

THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

1ST READING: DANIEL 7. 9-10, 13-14

Jesus most frequently referred to Himself as the 'Son of Man,' rather than 'Lord' or the 'Christ.' In doing so He was not asserting His humanity, which was obvious, but was applying to Himself the present passage from the prophet Daniel. Here the prophet records several of the visions he was given while living in Babylon. In verses 9–14, Daniel describes the vision he had of God Almighty. In this vision, God (the "Ancient of Days," [v. 9]) sits in judgment over the beasts that had been ruling the earth. He executes judgment and takes their dominion away from them (vv. 11-12).

The dominion of the earth is taken from the beasts and given to "**one like a son of man**" (v. 13). He becomes Lord of all and is given sovereignty over all "peoples, nations, and languages" in a kingdom that will never end (v. 14). This son of man, above all else, is a heavenly figure. It emphasizes the origin, majesty, and dignity of this ruler who will rule over all things forevermore. When Jesus calls Himself the "Son of Man," He is identifying Himself with this heavenly figure from the book of Daniel. We know this to be the case from passages like Mark 13:26 in which Jesus speaks of His coming on the clouds just as the Daniel 7 passage refers to the "son of man."

Responsorial Psalm: 119 "The Lord is King, most high above all the earth"

This is a royal psalm, proclaiming and rejoicing in the Lord's sovereignty over the earth. This foreshadowed something of His divine majesty being revealed in the Transfiguration.

2ND READING: 2 PETER. 1. 16-19

St. Peter refers to the Transfiguration to refute the heresy that Jesus' Second Coming was a human invention. Peter tells us He had witnessed the Transfiguration and that it foreshadowed how Jesus would appear when He returned in glory at the end of time. The Transfiguration, which was of divine not human origin, should be a guiding light, as we awaited the new dawn of Christ's glorious return. This was a matter of faith

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 17. 1-9

The imagery of the Transfiguration is taken from the joyful feast of Tabernacles. The celebrated the saving God of glory dwelling in a tent with His people. That theme is emphasised by Peter wanting to make three tents for Jesus Moses and Elijah. Jesus was now shown to be the focus of the God of glory dwelling among His people. The two great Old Testament figures, the prophet Elijah and Law-giver witness to Jesus' identity and His fulfilling the Scriptures - a central theme in Matthew's Gospel.

But those witnesses become superfluous when the Father gives the same endorsement to His Son's mission as he gave at his baptism.

NEXT SUNDAY –

XIX SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES (YEAR A) - NINTH 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."

-
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

FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

'Lord, It's Good To Be Here!' I've often felt like that! Sometimes, when I've been comfortably tucked up in bed and am reluctant to get up – especially early on a cold dark morning or, when I've been enjoying a good holiday with my family or close friends. We wish the good times could continue forever. We say to ourselves, 'It's good to be here. Let's stay.' But duty calls. We have to face the, sometimes, tedious demands of work. I expect you've felt the same way.

So, did the apostles on the Mount of the Transfiguration. There they saw Jesus in a new light. (That's why Pope John Paul II included the Transfiguration of the Lord among the five Luminous Mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary). No doubt they accepted Jesus as being just as human as anyone else. But on the Mountain, He revealed to His inner circle of followers something of His divine majesty and glory. Not only that. Jesus' Transfiguration showed them, and us, a glimpse of how we would be transformed as we shared in the glory of His resurrection – if we followed Him. That is another way in which the Transfiguration of the Lord is a Luminous Mystery.

Elijah and Moses appeared with the transfigured Jesus. Elijah was the great prophet, and Moses the Law giver, who had led God's people from slavery into the Promised Land. Their presence with Christ assured His closest followers that He was, indeed, fulfilling God's promises for His people. In the light of Christ's Transfiguration these Old Testament figures and all they represented were now seen as foreshadowing and sharing His glory. That threw new light on the part the Old Testament past had played in God's plan of salvation. Finally, the Father's voice from heaven gave the supreme endorsement to His Son's mission, **"This is my beloved Son, He enjoys my favour, Listen to Him."** No wonder Peter exclaimed, **'Lord, it is good to be here!'** No wonder he wanted to stay.

And what about us? Hopefully, there will be times when God seems very close. Praying is easy and delightful. We find following Christ fulfilling and reassuring. The Good News really does give us hope, with a sense of direction in our lives. These are very precious moments, when we feel the warmth of God's gift of love. They give us a glimpse of the happiness of heaven. We want them to last forever. And they will.

But not yet. These blessed moments of peace and tranquillity with God are like an oasis in the desert, or a holiday with friends. They are meant to refresh us so that we can have the strength to move into the rigours of what may seem like a harsh desert.

