



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 22ND OCTOBER 2017

XXIX SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

They say that everyone complains about the weather, but during the past week many people very close to home have had cause to do so. We were lucky to escape the worst excesses of it. Our thoughts are very much with those who have been badly affected in any way.

Very often we might find ourselves complaining about things that affect others more severely than they affect us. We might think of that with pain – a toothache is much less of a problem than someone with a serious painful illness. But it is still a bore, we still have to endure the discomfort. Sometimes, also, it is the side effects of something more serious that niggles at us.

It is often like that in our spiritual lives also. We can find much to complain about – all of us have things we struggle with. Sometimes it's more fun to complain about someone else's failings, in the hope that they're worse off than me. Sometimes the things I complain about are a problem because I've refused to deal with them, or have caused them myself.

As we look towards our St Martin Novena, we take the opportunity to reflect on the humility of St Martin, and ask him to intercede for all our complaints. And help us to sort out the ones we really need help with!

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

Fr David

LAUNCHING LEICESTER CATHOLIC STUDENTS

Leicester Catholic Students – bringing together Catholic students from Leicester and De Montfort Universities

Leicester Catholic Students is a hub for students to find out more about Catholicism, make new friends and put faith and prayer into action. Whether you are a lifelong Catholic or just looking to find out more, come along to our events to find out more. Our next session is this Wednesday 25 October and will look at science and religion. Find out more and get updates on our Facebook page: [Facebook.com/LeicesterCatholicStudents](https://www.facebook.com/LeicesterCatholicStudents)

ST MARTIN NOVENA 3 – 11 NOVEMBER 2017

Our Annual Solemn Novena in honour of St Martin de Porres runs for the nine days between his Feastday, 3 November, and the Feast of St Martin of Tours, Patron of our city, on 11 November. Both saints were renowned for their compassion, and are great advocates for us in Heaven. Please see the flyers and share them with others. We begin with the Solemn Opening on the Feast of St Martin, at both 12:30pm and 7:15pm Masses (nb no 6:10pm Mass that day). On Saturday 4th we will have blessing of pets outside the Church at 1:30pm. The Novena continues each day until the Solemn Mass for Healing and Blessed Sacrament Procession at 12:30pm on Saturday 11th, Feast of St Martin of Tours. Let's pray that many people will bring their intentions to St Martin during the Novena, and will receive answers to their prayers.

NOTICE BOARD

BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you wish to have your child baptised, please attend one of our baptism preparation sessions. The next is Sunday 5 November 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

PARISH SOCIAL EVENTS

Social Group; every Tuesday: 6.30-8.00pm in St. Clement's Hall - a chance to de-stress and chat, with a bite to eat and drink; fun-bingo. Spread the word...
Tuesday December 19 – will be an Advent-Christmas social evening

CATHOLICISM 101 TAKES A BREAK

There's a one week break for Catholicism 101 this week, but it returns again next Wednesday for the next three sessions. These have been lively and well attended, and it is good for us to get together in this way, spending time with food together and reflecting on our Faith. If you've not been before, next Wednesday we start at 7pm.

REMEMBER ABOUT NOVEMBER!

Wednesday 1 November is the Solemnity of All Saints, and a Holyday of Obligation. Masses as follows: Tuesday 6:10pm Vigil; Wednesday 8am; 12:30pm; 6:10pm. At 7:30pm there will be a Sung Mass in the Dominican Rite. The following day is the Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed (All Souls). Masses as normal, with an additional Sung Mass in the Dominican Rite at 7:30pm. Envelopes for the November List of the Dead are now available. Mass is offered each day in November for our loved ones inscribed on the List. Please take an envelope and return it to the Priory together with your offering. The Annual Parish Requiem Mass for all those who have been associated with Holy Cross takes place on Wednesday 29 November at 7:15pm.

OCTOBER – THE MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY

We encourage you to pray the Holy Rosary during the month of October, and to make it a regular part of your daily life.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE ABORTION ACT

As 50 years since the Abortion Act was passed is marked, we ask you to join us in praying for an end to abortion in our society. Next Sunday, the Priory Bell will toll 50 times for all those who have been hurt, damaged, and devastated by abortion – unborn children, young women, mothers, fathers, grandparents, survivors of rape and sexual abuse, and the many others who suffer in silence. If you have been affected by abortion, or know someone who has, there will always be a compassionate, unjudging ear to listen here at the Priory.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Our Holy Hour, each Sunday at 6pm
- Organ recitals, first Friday of each month at 1:15pm.

SAVE THE DATE

- Parish Requiem Mass – Wednesday 29 November at 7:15pm
- Advent Market – 3 December. You can start buying puddings already!
- Advent Retreat Weekend – 9 – 10 December, led by Br Luke Doherty OP

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:

£1154.10

(Gift aided: £415.00)

Woodhouse Collection

£132.50

(Gift aided: £67.00)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*

THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

XXIX IN ORDINARY TIME

1ST READING: ISAIAH 45:1, 4-6

In Second Isaiah we find a remarkable treatment of the Persian emperor Cyrus. Although he is a pagan king, he is saluted as the anointed of the Lord, His servant raised up to conquer Babylon and to restore God's people to their homeland. This inaugurates a line of Jewish teaching about the state, including the pagan state, that culminates in Jesus' pronouncement about the payment of tribute money (today's Gospel) and in Paul's teaching about the Roman state under the emperor Nero as the servant and minister of God.

