His divine power and majesty. Now He enjoys the fullness of human life. This was concealed during His earthly life.

Easter is not just about Christ's resurrection, but ours. We believe that Jesus will raise us, bodily, from the grave to share in the glory of His resurrection. We will be the same men or women of flesh and blood as we are now. But as with Christ, when we rise with Him from death, the quality of our lives will be radically changed. What that will mean we don't know –except that we will be supremely happy as God fills us with His life and happiness. We will enjoy the company of God, who is supremely good and loving. We will be re-united with our loved ones. Then, indeed, every tear will be wiped away!

Far from death having the last word in our life-stories, the resurrection writes the final and best chapter. That makes all the difference to our attitude to life and death. The risen Lord has given us hope of a better future. In the midst of death and grief we can rejoice!

*Isidore O.P.*