

THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

CORPUS CHRISTI

1ST READING: DEUTERONOMY 8:2-3, 14B-16A

This passage comes from a recital of the events of the Exodus and of the wanderings of the Israelites in the desert. It recalls especially the trials to which the people were exposed—hunger, thirst, fiery serpents, and scorpions—and the provisions that God made to relieve them: the water from the rock and the manna. Paul himself treated the water from the rock and the manna as types of the two great Christian sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion (1 Cor 10:1-4)

Responsorial Psalm: 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 : "Oh praise the Lord, Jerusalem!"

The line, "he fills you with the finest of wheat" is very appropriate for the feast of Corpus Christi

2ND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 10:16-17

St. Paul is probably quoting a traditional eucharistic formula. This is indicated by the use of the Jewish expression "the cup of blessing." Sharing in the "Body and blood" refers to our being united to Christ giving Himself in His redemptive death. Holy Communion expresses and strengthens the bond between us and our crucified saviour. Verse 17 involves a remarkable shift of sense. The word "body," used to refer to Christ, sacramentally present in the Eucharist, is now taken up to refer to the Body of Christ, the Church. We, the Church, are a Eucharistic community, united by being nourished by the one Body of Christ, offered in the Mass and received in Holy Communion.

GOSPEL: JOHN 6:51-58

Today's Gospel forms the 2nd half of Christ's discourse on the Bread of Life. In the first half, we are nourished by the word of God at the banquet of wisdom. Our response should be the loving faith in Jesus, which is necessary for us to receive His eternal life. This is reflected in the Mass' Liturgy of the Word, (Scripture Readings, Creed, sermon).

That banquet prepares the way for the Liturgy of the Eucharist, as expressed in today's Gospel. If we are to share in the life-giving power of Christ's death and resurrection we must be nourished by His crucified and risen Body and Blood. That is made possible sacramentally at every Mass and avoids any offensive suggestion of cannibalism.

**NEXT SUNDAY –
XII SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES (YEAR A) - THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

"I have no taste for corruptible food nor for the pleasures of this life. I desire the bread of God, which is the flesh of Jesus Christ, who was of the seed of David; and for drink I desire his blood, which is love incorruptible"

-St. Ignatius of Antioch

A word from Pope Francis

"Although the life of a person is in a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. You have to trust God."

THE WORD AT WORK: OUR WEEKLY REFLECTION

CORPUS CHRISTI - THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

A number of years ago I did a bit of exciting detective work. In a stately home in the heart of England several stained-glass windows show Dominicans, holding a monstrance, containing the Blessed Sacrament. Among them there's St. Thomas Aquinas, who is said to have composed the liturgy for today's feast. Research has led me to conclude that the glass has probably come from our priory in Liege, Belgium, where that devotion originated.

So, what's this devotion all about, and why is it important? Well, most of us come to Mass every Sunday, and many during the week. Though that's very good, there is the danger of our taking the Mass for granted. So, today's feast of Corpus Christi, or Body of Christ -should give us the chance to reflect on what may have become too routine. If familiarity doesn't here breed contempt it can easily lead to complacency. Hopefully, our celebration of Corpus Christi would renew and fire up our wonder and gratitude for the gift of the Mass.

We believe that at every Mass Christ's sacrifice of the cross is made present on the altar for the local community. Our crucified and risen Lord continues to offer Himself to His Heavenly Father, as, on our behalf, He makes our peace with God. And we are united with Christ in offering ourselves in loving service of God and each other. The Mass should sum up and re-enforce our whole lives as generous givers, rather than selfish grabbers.

The feast of Corpus Christi reminds us that in the Eucharist Christ is present in a very special way, and gives Himself to us in the form of a meal. We believe that the bread and wine are changed into Christ's own Body and Blood. This meal nourishes us so that we can grow as Christians. We call this meal, 'Holy Communion.' Our personal communion with God and our fellow members within the Church is expressed and strengthened by our sharing the one Body and Blood of Christ.

We can understand the meaning of communion if we think of how we celebrate special occasions with a meal. We enjoy good food and drink together, but more than that, we're nourished by each other's company and conversation. Such special meals draw us closer to each other. And that's what should happen at Mass. We're nourished by the very best of food and drink -Christ's own Body and Blood. And we're nourished by His company and conversation, as He speaks to us through the Scriptures, the Creed and hopefully the sermon. The sacred Eucharistic Meal should draw us closer to Christ and each other.

