



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 28TH MAY 2017

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

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

THE PARISH PRIEST WRITES ...

Manchester. The atrocity on Monday evening seemed unimaginable last week. The hatred and division this dreadful event symbolises is a reminder of how much we need to spread the message of love that is central to our Gospel story. Please join us this weekend in lighting candles and praying for Manchester, as we have done this week.

Things are busy here as usual. Last weekend our sound system let us down. We've begun the process of addressing it, with engineers visiting during the week. Hopefully we will soon benefit from the improvements and normal service will be resumed.

This week, we look forward to the visit of the National Pilgrim Virgin Statue as we play our part in the international celebrations of the Centenary of Our Lady's apparitions at Fatima. There is also our May Procession at 12 noon today, a short Marian devotion for this special month.

Can I also take this opportunity to thank each and every member of the Holy Cross Family for being there during the highs and lows, and everything in between, during my term of office as Prior.

We remain 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

This 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.

APPOINTMENT OF A PRIOR

Fr David concludes his term of office at midnight on Saturday 27 May. From this point, Fr Robert assumes the government of the Convent until arrangements for the appointment of a prior are made by the Prior Provincial. Fr David remains in office as Parish Priest.

SAFEGUARDING – KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE

We remind you once again that Holy Cross is only safe for our children and vulnerable adults if we make it so. We ask each family to ensure their children are supervised at all times, and are accompanied by a trusted and responsible adult known to the child. Please also support us in discouraging children in running and climbing on the premises.

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

ISSUES WITH OUR SOUND SYSTEM

Recent issues with the sound system in the church have been examined and initial remedial action has been taken. We apologise for the inconvenience caused. These things happen. Unfortunately, it has been reported that some people harassed our staff regarding these issues. ***Holy Cross is a safe place to work and worship. We will not tolerate harassment or bullying in any form, and we ask your co-operation in stamping this out.*** Thank you for your support

TOWARDS BLACKFRIARS MARKET

Blackfriars' Market (Sunday June 25) Please remember to bring in donations of prizes for the raffle and competitions. We are still asking you to bring in bottled goods (soft drinks and alcohol both welcome. **Also, any donations** of bric-a-brac, toiletries, unwanted gifts, toys, good books and DVDs will be most welcome. Thank you so much to those who have donated already - it is vital that we receive donations early so that we can plan the various stalls and competitions - please hand your donations to any member of the community.

SOCIAL EVENTS - SUNDAY JUNE 4 - IN THE PARISH HALL - FREE!

After the 8am Mass - Breakfast Club - bacon/egg baps and croissants. After the 10.30 Mass - Ice Cream Sunday! (Free ice-cream - on a Sunday - sounds like Sundae but we don't serve anything that fancy).

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. (and your own refreshments) 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.

GENERAL ELECTION 2017

The surprise General Election that is almost upon us is an important opportunity to express our democratic privilege. Please see the leaflets on the election from our Bishops that are available. We hope to have discussions about the issues in the period before the election if people are interested, so let us know.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Blackfriars Market Sunday 25th 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

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:

£ 1,087.38

(Gift aided: £ 411.50)

Woodhouse Collection

14th May

£ 219.20

(Gift aided: £97.00)

21st May

£ 102.00

(Gift aided: £67.00)

Will be in next week's
Newsletter

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*

THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

1ST READING: ACTS 1.1-11

St. Luke begins his second volume, the Acts of the Apostles, by summarising what he'd written in the first -his Gospel. He'd given an account of Jesus' teaching and of His death and resurrection. The risen Lord continued to teach His followers about God's Kingdom. Then, just before He ascended into heaven He commissioned them to be His witnesses throughout the whole world. For this task, they would be empowered by the Holy Spirit. The Ascension, recorded at the very end of Matthew's and Luke's Gospels and the very beginning of the Acts of the Apostles, forms a bridge between Christ's earthly mission and that of His followers.

Responsorial Psalm 47: "God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blasts"

This is an enthronement hymn celebrating the coronation of the Lord God as King of Israel. This clearly foreshadows Christ's heavenly enthronement through His ascension.

