



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 14TH MAY 2017

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

FROM THE PRIOR'S DESK

This weekend, I'm looking forward to our annual pilgrimage to Walsingham. It is always a good day out, and nice to catch up with friends and parishioners from other places, as well as meeting new people.

Many thanks to everyone who came along to the Mass for Fr Isidore and Peter on Thursday of last week. It was great to have such a crowd, and to be live on Facebook. Thanks for all the greetings and prayers that you sent in also. Congratulations to Twin Clarke Unlimited once again, and to the team who helped organise everything

Things are starting to get busy in the run-up to Blackfriars' Market, at the end of June. This is a really important fundraising event in our calendar, and if we work hard together we can easily reach our target. Thanks to all who are doing so much to make it happen. At the end of this month, we will also look forward to welcoming the National Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, when it visits Leicester.

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

FRS ISIDORE AND PETER CLARKE – 60 YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD!

Many thanks to all who came to share in the celebrations last Thursday. Fr Isidore writes: I was deeply moved by your very presence, the warm appreciation of your comments, the welcome you gave me and by your generosity. I will remember you in my prayers. – Isidore O.P

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.

NOVENA TO ST RITA – FEAST DAY 22 MAY

Many people make the annual Novena to St Rita of Cascia this coming week, in preparation for her feast day on 22 May. Please see the leaflets in 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 14 May 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 – 20TH MAY

“Saturday 20th May, March for Life: Please ensure you are on Wellington Street Outside Holy Cross Church at 8.00am, or on Hinckley Road across from St Peter’s Catholic Church no later than 8.15am (where we will be making a second pick-up; parking available at St Peter’s Church car park). People are welcome to bring a packed lunch but there will be stalls and food shops close by. Any last-minute queries please contact the office. A £10 donation towards costs (£5 students, under 14s free) will be collected on the coach.”

APPEAL FOR CLOTHES

“If you have any excellent-quality used clothes which you could donate to the suffering people of Syria and Iraq, please contact Sica via the Holy Cross office. We’ll be sorting and packing clothes in late May / early June. Adult and baby clothes needed as long as they are of **FIRST-CLASS QUALITY PLEASE**. **If you would still buy it yourself**, please consider donating it!”

TOWARDS BLACKFRIARS MARKET

Blackfriars' Market Raffle is up and running in style, with over £100 raised last weekend. Please buy your tickets after Mass today. They are available at the doors and/or from the church shop. **Blackfriars' Market Donations: Last weekend**, we requested donations of **prizes for the raffle and competitions** - please hand your donations to any member of the community. **This weekend** we are asking you to bring in **bottle bags and carriers** for people to take away and bring back filled with bottled goods (soft drinks and alcohol both welcome). Please bring in full bottle bags next week. **Meanwhile any donations** of bric-a-brac, toiletries, unwanted gifts, toys, good books and DVDs will be most welcome.

VISIT OF THE NATIONAL PILGRIM VIRGIN OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA

The Statue will visit on 1 June, before travelling onwards to the Cathedral in Nottingham.

MIDSUMMER EVENING WALK

We have arranged an evening walk through Bradgate Park (approx. 3 miles) on Wednesday 21st June. Meet at Rocliffe Rd car park (Cropston side of park) at 6.15pm. This will be a medium paced walk mainly on footpaths. Suitable footwear needed. We will stop at Old John for a snack (please bring your own refreshments) before returning to the car park. After the walk we will go to the Badgers Sett pub in Cropston for a drink. Cooked meals are also available there until 10pm. It would be great if you could join us for this event. For more details or to arrange a lift if needed please contact Tony or Liz Scarborough through the office.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Blackfriars Market Sunday 25th June
- Organ recitals, first Friday of each month at 1:15pm

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:

£ 1,138.37

(Gift aided: £ 283.21)

Woodhouse Collection

£ 178.36

(Gift aided: £ 102.00)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!**

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

THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

1ST READING: ACTS 6. 1-7

Last week's Reading from Acts showed the Church getting off to a flying start, with the apostles' preaching leading to mass conversions. This week we're told that not all was sweetness and light. A poor section of the Christian community was being neglected. To remedy this fault the diaconate was instituted. The Church develops by being made aware of its failings and correcting them.