The Blessed Sacrament, consecrated at Mass, is reserved in the Tabernacle. This is firstly so that Holy Communion can be taken to the sick who can't get to Mass. That means that Jesus can not only be brought to them to nourish them in a special way, but Jesus in the Sacrament itself keeps them in union with the community's celebration of Mass. The Blessed Sacrament is also reserved in the Tabernacle so that we can drop into church, to worship Jesus who is there present amongst us in the Eucharist. As we pray before the Blessed Sacrament we have time to deepen our understanding and devotion for the Mass itself and to take part in future Masses with greater reverence. In other words, Eucharistic devotion outside Mass is always linked to the Mass itself. That's very true of Benediction and Corpus Christi processions.

Corpus Christi is a wonderful, joyful feast. It's not surprising the Mass should be called the 'Eucharist,' which means, 'Thanksgiving.' Today, above all others, we should be filled with gratitude for the gift of the Mass!

Isidore O.P.



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 18TH JUNE 2017

CORPUS CHRISTI

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

Corpus Christi is all about us. That might seem strange to say at first, but it's a humbling thought. In the Blessed Sacrament, the Lord gives us everything, and much more than we ever expected. He invites us to pour ourselves out in imitation of him also. This wonderful Sacrament is about healing our ills but also bringing out the best in us.

We see this Eucharistic living all around us, all the time. We do not have to look very far. Nurses on our hospital wards, teachers in our classrooms, our emergency services, police, and in scores of volunteers in many guises. All of this is eucharistic living, rooted in the saving mystery and leading towards it.

The tragedy of Grenfell Tower in London is a sad reminder of how much we need to develop our Eucharistic life. We mourn the death of those victims of terrorism with painful grief. How much we need to grieve for victims of corporate carelessness, and be committed to challenging that lack in our society.

As we move towards Blackfriars Market, we give thanks through the great Sacrament of Thanksgiving for the many things with which we are blessed. We begin to say farewell to some of our students and look toward the summer with hope.

Be intent on prayer, and whatever may happen will turn to our good.

Fr David

BLACKFRIARS MARKET – THE FINAL COUNTDOWN

The final countdown is on, with just one weeks left until our Market on Sunday 25 June. **We are just floating around the £4,000 mark** for our cash totals for Blackfriars Market to date, and there are plenty of goods coming in to ensure it will be another consummate success. We still have a way to go before we reach the magic target of £10,000, so do keep up the super effort.

BLACKFRIARS' MARKET - SUNDAY JUNE 25, 8.30-2.30 – PLEASE SUPPORT

Thanks for your support in providing donations and buying raffle tickets. There are two things we need from you please:

1. Keep bringing in donations - especially cakes but also bottled goods, unwanted gifts, bric-a-brac, books, DVDs, toys and sweets.
2. Please spend at least a few minutes next Sunday, visiting the market and buying a few things. The support this provides for us is so important. Donations can be handed in at any time during the week and on Sunday morning - please hand them in to any member of the community.

BLACKFRIARS MARKET – WHAT IT HAS DONE ALREADY

Since May 2014, Blackfriars Market has raised more than £40,000 for Holy Cross Priory. This has helped us to carry out much of the remedial repair works around the premises which had fallen into severe neglect. With your help, we have been

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 July 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

able to make a real difference. A successful Blackfriars Market will help us to continue this important work and build for the future.

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.

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 who have registered for this year. 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.

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.

GARDEN PARTY IN SUPPORT OF LEICESTER CITY OF SANCTUARY – SUNDAY 24TH JUNE -10 SPRINGFIELD ROAD, LEICESTER LE2 3BD

The Anglican Bishop of Leicester, Bishop Martyn is organising a Garden Party on 24th June from 2-5pm to support Leicester City of Sanctuary, a charity that supports asylum seekers and refugees.

This is an open invite to anyone who would like to visit Bishop's Lodge and see the garden (with marquee) and the Chapel. The entrance fee is £2 and there will be activities for children, live music, quiz, tea and cakes. Please come and join us!

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Blackfriars Market Sunday 25th June
- Midsummer walk, Wednesday 21 June
- Our Holy Hour, each Sunday at 6pm
- 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:

£ 1,034.86

(Gift aided: £ 321.75)

Woodhouse Collection

£ 166.23

(Gift aided: £102.00)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!**