

THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

XIX IN ORDINARY TIMES

1ST READING: 1 KINGS 19. 9, 11-13

This passage has obviously been chosen to match the Gospel story of the appearance of Jesus to his disciples on the lake. In each story, an encounter with God/Christ takes place after the stilling of a storm. Elijah has slain the prophets of Baal, and Jezebel has threatened his life in revenge. He retreats to Mount Horeb to commune with God, as Moses had done before him. God is not in the storm, the earthquake, or the fire, but in the gentle breeze after the storm. The place of encounter with God is not always in the awesome events of nature but in the word of revelation.

Responsorial Psalm: 85 *"Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help"*

In this community lament the assurance is given that God will restore His people, just as He has done in the past. The psalmist foresees the restoration of peace, justice and peace, probably with the return of the Jews from exile. In the Christian liturgy, it is used most frequently in Advent and at Christmas.

2ND READING: ROMANS 9. 1-5

In this chapter Paul takes a much more positive approach to Judaism's part in God's plan of salvation than in, say, his earlier letter to the Galatians. After being deeply shocked and saddened that his own people should have rejected the promise Messiah he now lists the great prerogatives of Israel in salvation history—eight of them, culminating in the gift of the Messiah Himself. Paul is confident that God never goes back on the covenant He has made with people.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 14. 22-33

Today's dramatic episode of Peter walking on the water sums up the life of the Church and the meaning of discipleship. The boat represents the Church; the storm, the persecution through which Matthew's community is passing. Jesus appears and challenges Peter, the disciple par excellence, to trust Him. Peter is afraid and cries out, "Lord, save me." Like Peter, we must learn that we can't begin to follow Jesus if we depend solely on our feeble efforts. That's why Jesus, half rebuking, half encouraging him, says: "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" The Lord brings Peter to safety, and all the disciples make the adoring confession "Truly you are the Son of God."

NEXT SUNDAY –

XX SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES (YEAR A) - TENTH 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 dryness's 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

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – A CRY FOR HELP

"Lord, save me, I'm sinking!" With that cry for help Peter sums up our desperate need for Christ to rescue us from the storm-tossed waves which batter us in life -sickness, anxiety, temptations, those awful times when we've behaved like utter fools and would long for the earth to open up and swallow us – and then there's sin. We fear that we can't cope, that we will be overwhelmed. In desperation, we cry to the Lord for help. That may be the only time we turn to Him!

But then we may have doubts about Jesus, arising from doubts about ourselves. "Why should Jesus bother about me, when most of the time I've scarcely given Him a thought?" As though I'd managed pretty well on my own! Has He abandoned me when I most need His help? Is He really with me when I only give Him a thought when I most need Him? Is hoping, expecting, He'll take an interest in me wishful thinking? Does He really care for me? Most urgently, can Jesus rescue me? Does He really want to? Like, Peter, we may feel we need to put Jesus to the test.

What a bold-faced thing for Peter to challenge Jesus to enable him to do what was humanly impossible – to walk across the storm-tossed water! But Jesus took Peter at his word; He invited him to get out of the boat and walk across the turbulent waves towards Him. While Peter tested Jesus' power to enable him to walk on the water, Jesus tested Peter's trust that He would not allow His chief disciple to drown.

All went well -as long Peter relied on Jesus to support him. But when Peter started to think only in terms of his human limitations, he realised that he shouldn't be able to walk across water. As soon as he began to place his trust in himself, in what was humanly possible, as soon as he ceased to rely on Jesus' power, he began to sink. Only then did he desperately cry out for help. Jesus then reached out and took Peter's hand. Eagerly Peter grasped it.

For me, that simple gesture of Jesus stretching out His hand, and our clasping it, sums up the whole of His work of salvation. Like Peter, we must recognise our need for Christ to save us. We need to realise that we just don't have the strength within us to overcome the power of sin and death and to reach up to God. In ourselves we are earth-bound creatures, further handicapped by sin. But, as in today's episode, Christ reaches out to us, grasps us, as He did Peter. We, like Peter, must clasp the hand of Jesus forever reaching out to us. In that meeting we find our salvation.