Responsorial Psalm: 96:1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10: "Give the Lord glory and power"

This psalm has close affinities with Second Isaiah. It emphasizes God's sovereignty over all nations and thus forms a fitting response to the proclamation of God's appointment of Cyrus.

2ND READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-5B

This letter to the 1 Thessalonians is the earliest written document in the New Testament. It was written by Paul during his stay at Corinth in 50 C.E. Paul had founded the church at Thessalonica not very long before. He had had to leave it hurriedly, and, in his anxiety over his recent converts, he sent Timothy to see how things were going. The report Timothy brought back was largely favourable. In this letter Paul first introduces faith, hope and charity as being at the heart of our Christian lives.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 22:15-21

Matthew has rewritten the introduction to Mark's version of this episode, so as to speak of a plot to entrap Jesus. The result of these changes is to emphasize that the episode of the tribute money was part of Jesus' conflict with His opponents. So, this is part of the material with which Matthew seeks to speak directly to the situation of the church in his day, locked as it was in mortal combat with the Jewish leaders of Jamnia over the question of what was true orthodoxy and who were the true people of God. The Pharisees' question about the tribute money is a classic example of the so-called pronouncement story, with its threefold form of setting, action, and pronouncement. Everything in this story is subordinated to the punchline: **"Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's."**

Here Jesus states that Caesar (secular rulers) has his own legitimate but limited sphere of authority, and even that he holds under God and is responsible to God for its proper governance. This means that the state must maintain law and order and promote the welfare of its citizens. But when it oversteps the mark and puts itself in the place of God, Christians are in the last resort absolved from obedience. We must give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and not the things that are God's. We must obey God rather than human beings.

NEXT SUNDAY –

XXX SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) - NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

"The splendour of the rose and the whiteness of the lily do not rob the little violet of its scent nor the daisy of its simple charm. If every tiny flower wanted to be a rose, spring would lose its loveliness."

St Therese of Lisieux

"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

29TH SUNDAY

Today I'm going to reflect on the Gospel for 29th Sunday for Ordinary Time, Matt. 22. 15-21. In this famous Gospel Jesus avoided being trapped into being a traitor to His own people or being charged as a revolutionary against the Roman occupying forces.

It's downright foolish – a waste of time and effort to try to out-smart God! That's what Christ's enemies, the Pharisees, discovered when they set a trap for Him. Jesus out-smarted them by leading them to fall in it themselves. To ensnare Jesus, they used the vexed question of paying a poll tax to the Romans. Here's the 'no win' choice they offered Jesus:

1. If He advised Jews to pay the tax they would condemn Him for recognising the right of the pagan Romans to occupy their land and govern their people. Such an admission would seem to deny that God alone ruled His people. His preaching the kingdom of God would have been completely discredited.
2. But if Jesus told Jews not to pay the tax His enemies could have told the Romans that He was spreading civil disobedience.

In Christ's own life-time someone in Galilee had led a revolt against this tax. When they had to suppress his rebellion, they crucified him along with his collaborators. Jesus would have got the same brutal treatment if He'd denounced such an unpopular tax. His enemies thought that however Jesus replied to this question about paying the tax He would condemn Himself either as being hostile to the Romans or to His own people. They prided themselves on getting Jesus beautifully cornered! His opponents thought they'd trapped him in a no-win situation. But they were the ones who would find themselves cornered. Jesus had out-smarted them!

When he asked them to produce the coin with which they paid the tax they produced a denarius a Roman coin. Possessing that coin was in itself an admission that they were compromised as loyal Jews. But worse still for them, the coin would have borne the image of Caesar, with the inscription, 'Son of God'. The possession of such a coin implied Christ's Jewish enemies recognised the Roman emperor as their lawful ruler - a man who dared to give Himself the title, 'Son of God'. For a pious Jew that would have been blasphemy. They'd really fallen into the trap they'd set for Jesus!

But instead of labouring this point Jesus gave an enigmatic answer to the question about paying the Roman tax. He replied, '**Render to Caesar what is due to Caesar and to God what is due to God.**' Instead of answering the trick question about the tax, Jesus simply states a principle, without spelling out what is owed to Caesar, who represents all secular authorities.

This affects each of us. Though our true home is in heaven, as St. Paul tells (Phil.3.20), we are also citizens of the world. We have a duty to respect the government of the country in which we live, and to obey the laws which it enacts. That includes paying taxes to finance health, security, roads etc. and to promote development. But while we must recognise our civic obligations, our final loyalty is to God. Where's there's a clash over the demands made on us God's will must always come first. In such cases it may be our duty to protest or even disobey unjust laws enacted by the state –even at the risk of being punished.

A final reflection. Today's Gospel shows that it's a great mistake to try to out-smart God. We can't win. That was the Psalmist's message when he said, '**With the sincere you, Lord, show yourself sincere, but the cunning you outdo in cunning,**' (Ps.18. 26).