



# HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017

XXXII SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

## A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

*It's been a very busy week for us, with the St Martin Novena coming to a conclusion. It was encouraging to see so many people come out for the closing Mass of healing. Hopefully we could build on this now, and take the opportunity to develop our devotion to this very special saint, and to give thanks for the many graces that have come to us during the novena.*

*The month of November is the time for remembering our departed loved ones, and all who have touched our lives. Many of our families will be remembering someone who has gone in the past year. Our Parish Requiem will be coming up in a few weeks – 29 November at 7:15pm. Please make a special effort to come for that.*

*Catholicism 101 looks at Chesterton this week, and our Leicester Catholic Students are really developing their programme of events. All very exciting developments. We've also got a lot of projects that are getting off the ground.*

*As we move towards the Advent Market, and indeed then on to Christmas, we have much to rejoice about. The contribution of so many different people to our various apostolates is never undervalued, and so much good work is made possible by that good will and generosity.*

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

*Fr David*

## ADVENT MARKET – SUNDAY 2 DECEMBER 2017

**It's that time of year again, and we are getting geared up for the Advent Market.** It's always a fun way of raising much needed funds for our Dominican Community. We aim to raise £5,000 at the Market, and as usual, each one of us can do something to achieve this target. The flyers give all the details about how you can help – 1. Buy raffle tickets - return stubs and money to any of the Brethren or buy directly from the shop. 2. Donate money or goods - next week we're collecting bottled goods; please take a bottle carrier and return it full of goods! 3. Offer to run a stall - we need help with our usual stalls and welcome new ideas for a stall you'd like to run. Above all - please keep that morning free and join us - even if you just pop in after Mass for tea/coffee and cake :-). For details, contact: Jeff on [hcross.social@gmail.com](mailto:hcross.social@gmail.com). Over the last four years, we have raised almost £40,000 through the Advent and Blackfriars Market. This has had a huge impact on our ability to transform and repair our aging buildings. We still have a long way to go, but we're achieving it together.

## CHURCH LIGHTING – AN UPDATE

We have received a comprehensive design suggestion for installing new lighting in the priory church, and we hope to make significant progress towards finalising the project in the week ahead. Please keep this in your prayers.

## BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSIONS

These will be held after 10:30am Mass today.

## 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: G. K. CHESTERTON — 16 NOVEMBER

Thank you to everyone who came last Thursday: our biggest turnout so far! Catholicism 101 continues this week with another brilliant English Catholic writer, G. K. Chesterton, whose can be credited with many conversions to the faith. As an evangelist for our times, Chesterton shows that the fundamental aspect of good evangelisation is joy, and our life in Christ is a daily encounter with an amazing offer of God's grace. Join us this Thursday 16 November at 7pm in St Clement's to watch Bishop Barron's DVD, followed by discussion. The event is free, supper is included, and all are welcome. (Advance notice: after this week, we will take a break on 23 November, and the final session of Catholicism 101 will be on 30 November instead.)

## PARISH REQUIEM MASS

The Annual Parish Requiem Mass for all those who have been associated with Holy Cross takes place on Wednesday 29 November at 7:15pm.

## NOVEMBER LIST OF THE DEAD

We remember the faithful departed during the month of November. 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, and a Holy Hour takes place every Sunday at 6pm.

## OUR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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

We had a great discussion about the Bible at our recent Catholic Wednesday. Next up, we're going to have a Film Night this Wednesday (15th), 7pm in St Clement's Hall. The film will be announced on our Facebook page...

Fr Matthew is available for any student to come and have a chat about anything on your mind. You can contact him through the Leicester Catholic Students Facebook page or through Mrs Powell in the parish office on 0116 2521501.

## THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Our Holy Hour, each Sunday at 6pm
- Organ recital every first Friday at 1:15pm.
- 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](mailto:leicester.admin@english.op.org)

Lay University Chaplain: *Mr George Ralph* – [george.ralph@english.op.org](mailto:george.ralph@english.op.org)

Director of Music: *Mr Thomas Keogh* – [thomas@thomaskeogh.co.uk](mailto: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](http://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:

**£ 1,083.09**

(Gift aided: £403.90)

### **Woodhouse Collection**

**£159.90**

(Gift aided: £101.00)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
CONTINUED SUPPORT!**

# THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

## XXXII IN ORDINARY TIME

1<sup>ST</sup> READING: WISDOM 6:12-16

This excerpt comes from the conclusion of the first part of the Book of Wisdom. The theme of that part is that wisdom is the gateway to immortality. Those who seek and find wisdom will have acquired something that will survive the Last Judgment, which Paul describes in the second reading, while the gospel speaks of the “wise” virgins—those who sought after wisdom. Also, compare the emphasis on vigilance in verse 15 of this reading with ([Matt 25:13](#),) the last sentence of our gospel reading.

