



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2017

XXIII SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

It's nice to be back behind the desk again after a few weeks off for a break. I was so grateful to be able to take the time for holiday and recharging the batteries. A huge thanks goes to everyone who helped manage my various responsibilities while I was away.

The first few days back at work have been busy, but very inspiring. I've managed to visit our schools, at the outset of a new academic year. Bishop Patrick's letter this weekend tells us about the new plans for our schools this year, and you have the opportunity to get involved in helping to shape their future. In particular, in the next few weeks we will celebrate the 50 years that our own Holy Cross School has been located at Stonesby Avenue. Many people in Leicester have a particular connection with this school, which was the first Catholic school in Leicester after the Reformation.

It's been great to come back to Holy Cross and have a full house of Dominicans. It was very difficult in the early part of 2017, with so few of us. Now we can start to take things forward. I'm looking forward to Holy Cross Day next Sunday, as an opportunity for us to celebrate all that is good about our community, and embrace the future with hope and courage.

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

Fr David

HOLY CROSS DAY – NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday, 17 September, we will celebrate Holy Cross Day, our Patronal Feast. Our Provincial, Fr Martin, will celebrate Mass at 10:30am, and the Mass will begin with a Procession of the Relic of the True Cross. Please make a special effort to attend this Mass, as it is an opportunity to celebrate the many things that we do for one another as a community of faith. There will be a celebration in the Hall after Mass.

TOWARDS OUR JUBILEES

In 1817, a Dominican Priest fleeing the French Revolution, Fr Benedict Caestryck OP, took up residence in a house at the top of Dover Street. That same year a site of marshland was acquired between Wellington Street and New Walk, by Richard Raby Esq, a local wool spinner. He began to drain the land, and Fr Benedict began to build Holy Cross Priory. The first Mass would be celebrated on Sunday 14 September 1819. Many years later, on 15 May 1958, the present Priory Church was dedicated. As we mark two centuries since Fr Benedict and Richard Raby began to erect Holy Cross Priory, and as we prepare for the Diamond Jubilee year of 2018 and the Bicentenary year of 2019, let's begin by praying for the courage and vision shown by our founders all those years ago, and work together now for our future.

NATIONAL NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

Friday 15 September – Saturday 23 September. The Inaugural Novena to our Lady of Walsingham. Leaflets available soon.

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 September 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

MASS AND PRAYER FOR HEALING IN HONOUR OF ST PADRE PIO

Saturday 23 September at 12:30pm, a special Mass on the feast of St Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio), with procession and prayers for healing. Please do bring along any person you might know who is in need of healing.

AN AFTERNOON OF PRAYER WITH BLESSED PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI

Saturday 30 September, beginning with the 12:30pm Mass, Br Joseph Bailham OP will lead our reflections on this lay Dominican. After Mass, a light lunch in St Clement's Hall, followed by two reflections and a period of adoration. Come along to find out more.

SOCIAL NEWS

NEW! Holy Cross Social Group – This social group will gather in St. Clement's Hall on Tuesday evenings (6.30-8.00pm). The aim is to provide a chance for people to meet up, enjoy activities and have a chat and a bite to eat. This will be provided **free of charge** (although donations to cover our costs are welcome). The activities involved will depend on what people want to do; we are planning to include: **an informal singing group; board games and cards; a crafts-corner; book exchange, fun bingo.** First session: Tuesday September 19.

CAN YOU HELP OUT?

This social group will provide social support for the people of Holy Cross. Its success will rely on what people might like to bring to the group, depending on their interests and skills. Would you be able to help by:

- being a member of the group (ie be a friendly face at the group, chat, play games);
- providing an activity (help with food or provide a craft);
- making a donation to help cover costs (please hand in, in a sealed envelope marked Holy Cross Social Group).

For more detail on all of the above please contact Jeff on hcross.social@gmail.com

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

The School Community will mark Holy Cross Day with Mass in our Church at 1:20pm. All are welcome to attend. Bishop Patrick will visit the school for Mass on 26 September to mark 50 Years on Stonesby Avenue. Please contact the school if you would like to attend this special Mass.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Our Holy Hour, each Sunday at 6pm
- Organ recitals, first Friday of each month at 1:15pm
- Padre Pio Mass for Healing – 23 September at 12:30pm
- An afternoon of prayer with Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

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:

£ 1238.27

(Gift aided: £439.56)

Woodhouse Collection

£ 155.06

(Gift aided: £127.00)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*

THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

XXIII IN ORDINARY TIMES

1ST READING: EZEKIEL 33:7-9

This passage comes from a chapter in which Ezekiel sets down the responsibilities of the prophet as he envisages them after the restoration from exile. He sees the prophet as a watchman, a familiar figure in the defence system of Palestine. Watchmen were posted on the hills to warn of the approach of a foreign invader. If the prophetic watchman fails to deliver the warning, it is his own responsibility. If he does deliver it and the individual refuses to pay heed, it is not the prophet's fault. He has discharged his responsibility.

