



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 4TH JUNE 2017

PENTECOST SUNDAY

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

Endings and beginnings come up all the time. Last week, I was writing for the newsletter a few hours before I completed my term of office as Prior, and this week I write a few hours into a new term of office. There were so many different challenges during my first term, and a great deal of change. No doubt there will be new challenges ahead, as there is still so much for us to do as we develop Holy Cross in the future.

I look forward to working with you all again in the next three years. This is a busy place, but the willingness of so many to give time and support is truly humbling. This is how we spread the Good News, by collaborating in charity for the good of each other.

I wish to pay a special tribute to my Dominican brethren in the Community here. They work so hard for the preaching mission of this place, and much of what they do remains hidden. In particular, I want to thank Fr Robert, our Subprior. He governed our Community with wisdom, compassion, and kindness in the days of the past week; and he continues to offer selfless and unwavering support to me with every decision and challenge we face. And always with a smile.

We remain grateful for your kind support. 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

Many thanks to all those who assisted in facilitating the visit of the National Pilgrim Virgin last Thursday. It was great to see such large crowds, and the atmosphere was prayerful and friendly.

APPOINTMENT OF A PRIOR

On Friday 2 June, Fr David Rocks was appointed as Prior of Holy Cross by the Prior Provincial and he has accepted this appointment. He will serve as Prior until 2 June 2020.

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.

MASSES THIS WEEK

All Masses this week are at the usual times, with the exception of 8am on Monday and Tuesday when there will not be a Mass.

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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION FOR 2017

We will celebrate **First Holy Communion at 10:30am Mass on Sunday 25 June**. There is a meeting today following the 10:30am Mass in the Hall for parents and their children. If you regularly attend Mass here, and your child has already made their First Holy Communion elsewhere, we encourage you to let your child take part in this ceremony also, so that we as a parish community can support them at this special moment in their lives. Please also speak to us if your child is ready for Holy Communion next year. Children aged 7 and above are ready to prepare for this special moment.

TOWARDS BLACKFRIARS MARKET

Blackfriars' Market (Sunday June 25) - raising funds to help maintain and improve the facilities at Holy Cross. This weekend we are launching our 'Spot the Ball' competition - forms available from the shop and the tables by the doors. Entries due by 2pm on Sunday June 25. **Meanwhile, please keep the donations coming in:** raffle prizes, bottled goods, 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.

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.

BREAKFAST CLUB AND MEET FOR A TREAT

Following the 8am Mass this morning we have the Breakfast Club, and then Meet for a Treat following 10:30am Mass. These are great monthly opportunities to build our community, so do come along.

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:

£ 1,200.52

(Gift aided: £ 357.65)

Woodhouse Collection

£ 119.00

(Gift aided: £86.00)

Will be in next week's
Newsletter

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!**

THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

PENTECOST SUNDAY

1ST READING: ACTS 2. 1-11

The feast of Pentecost was originally a harvest festival. Later it celebrated the gift of God's Law, 50 days after He had liberated the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt. That was celebrated on the feast of the Passover. Jews from the eastern Mediterranean would have converged on Jerusalem to celebrate the important feast of Pentecost. It was very fitting that the Spirit of Truth should enable the infant Church to proclaim Christ's Law of Love, 50 days after Jesus had become the New Passover, who had sacrificed His life to save the world from slavery to sin and death. The cosmopolitan converts from Judaism became the first fruits of the Lord's harvest.

Responsorial Psalm 104: "Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth"

While the psalm itself praises God for the wonder of His creation the Response asks the life-giving Spirit to renew that creation.

2ND READING: 1 COR. 12. 3-7, 12-13

This Reading tells us about the variety of gifts which the Holy Spirit bestowed on the church of Corinth. Sadly, this caused rivalry and one-upmanship. Paul had to stress that the diversity of gifts was for the benefit of the whole Church. Each had its part to play and was necessary to make up the complete Body of Christ. The Spirit who was responsible for the variety of the Church's gifts was also the source of its unity. Whatever our gifts, backgrounds or status we are united in being baptised in the one Spirit.

