



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 9TH JULY 2017

XIV SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

The first weeks of July are always busy, as we wind up the school year and look forward to graduations from our universities. It is a time to mark the achievements that have been chalked up since the days of September when we set out to face the challenges before us. Time for holiday is before us, and then preparation for the inevitable return to the new challenges ahead.

But, as they say, life goes on. We cannot forget that there are still many people in need, and often in ways we don't see so clearly. Those in our prison and those in hospital continue to require our compassion as the summer progresses. We can always spare a prayer for those whose work is hard and those whose burdens are heavy.

This week we look forward to welcoming Fr Matthew Jarvis among us. As you know well, recent months at Holy Cross have been a challenge with so few of us. We have been grateful for your understanding and perseverance when we've had to ask you to wait for our attention to various things. This has enabled us to minister to those most in need, but of course we make mistakes, and for this we are sorry. With the arrival of Fr Matthew, all of us in the Holy Cross Family can begin to look forward to a new chapter in the life of this place. God has blessed us, and we know that our prayers will be answered and our good work rewarded.

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

Fr David

BLACKFRIARS MARKET – A HUGE THANKS TO EVERYONE!

The total for Blackfriars Market just keeps on rising, and we are grateful to each and every person who went out of their way to make it such a roaring success in so many ways. Thanks again to all of you. As we said last week, this funding gives us the opportunity to attend to various pressing matters around our premises.

OUR BROTHERS IN THE PRIESTHOOD

One of the great privileges we have at Holy Cross is to be a part of a strong and supportive "Deanery", comprised of the clergy who serve our neighbouring parishes. Recently, +Patrick our Bishop has reorganised our Leicester deaneries into one large group, and we are guided by Mgr John Hadley as our Dean and Fr Stephen Foster as our Subdean. This year many of our brother priests in the deanery are celebrating jubilees of their ordination. So we send our warm good wishes to Mgr John Lally and Fr John Daly IC who celebrate 50 years, also Fr John Cahill and Fr John Tavares who celebrate 25 years. During the past week, we celebrated the Requiem Mass for Canon Peter Coyle, who was Parish Priest at St Edward's for the past twenty years. The example of our brother priests and their kindness to us is something we cherish.

WELCOME TO FR MATTHEW JARVIS

Fr Matthew Jarvis arrives this week, and will begin to settle in. There will be an opportunity to welcome him next Sunday at our Masses.

NOTICE BOARD

BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you wish to have your child baptised, please attend one of our baptism preparation sessions. The next is Sunday 6 August 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

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.

SOCIAL NEWS – BE PART OF OUR NEW SOCIAL GROUP

Would you like to be part of a new 'social group'? We will be meeting to discuss the idea on Tuesday July 11 from 6.30-8.00pm. The provisional plan is to begin after the summer holiday period and meet every Tuesday, for a get together and chat. There will be board games available; books; fun bingo; refreshments to share and the opportunity for informal singing. We may build in short talks or special events here and there. All welcome to join in with the planning this Tuesday. For more information, contact Jeff on hcross.social@gmail.com

EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS – SEPTEMBER 2018

Our Bishops have announced that a National Eucharistic Congress will be held in Liverpool during September 2018. After the summer holidays, we will begin to make preparations for this important moment, and we will consider how we can enrich our devotion to the Eucharist. At the end of July, Fr Chris Thomas will join us and explain a bit more. Fr Chris is a priest of this Diocese, and General Secretary to the Conference of Bishops in England and Wales. He is also a great friend of our community.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

This week, our schools will close for the summer holidays. We thank all our children for the wonderful work and the great joy they have brought to us all during the past academic year. In a special way, we thank our teaching assistants, teachers, senior leaders, support staff, governors, and parents. We are blessed to have such dedicated Catholic schools in Leicester, all of which are getting stronger. Have a great holiday and don't stop learning

CONGRATULATIONS ON GRADUATIONS

This week we send our warm congratulations to all the students at the University of Leicester who are graduating. Our students contribute such a great deal to life at Holy Cross, and it is wonderful to welcome them back with their families for graduation. Next week, it is the turn of our DMU graduates. Thanks for all you do.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- 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:

£ 1,291.93

(Gift aided: £ 467.5)

Woodhouse Collection

£ 187.00

(Gift aided: £90.00)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*

THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

XIV SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1ST READING: ZECHARIAH 9:9-10

This passage is used on Palm Sunday and looks forward to God giving His people an ideal king -Jesus. Since he would ride on a donkey, rather than a war horse, he would be a peaceful ruler like King Solomon, rather than a warrior, like king David.

Responsorial Psalm: 145 "I will bless your name forever, O God, my King"

This psalm proclaims God's greatness and how we should respond to it.

