



# HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2017

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

## FROM THE PRIOR'S DESK

*Just this afternoon, I dashed out into the priory garden to rescue two beautiful rose blossoms from a heavy rain shower. They're the first roses from the priory garden this year, and I've taken them to place on the May Altar I have erected in my room.*

*I've been watching the priory garden all winter. It's sad to see the rose bushes looking forlorn, but it's also a joy to see these first flowers, and to look forward to bringing in many more rose blossoms in the months to come. Their beautiful colours and fragrance really cheers the heart.*

*It's a bit like watching over the life of the priory. Things have been changing, and life has been challenging here in the last few months. But there will be joy when new life appears, and we can look forward to developing things together. We've achieved a lot over the last few years, so we can be sure of our firm foundations.*

*My term of office as prior comes to a conclusion at the end of this week, after which time the Prior Provincial will appoint a prior for the next three years. We do not have sufficient numbers for an election at this time. Please do pray for our community, and for our Provincial. I extend my gratitude to the community here and all who have helped in different ways in the last three years.*

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

Fr David

## VISIT OF THE NATIONAL PILGRIM STATUE OF OUR LADY

On Thursday 1 June, the National Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima will visit Leicester and Holy Cross. She will arrive at 12 Noon, and be greeted by procession and Rosary, followed by Solemn Mass at 12:30pm. There will also be an outdoor procession with the Statue at 6:30pm, with the Rosary and Mass at 7:30pm, followed by a Vigil until midnight. She will depart for Nottingham after 8am Mass on Friday morning. Please do spread the word far and wide.

## 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 3 June 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

## 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!"

## ASCENSION THURSDAY – 25 MAY AT 7:15PM

Solemn Mass in Dominican Rite at 7:15pm, sung by Fr Gregory Pearson OP. These are beautiful occasions to take part in the Mass and pray along with beautiful chant and music. Fr Pearson is a member of our London community.

## 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.

## MAY PROCESSION – NEXT SUNDAY AT 12 NOON

We invite you to join us for the May Procession, with devotions to Our Lady, at 12 Noon next Sunday. Please bring flowers from your gardens to honour Our Lady.

## MIDSUMMER EVENING WALK

We have arranged an evening walk through Bradgate Park (approx. 3 miles) on Wednesday 21st June. Meet at Roecliffe 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 25<sup>th</sup> June
- Organ recitals, first Friday of each month at 1:15pm

### 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:

**£ 1,188.86**

(Gift aided: £ 459.51)

### Woodhouse Collection

**£ Not collected**

(Gift aided: £)

Will be in next week's  
Newsletter

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
CONTINUED SUPPORT!**

# THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

1<sup>ST</sup> READING: ACTS 8. 5-8, 14-17

Today's reading is of crucial importance to the development of the early Church. It spread out from Jerusalem to the despised Samaritans, who welcomed the Good News. This outreach would reach its climax when the Gospel was freely preached and welcomed in Rome, the capital of the pagan world.

### **Responsorial Psalm 65: "Cry out with joy to God all the earth"**

This psalm is a joyful celebration of God delivering His people from slavery in Egypt. It is very appropriate as we celebrate Jesus saving us from the power of evil, through His death and resurrection.

2<sup>ND</sup> READING: 1 PETER 3. 15-18

Our sufferings can have a positive, redemptive value if we identify them with those of the innocent crucified Christ.

GOSPEL: JOHN 14. 15-21

As Jesus prepares His disciples for His departure, first through His death and then His ascension, He reassures them in two ways. Firstly, He tells them that He's going ahead to prepare a place to which He would bring them. Secondly, He would send the Spirit of truth, who would remind them of what Jesus had taught them. He would comfort, strengthen and defend them. It is through love, shown by our obeying Jesus' commandments, that the Holy Spirit dwells in the Christian community.

### **NEXT SUNDAY –**

### **THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (YEAR A)**

*"If Nabuzardan, the head-cook, had not come, the temple of the Lord would not have been burned: (2 Kings 24:8) that is to say: if slackness and greed did not come into the soul, the spirit would not be overcome in combat with the enemy.'*

St. Poemen

### *A word from Pope Francis*

*"We must restore hope to young people, help the old, be open to the future, spread love. Be poor among the poor. We need to include the excluded and preach peace."*

## 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE, YEAR A.

**"If you love me you will keep my commandments."** The opening words of today's Gospel carry special weight. Here Jesus gives us His final will and testament, just before his Passion. John, in his 1<sup>st</sup> Letter is very blunt. He tells us that anyone who claims to love God without keeping His commandments is a liar. But it would be a great mistake to think that love is all about keeping rules and regulations. That would be a dreadful caricature of love, which, sadly, some mistake for true religion.

A more positive way of understanding love is to see it as a harmony of wills. When two people love each other they share the same basic ideals. They want to do what will please the one they love and avoid what will displease them. The more we love someone the more we become in tune with his or her likes and dislikes. The obedience of love flows freely from our being of one heart and one mind -we're in tune with each other.

In his 1<sup>st</sup> Letter John says that **'God is love.'** Jesus, the Son of God, expresses divine love in a human way, familiar to us. Firstly, He shows us what it means for a human being to love God. He tells us that He has come to do His Father's will. Even though obedience took Him to the cross that was not a matter of compulsion, but of He and His Father being in complete agreement. Like Jesus, we are called to identify with the Father's will -to do only what pleases Him and avoid whatever is against his will. That's what it means for us to love Him, as we pray, **"Thy will be done."** Not fear of punishment, but of offending the God we love should lead to do what will please Him. Mary expressed this kind of loving obedience when she said, **'behold the handmaid of the Lord.'** Her docile acceptance of God's will, provided the guiding principle of her whole life. Through such obedience her love for God flourished. So, does ours.

After showing us how to love God Jesus tells us that we should love each other in the same way as He loves us. Since we can easily misunderstand what love really means we need Jesus to teach us. To protect and foster our love for God and each other we need to be told the right and wrong way to behave. More importantly, Jesus not only taught us how to love: His whole life and death showed us how to love. That meant putting other people's interests before His own. He had time for people, cared for them, listened to them, and cured them even when he needed to rest. He came to serve, rather than be served. Not only did He tell us to forgive each other, but He forgave the very people who crucified him.

The Beatles were right to sing, 'All you need is love' - providing you get love right. Christ's way of loving is difficult and demanding. It's both sublime and down to earth and practical. To love as Christ loved will certainly bring out the best in us and those whom we love. Our love for God and each other grows through our obeying Christ's instructions on how we should love. We draw closer to each other as a harmony of wills develops. On the other hand, the discord of disobedience to the law of love drives us apart.

In brief, being a good Christian is all about following Jesus in the way He loves His Heavenly Father and each of us.

*Isidore O.P.*