GOSPEL: JOHN 20. 19-23

Before His death Jesus promised to give His followers the Spirit of Truth, who would enable His followers to continue His mission, after He'd ascended into heaven. Now, immediately after His resurrection, He breathed His life-giving Spirit into His followers. This was reminiscent of God breathing life into the dry earth and creating man, and again breathing new life into the dry bones of exiled Israel. With this new vitality the apostles are commissioned to be ministers of God's mercy. With Jesus, there is a new creation. People will be judged according to the way they respond to the Spirit empowered proclamation of the Gospel.

**NEXT SUNDAY –
X SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – THE MOST HOLY TRINITY (YEAR A)**

"The apostles and their successors are God's vicars in governing the Church which is built on faith and the sacraments of faith. Wherefore, just as they may not institute another Church, so neither may they deliver another faith, nor institute other sacraments: on the contrary, the Church is said to be built up with the sacraments "which flowed from the side of Christ while hanging on the Cross.", and raises man to Heaven."

St Thomas Aquinas

A word from Pope Francis

"No one can grow if he does not accept his smallness."

PENTECOST SUNDAY – NL -2, YEAR A.

In the 1950's I read a wonderful encyclical on the Holy Spirit, written by Pope Leo XIII. When I suggested it should be published, to my surprise and horror, I was told there was no demand for a pamphlet on the Holy Spirit! Thank God that has all changed. The Holy Spirit is no longer the forgotten person of the Blessed Trinity! The Church has re-discovered the Holy Spirit. In the drama of life, the Holy Spirit has drawn the attention of the modern world that He has been 'off-stage' for far too long. We were living in a spiritual desert.

I say 're-discovered' because from the earliest days the Church has realised the vital role the Holy Spirit plays in her life. The Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, St. Paul's letters and the Book of Revelation tell us so much about the Holy Spirit. The Scriptures proclaim that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Blessed Trinity, who plays a vital role in God's plan of salvation.

The role of the Holy Spirit is to be the great communicator. The word 'Spirit' suggests the breath of life. The Spirit who breathed human life into the first creation now breathes divine life into us in the new creation. We come alive as the children of God! Through the Spirit we are born from above to share God's own life. From the same Spirit, each of us receives different gifts. That could easily cause divisions among the Christian community. But the Spirit who is responsible for our diversity is also responsible for uniting us in the one Body of Christ.

The Holy Spirit not only communicates God's life, but also His saving truth. Before His Passion Jesus promised to send the Spirit of Truth. He would remind the community of Christ's teaching after He had ascended to heaven. The Spirit of Truth would guarantee that the Christian community would always remain faithful to Christ's teaching. The Church as a whole can't go wrong in the essentials of what we should believe and how we should behave.

On today's feast of Pentecost, we celebrate the Spirit of Truth enabling the small group of Christ's followers to share the Good News of salvation. The Spirit descended upon the apostles in the form of a rushing wind, suggesting God's unseen, but powerful breath of life. The tongues of fire suggest eloquence, light and burning zeal. Though their listeners spoke different languages the Holy Spirit touched their minds and hearts, enable them to understand and believe the apostles.

The descent of the Holy Spirit on Our Lady and the apostles is paralleled by the same Spirit descending upon Jesus as He began His public ministry. In the synagogue at Nazareth He quoted the prophet Isaiah as He proclaimed His mission manifesto. ***"The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim deliverance to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour. He then rolled up the scroll and said, 'Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing,'"*** (Lk.4. 18-20; cf. Is. 61.1). Now, the same Spirit of truth, empowers Jesus' followers to continue their master's work.

Today celebrates the birth of the Church's mission. The Holy Spirit acted in a very dramatic way, enabling the small group of Christ's followers to get off to a flying start. The Spirit is still active in the Church, even if usually not in such a dramatic way. The Gospel is preached in most languages throughout the world. And through the Spirit people continue to become alive in Christ and to grow as Christians.

Let us rejoice that God continues to send his Spirit into the world and to each of us. Let us not allow the Holy Spirit to become the forgotten member of the Blessed Trinity!

God bless you. A happy feast day.

Isidore O.P.