2ND READING: ROMANS 8:9, 11-13

Here St. Paul speaks of our living godly lives, inspired by the Holy Spirit, who dwells within us. This he contrasts with unruly carnal lives which contradict God's will for us. Paul does not say or mean that our bodies and their physical emotions are evil. They are a good and essential part of being human. He only condemns us when we allow them to get out of control.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 11:25-30

The first half of this reading is highly reminiscent of the discourses and the prayers of the Fourth Gospel, especially the theme of the mutual knowledge of the Father and the Son. It is probably best understood as a liturgical fragment celebrating the knowledge of God that has come through Jesus Christ, and is a halfway house toward the development of the Johannine discourses.

But it is deeply rooted in our Lord's self-understanding, as registered by his use of the word ABBA for his Father. This betokens a unique relationship that he invites others to share through his word. The second part of the reading is peculiar to Matthew. It echoes the invitation of wisdom found in [Sirach 51:23-26](#) and is also found in a shorter (and perhaps earlier) form in the Gospel of Thomas: "Jesus said: Come to me, for easy is my yoke and my Lordship is gentle, and you shall find repose for yourselves." It is another liturgical fragment. In it, Jesus is represented as the mouthpiece of the Wisdom of God. This is an early type of church Christology, that again has its roots in the self-understanding of Jesus who acted as the definitive spokesperson of Wisdom.

NEXT SUNDAY – XV SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES (YEAR A) - FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

"Spiritual persons ought to be equally ready to experience sweetness and consolation in the things of God, or to suffer and keep their ground in drynesses of spirit and devotion, and for as long as God pleases, without their making any complaint about it."

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St. Philip Neri

A word from Pope Francis

"I make a heartfelt plea to all people and to all communities who look to Abraham: may we respect and love one another as brothers and sisters! May we learn to understand the sufferings of others! May no one abuse the name of God through violence! May we work together for justice and peace! *Salaam!*"

THE WORD AT WORK: OUR WEEKLY REFLECTION

XIV SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Today I'm going to reflect on the Gospel for 14th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Matthew 11. 25-30. This begins with Jesus exclaiming, *"I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children."*

What has God hidden from the wise and revealed to little ones? Here Jesus wasn't just speaking about young boys and girls, but all the poor, the under-privileged, the marginalised and the destitute. And what has God done for them?

Quite simply, some Jewish religious leaders claimed that to enter God's Kingdom people needed a very detailed knowledge not only of the 613 Laws given to Moses, but also the multitude of additional minute precisions made to them. What is more, they were expected to observe every one of them. Only religious legal experts could possibly do that. The majority of people would be dismissed as ignorant sinners and excluded.

But Jesus tells us that the so-called experts have got it wrong. He has come to remove the crushing, impossible, burden of so many petty rules and regulations. To each of us he says, *'Come to me all you who labour and overburdened, and I will give you rest.'* Jesus offers those, who would be dismissed as ignorant and unimportant, freedom from trying to carry such an impossible burden; now they -we -can rest in the Lord, in a happiness which had seemed impossibly.

But Jesus goes on to say, *'My yoke is easy, my burden light.'* That removes any complacency we may feel. We can't yet sit back and relax. Following Christ is demanding and at times difficult. But the demands are not meticulous observance of petty man-made regulations, but something far more serious. That is the command to love God above all else, and our neighbour as ourselves. The command to love covers everything that really matters. It touches every corner of our lives. Laws are only good in so far as they protect and foster real love.

And what about the yoke Christ mentions in this Gospel? Well, as you probably know, a yoke is a piece of wood, shaped to rest comfortably on the shoulders. Loads are attached to each end and are easy to carry because their weight is spread. The point is that we must carry our crosses and follow Christ on the difficult journey of love, if we are to find the eternal rest which He promises. But Jesus here tells us that with His help we can carry the weight of our crosses. He can transform carrying our burdens into labours of love. We couldn't begin to do that without Him. But, with His assistance we can do what would be humanly impossible.

There's a tradition that, as the son of Joseph the carpenter, Jesus would have known how to make a well fitting, comfortable yoke, custom-designed to fit each one of us. In other words, He gives us the special help we need to carry our own particular crosses.

There's a beautiful story which shows that this can transform drudgery into a labour of love. Someone, seeing a lad carrying his young brother on his back, sympathetically remarked, "That's a heavy load you're carrying." To which the lad replied, "That's not a load; that's my little brother!" That came from the heart and was, indeed, a labour of love!

So, while the so-called wise thought they could reach heaven through their detailed knowledge of rules and their own efforts in observing them, Christ has a completely different approach. The law of love is the only way to heaven. The wonderful thing is that with God's help that is possible for all of us. That's what's been revealed to us little ones!

Isidore O.P.