Responsorial Psalm: 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9: "O that today you would listen to His voice! Harden not your hearts."

This psalm introduces the daily Prayer of the Church. It consists of two parts: the first a call to worship, the second a warning against neglect of the word of God. The refrain, "If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts," is singularly apt after Ezekiel's parable of the watchman. It's a constant reminder for us to hear the word of God and do it.

2ND READING: ROMANS 13:8-10

As we saw last Sunday, chapters 13-15 of Romans consist largely of ethical exhortation. Here Paul presents the second table of the Decalogue. Paul then summarizes (Rm 13:9) its single injunctions in the all-embracing command of Leviticus 19:18: "***You shall love your neighbour as yourself.***" Evidently Paul is drawing upon an established pattern of catechesis. The teaching of this passage is that there is really only one commandment that is universal and covers every situation and to which we are always obligated—the commandment of love. The separate commandments of the Decalogue are to be seen as specifications or illustrations of what love may mean in particular situations.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 18:15-20

This Gospel reading is closely connected to last week's. These are the only passages in all four Gospels in which the term "church" (ekklesia) occurs. Both passages include the promise about binding and loosing; in Mt 16 it is addressed to Peter only, and in Matthew 18 to the disciples generally. By combining it with the saying about fraternal correction, Matthew has converted it into a church rule. Binding and loosing now become the function of the whole community, and their character is changed to the administration of discipline within the community. Matthew realised that one person's sin damages the life of the whole Christian community. For the sake of the health of the Christian Community as a whole, and the sinner himself he must be corrected.

NEXT SUNDAY –

XXIV SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES (YEAR A) - THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

"Expect much of God, and he will do much for you."

-
St Bernard of Clairvaux

"There is no surer means of calling down God's blessing upon the family than the daily recitation of the Rosary."

Pope Pius XII

THE WORD AT WORK: OUR WEEKLY REFLECTION

23RD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Today I'm going to reflect on the readings for the 23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time. They're all about our duty to correct each other.

Not my problem! I'm not getting involved! That can so easily be our reaction when we see someone doing what is wrong. But today's 1st Reading and Gospel shout, "Wrong, wrong, wrong!" God expects us to stop people from harming themselves and others. He will blame and punish us if we don't prevent people from sinning, when we could do so. But God will reward us if we co-operate with Him in saving the sinner from self-destruction. If, in self-defence, we were to use the murderer Cain's argument, "I am not my brother's keeper," God would reply, "Wrong! You are all my children and are responsible for each other." We can't disown anybody, however badly he or she behaves. We can write no-one off as being worthless, beyond hope. Christ lived and died to save everyone, and especially the greatest of sinners. He has called us to bring His salvation to the world. We are His ministers of His salvation, of His loving mercy.

In the 2nd Reading St. Paul tells us that the commandment to love our neighbour as ourselves embraces all the other commandments. Or put the other way around, every sin is a failure in love, or a denial of love. Real love couldn't allow someone to make a mess of his or her life and harm others, when a friendly word of correction could help them to straighten themselves out. We have a duty in love to help each other to stop sinning.

Most of us hate doing that. We don't want the stress of confrontation. We fear the anger and rejection of the one we correct. In our longing for a peaceful life we will try to avoid rocking the boat. We will try to convince ourselves that we should mind our own business, and not meddle in other people's lives. That's what they will probably tell us, if we presume to interfere in their lives.

But sometimes we must show what is called, 'tough love.' Out of loving concern we must, for example, try to stop a drunkard from driving. If we don't, and that led to him killing himself, and perhaps other people, we would be partly responsible for the accident and their deaths. But if we managed to prevent him driving we would have saved his and their lives.

In a discussion with teenagers at Spode Conference Centre they said they resented the restrictions their parents placed on them -the time they came home at night, where they went, the company they kept. But when I asked them whether they would prefer to be allowed to do as they pleased, they didn't want that! They realised that would mean that their parents didn't care what happened to them. The poor parents couldn't win, whether or not they tried to control their children's behaviour. But God will hold us responsible if we failed to point out faults and dangers to which someone may easily be blind.

The Gospel gives us some practical advice on how we should correct each other. We should adopt a sensitive approach. Far from being inspired by anger and contempt, we should act out of love and concern. We want to build someone up into being a better person, who ceases to bring out the worst in himself and risks harming himself and others. Instead of publicly humiliating someone, we should take him aside and have a quiet private word with him. If that doesn't work the correction should be more formal, with one or more witnesses to back us up. All the time our only concern should be to bring out the best in people, to build them up, not knock them down.

A final thought. So far, I've been speaking as though we were always innocent and other people needed us to correct them. That, of course, is not true. Sometimes we will need other people to point out our faults. Hopefully we would welcome their correction with good grace, and even gratitude. We should realise they've shown the courage and honesty of real love, when their silence could so easily have allowed us to make a mess of our lives. That wouldn't be true love.

Isidore O.P.