The wonderful thing is that when we turn to God and place ourselves in His hands we draw on His infinite strength, which is more powerful than whatever waves may batter us. Then we will realise that God is with us, supporting us. We are no longer alone in facing our difficulties. Then, with His help, we will be able to come safely through even the most destructive forces of sin and death - if only we will turn to God and, like Peter, cry, **'save me, Lord, I'm sinking.'**

I have found it's a great mistake to look fearfully into what seemed a bleak future. That can drive us to despair. We tend only to think in terms of our limitations, and forget that Christ gives us His help when we need it, not before. When He doesn't calm the storm-tossed waves which batter us, He helps us to develop resources we did not know we had, so that with His support we can do the seemingly impossible.

As we cry, **'Save me, Lord, I'm sinking,'** Jesus echoes the words of the prophet Isaiah, **"Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand,"** (Is. 41. 10).

God bless you!

Isidore O.P.



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 13TH AUGUST 2017

XIX SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

On Tuesday this week, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Blessed Lady. It's always a great feast. But it comes as a bit of a warning – term time looms! I always remember it from my childhood days as a time of great festivity, but also a time for the buying of new school uniforms, and the preparation of things turning to routine once again.

Celebrating this great feast here at Holy Cross, we experience something of the same feeling. Soon we will celebrate our Patronal Feast, Sunday 17 September, and our regular programme of events will resume. Now that our Dominican Community has a full complement, we can look forward to building together on what has already been achieved by the hard work and dedication of so many of our Holy Cross Family.

In celebrating the Assumption, we are proclaiming that the great work of God's salvation has already been experienced by humanity. We know that, for us, there is still some work to be done before its completion, but we are right to rejoice in the knowledge that we will share in what we can already see as God's beautiful work achieved in Our Lady.

So as we prepare for term time to resume and for Holy Cross Day, we can be glad that so much has been achieved through our community and our lives together. This helps us to reflect with hope on what we can build on these firm foundations.

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

Many thanks to those who braved the rain and managed to join us for the events to mark St Dominic's Day last Tuesday. It was nice to have so many of you with us for Mass, and then also for Vespers and Benediction; and also to share a glass of something to mark the day together. Let's pray that through the intercession of St Dominic, we will be able to work together to build up our community once again, following the changes of the past year.

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 comprehensive report has now been received, and in the autumn we hope to be able to draw up a programme for restoring those areas of our buildings that require attention. We hope that this programme of works will guide us across the next five years, and that attention will then be given to a number of outstanding issues.

THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS

Fr David will be away from Wednesday of this week until the beginning of September. During this time, there will not be Mass at 8am Monday – Friday. We very much hope that normal Mass times will begin again from early September. Thank you for bearing with us during this time of transition. Fr Robert returns early this week.

THE OFFICE AT HOLY CROSS

Mrs Powell is our office administrator, and is very much at the centre of everything that happens at Holy Cross. The list of things she does is enormous, as Holy Cross is a very busy place! In addition to ensuring our accounting information is passed to our main office in Oxford, she manages hall hire, contractors, emails, phone messages, and sacramental registers. Do get in touch with her if she can help in any way!

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION – HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION

Tuesday 15 August is a Holyday of Obligation and therefore we are all obliged to attend Mass. Masses at Holy Cross – 8am; 12:30pm; 6:10pm; 7:30pm (Sung Mass in the Old Rite). Mass at St Edward, Aylestone, 9:30am.

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 the Assumption, Tuesday 15 August. Holyday of Obligation
- 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:

£ 1251.87

(Gift aided: £373.00)

Woodhouse Collection

£ 162.59

(Gift aided: £111.00)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*