Responsorial Psalm 93: *"May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you."*

A thanksgiving psalm. The last verse expresses hope in the resurrection

2ND READING: 1 PETER 2. 4-9

In this Reading St. Peter tells us that we are living stones, forming a living building, with Christ as its corner stone. We offer spiritual sacrifices to God through Christ. This reading takes four Old Testament titles and applies them to the Christian community. We are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation and God's own people.

GOSPEL: JOHN 14. 1-12

Today's Gospel takes us to Jesus' Final Discourse, just before His Passion. Here He sets out to reassure His followers that by His departure, through the crucifixion and ascension, He will go ahead to prepare a place for them, and us, in His Father's house. This leads Him to explain something of the intimate relationship between the Father and Son. He Himself is the way to the Father.

NEXT SUNDAY –

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A)

"I think our Lord will grant you many graces if you have the courage to follow Him by entire self-forgetfulness, abandonment to His Providence and great purity of intention, always uniting yourself to the intentions of His Sacred Heart."

Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque

A word from Pope Francis

"To be saints is not a privilege for the few, but a vocation for everyone"

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE, YEAR A. THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Today's first reading provides a warning against the danger of looking back with nostalgia to the 'Good old days', especially as we advance in years. We tend to think that the past was better than the present, and we can become fearful that the decline will continue in the future. Certainly, there was much that was good in the past. We were in the prime of youth, and now the years have taken their toll. But we also tend to edit our memories and forget what was bad in the past. Those who extol the Victorian Values of the Industrial Revolution –the inventiveness of the entrepreneur –overlook the human cost in the appalling conditions of labour. In contrast, working conditions are now far better, and modern medicine has made an enormous improvement in our health.

Today's First Reading sparked off these thoughts. There's a great danger of idealising the Infant Church. The Acts of the Apostles tells us that the Christian community was of one mind and heart, and held everything in common. Certainly, there was the enthusiastic zeal which you would expect of any recently formed group. And this was fired by the Holy Spirit.

But as you read the Acts of the Apostles and Paul's letters you soon realise that all was not sweetness and light. Some conservative Jewish converts tried to undermine Paul's mission to the pagans. He had such a disagreement with Barnabas that they could no longer work together. Two incompatible saints!

In today's First Reading we learn of another failure in the life of the Early Church in Jerusalem. A very vulnerable section of its community –poor Greek widows –was being neglected. Converts from Judaism overlooked the widows in the daily distribution of food. That showed a serious lack of care and concern, and undermined the unity of the Christian community. Not surprisingly, there were complaints.

This incident should warn us against being starry eyed about the first Christians. But more importantly, when the Church recognised its failure it immediately took steps to remedy the fault. And it used great imagination in finding a solution. Seven deacons were given the special task of caring for the widows. That released others to concentrate on preaching. By allotting different tasks to different people the life of the Church developed. What had started as a failure became an opportunity for growth.

That has been the pattern throughout the history of the Church. Certainly, holiness is one of the essential marks of the Church, as providing us with the means to sanctity, and in fact producing great saints. Nevertheless, the Church's members are sinners, and have blind spots about our faults. But under the guidance of the Holy Spirit reformers have opened our eyes to our failures. This has led to the community developing imaginative solutions, sometimes new ministries. This is much more than filling in the gaps; having to find new solutions to fresh problems provides an opportunity for positive development in the life of the Church. We've seen that happen in our own day.

And we must expect this process to continue in the future. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit the Church should recognise new needs and may find unexpected solutions. That's a sign of its vitality –not by trying to recapture an idealised past, which never existed. Although this can create unsettling uncertainty we can be confident that The Holy Spirit will continue to guarantee that any development in the Church will be consistent with its nature, not a betrayal. Today's First Reading shows us that our very failures can become the spring-board to future progress. That's encouraging and exciting!