2ND READING: EPHESIANS 1. 17-23

Here, we followers of Jesus, are given hope in the saving power of our crucified and risen Lord. His glorious ascension means He is now seated at the right hand of the Father means that He is Lord of heaven and earth.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 28. 16-20

Just as the 1st Reading's account of Christ ascension is reminiscent of Elijah being taken up into heaven and bequeathing his prophetic spirit to his successor, Elisha, Matthew's account of the ascension looks back to the vision in the Book of Daniel, Ch. 7. There we are told about a son of man coming in glory on the clouds and being presented to the Ancient of Days, who gave him power over all the nations. Jesus has received that authority from His Heavenly Father and has handed it on to His followers, commissioning them to proclaim the Good News to the whole world, baptising people in the name of the Blessed Trinity. As He ascends to be enthroned at the right hand of the Father, Jesus promises to remain with us till the end of time. This rounds off the Emmanuel theme introduced at the beginning of Matthew's Gospel

**NEXT SUNDAY –
PENTECOST SUNDAY (YEAR A)**

"Virtues are formed by prayer. Prayer preserves temperance. Prayer suppresses anger. Prayer prevents emotions of pride and envy. Prayer draws into the soul the Holy Spirit, and raises man to Heaven."

St. Ephrem of Syria

A word from Pope Francis

"The media only writes about the sinners and the scandals, but that's normal, because a tree that falls makes more noise than a forest that grows."

ASCENSION OF THE LORD –NL -17, YEAR A.

Today's feast marks the conclusion of Christ's visible presence among us, the climax of his work of salvation. It means much more than Christ disappearing into the clouds 40 days after His resurrection. That is but a symbol of His ascent to glory with His Heavenly Father. His ascension is not so much a question of physically rising in space but the enhancement of the quality of His life.

Both St. John's Gospel and St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians, Ch. 2, present the whole of Christ life and work of salvation in terms of a circular movement. The Son of God became man precisely to raise us from the depths of sin and lift us to heights beyond our wildest dreams. To make this possible He first came down to our level. He put aside His divine power and glory and became a human being, as weak and vulnerable as the rest of us. Paul tells us Jesus went so far in His descent as to become a slave, obedient to the death of the cross.

He reversed our rebellious pride by become the obedient servant of the Lord. He plumbed the very depths when He allowed Himself to be unjustly executed as a criminal. The God of glory was despised and rejected!

But Jesus was not defeated by the apparent degradation of the cross. By dying on the cross His love defeated the malice of sin. The crucified Christ was the triumphant conqueror of sin and death. On the cross, He was lifted up in glory, not humiliated. This was the first act in the single drama of salvation, and of Christ's ascent to glory with His Heavenly Father. Next, after His death and burial, Jesus rose to a new and glorious life, while remaining the same person. He was no longer weak and vulnerable. Through the resurrection Jesus, the God-man, has ascended to a state of glory, which transcends our natural human condition.

Far from being a slave, He is now triumphant Lord of heaven and earth. Now Jesus, our saviour, has ascended to glory, one of us, a fellow human being, is seated in majesty at the right of His Heavenly Father, as Lord of heaven and earth. What is so staggering is that one of us, the Son of God made man, should be a member of the Blessed Trinity, fully enjoying its life and happiness. That is the climax of His circular journey of descent and ascent.

But the feast of the Ascension does not just celebrate Jesus' triumphant return to glory with His Heavenly Father. We believe that the glorified Christ has gone ahead to prepare a place for us, and that we will share in the glory of His ascension, if we follow Him. Jesus promised that when He was lifted up, exalted, on the cross He would draw us up with Him, to Him. He raises us beyond our human limitations to share the very life and happiness of the Blessed Trinity.

When Jesus returns in glory He will raise us to share, bodily as complete human beings, in His ascent to His Heavenly Father. This ascent has already been achieved in Christ Himself, and has begun in us, when, at baptism, we started to share God's own life. In the meantime, Paul reminds us, ***"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is, your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory,"*** (Col. 3. 1-4).