**Responsorial Psalm: 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8: “For you my soul, is thirsting, O God, my God”**

The first part of this psalm (through verse 8) falls into the category of an individual lament. The soul expresses its thirst for communion with God in the temple, and its delight when communion is established. We may link this with the search for the divine wisdom (first reading) and with the virgins’ longing to meet the bridegroom ([Gospel](#)).

2<sup>ND</sup> READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

Here Paul recognises that we, Christians, like everyone else, do grieve when someone dear to us dies. That is a wholesome expression of love. But as we miss them, the emptiness of our sorrow, is filled with the hope that we will be reunited in the risen Lord when He returns in glory.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 25:1-13

Here Jesus warns us that we don’t know when He will, the bridegroom, will return. So, we must always be ready to welcome Him, firstly at the hour of our death and then when He finally returns in glory. The readiness of the wise virgins is living a Christian life -always prepared to welcome Jesus.

Today’s Gospel warns us that there are certain things which cannot be borrowed. The foolish virgins found it impossible to borrow oil, when they discovered they needed it. A man cannot borrow a relationship with God; he must possess it for himself. A man cannot borrow a character; he must be clothed with it. We cannot always be living on the spiritual capital which others have amassed. There are certain things we must win or acquire for ourselves, for we cannot borrow them from others.

## NEXT SUNDAY –

XXXIII SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) - TWENTYSECOND 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

32<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIMES - FR PETER CLARKE FOR FR ISIDORE C LARKE 2017

Greetings Brothers and Sisters. I'm Fr. Peter Clarke, filling in for my twin brother Isidore who is not well enough to compose his usual reflection on the Gospel for the Sunday Mass. I ask of you that you remember him in your prayers.

Today we reflect on the Gospel for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time (Matt.25.1-13). Jesus is here telling His disciples that the Kingdom of Heaven will be like the way ten bridesmaids conducted themselves. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible.

If this didn't alert their attention (and now your attention) what would? And that's the point. Jesus wanted to put his people on "Red Alert." What was so threatening, what so liberating, did He have in mind?

The very climax of Salvation History -the Coming of the Day of the Lord - the Day of Judgement when God's verdict on the godly and the ungodly would be decisive. There's no knowing when this will take place. For each and all this critical moment could be either be their long-prepared-for Day of Glory or their foolishly disregarded possible Day of total, undiluted, Disaster. Welcomed into Paradise or locked out of it...forever?

And now to the account Jesus gives of the wedding and the bridesmaids. In the time and culture of Jesus the highpoint of the long wedding ceremony occurred when the groom, accompanied by his relatives, went to the family house of the bride to transfer her to his home where the rest of the wedding celebration took place. And so, the groom goes to fetch his bride. Ten young teenagers are awaiting his return. Their role in the ceremony is to greet the groom and the entire wedding party when it returns to their home. Five wise ones made certain they had sufficient oil for the lamps – no matter how long the bridegroom kept them waiting. Five foolish ones let their oil, their luck, run out. Their only hope was they might find a place where they could purchase some more oil. On their return they found themselves shut out of the feast.

Now we have to get to grips with parable Jesus makes out of this wedding - with a special interest in the bridesmaids. Jesus would have us know what the Kingdom of God will be like in the most decisive moment of its history. The Bridegroom in the parable is Jesus Himself coming to celebrate with His people His glorious triumph over sin and death. The bridesmaids, the welcoming party awaiting His arrival, have the responsibility of ensuring their lamps are burning when the bridegroom arrives. Crucial to the parable is that it is greatly in their interest that they live up to what is expected of them.

These bridesmaids, represent you and me, all the people of the earth. As for the bridesmaids, the wise ones ensured their lamps would be burning to welcome the bridegroom. The foolish ones made no such effort and thereby ensured they would be excluded from this wonderful event.

The implications of this parable are such that Jesus puts His disciples on 'Red Alert.' At stake is whether or not we have dealt with the absolute necessity to be ready for Jesus when He comes to us in judgement at the Last Day. Truly wise if we've taken this seriously! Utter fools if we couldn't be bothered to make ourselves acceptable to Jesus.

A final thought. We men can be just as foolish as them girls, and, possibly, just as wise!

Blessing to you all from Isidore and me.