In his 2nd Letter St. Peter wanted all of us to learn from his experience of the Lord's Transfiguration, **"For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honour and glory from God the Father and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased', we heard this voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain,** (2 Peter 1:16-18). St. Peter wants all of us children of God to be transformed by our life in the risen Lord. Already we should radiate something of the glory of God and share something of the luminous mystery of the Transfiguration.

The Transfiguration gives us a glimpse of where Christ is leading us -the happiness and glory of heaven. We must keep our sights set on that. The time for resting eternally in the Lord will only come when we share in His heavenly glory, glimpsed in His Transfiguration.

Isidore O.P.



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 6TH AUGUST 2017

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

The holiday season continues, and we begin to prepare for returning to the more familiar routine of the year's pattern, taking with us some happy memories of relaxation and rest, combined with some new experiences. It's good that we have these opportunities. Let's take advantage of them, in whatever way they come to us.

Meanwhile the busy routine of parish and priory life continues at Holy Cross. This week we've had baptisms, confessions, weddings, funerals, and of course the visits to the hospitals and our prison. So many different people experiencing the power of the Sacraments in different contexts. Changed by them, sometimes with joy, sometimes in a period of sadness.

It was nice to welcome Fr Chris Thomas among us last week, and to begin thinking about how we can use the Eucharistic Congress to consider how best we can enrich our Eucharistic life as a parish and a Dominican Community. The Eucharist helps us to make sense of the many different experiences in life.

It's great to have a few more people around in the priory these days, and this week I was able to make the necessary conventual appointments that follow from my own recent appointment as Prior. I'm grateful to the brethren for discharging their duties with care and attention. We're looking forward to St Dominic's Day on Tuesday, and hopefully some of you will be able to join us.

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

Fr David

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.

EUCCHARISTIC 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.

SOLEMNITY OF OUR HOLY FATHER SAINT DOMINIC

This Tuesday, 8 August, is the Solemnity of Our Holy Father Saint Dominic. Solemn Mass for the Solemnity will be concelebrated by the Dominican Fathers at 12:30pm, with a short reception afterwards in the Hall. Solemn Vespers and Benediction will be at 6:45pm. Please join us to mark this special day in our calendar.

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

BUILDINGS SURVEY

We have just completed a comprehensive survey of the buildings here at Holy Cross, which are of varying age and design. A number of significant issues have been brought to our attention, and we await the completed report. Following that, we hope to be able to draw up a programme for restoring those areas of our buildings that require attention.

THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS

Mass will be celebrated at the usual times in the coming week, with the exception that there will be no Mass at 8am on Monday and Tuesday. The Mass will be offered in the Dominican Rite on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday at 8am. Fr Robert is away in America at present, and Fr Matthew returns today from pilgrimage. Fr Fabian will be away until the middle of August. Thank you for your understanding as our community is "on the move" during the summer months.

THE OFFICE AT HOLY CROSS

Mrs Powell returns to work this week following her summer break, so it will be all stations go from Thursday 3 August. Thank you for your patience while the office has been short staffed. We will be glad to have her back.

CONVENTUAL APPOINTMENTS

Following his appointment as Prior at the beginning of June, Fr David has now made the following appointments with the consent of the Chapter and Council: Subprior: Fr Robert Gay OP; Bursar: Fr Tony Rattigan OP. In addition, the Chapter has elected Fr Matthew Jarvis OP as Conventual Lector. Please keep our community in your prayers

PARISH OF ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR, AYLESTONE

The Dominican Fathers at Holy Cross have assumed the pastoral care of the Parish of St Edward the Confessor Aylestone, until the Bishop is able to make permanent arrangements. The late Canon Peter Coyle served faithfully there for many years until his death in August. Please keep the people of the parish there in your prayers at this time.

HOLY CROSS DAY – 17 SEPTEMBER 2017

This year we will mark Holy Cross Day on Sunday 17 September. The Mass at 10:30am will be preceded by a procession of the Relic. Mass will be celebrated by our Provincial, Fr Martin. We will start to make preparations for this very soon.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Our Holy Hour, each Sunday at 6pm
- Organ recitals, first Friday of each month at 1:15pm
- Solemnity of St Dominic, 8 August. Solemn Mass 12:30pm; Vespers 6:45pm
- Holy Cross Day – Sunday 17 September

THE DOMINICAN COMMUNITY

Fr David Rocks OP PP *Prior*; Fr Isidore Clarke OP; Fr Fabian Radcliffe OP;
Fr Tony Rattigan OP *Bursar*; Fr Robert Gay OP CC *Subprior*; Fr Matthew Jarvis OP

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:

£ 1067.85

(Gift aided: £323.00)

Woodhouse Collection

£ 170.75

(Gift aided: £126.00)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*