



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2017

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, UNIVERSAL KING

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

And so we have arrived at the conclusion of another year in the life of the Church. Sunday after Sunday, we have met together to celebrate the Resurrection, and marked all the moments in between. Together we have retold the story, so that each of us is reminded of the great extent of God's love for us.

The last week of the year is one in which we remember in particular and with gratitude those who have gone before us, marked with the sign of faith. On Wednesday this week we will celebrate our Annual Requiem Mass for departed parishioners. We look forward to welcoming back all the families who have celebrated their funerals during the past year.

The new year begins for the Church next Sunday, and we will be off to a flying start with the Advent Market. Much work has gone in to realising our target of £5,000. These funds will go some way to improving our buildings, and we can have some fun at the same time. Thanks, as always, for your generosity, which comes to us in many different forms.

There is a particular note in the newsletter about ensuring the future of our Catholic schools. These are an invaluable resource in our community, and the note is included at the request of our Bishop. Please read, and do take action.

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

Fr David

ADVENT MARKET – NEXT SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER 2017

The final preparations are being put in place, and we're all ready for the **Advent Market next week**. 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 – thanks for everything that's come in already! 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. **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 – PROJECT PLANS

We have commissioned Mealey Electrical Contractors Ltd to install a new lighting system in the church, at a cost of £65,000. We are grateful for the generosity of so many of you that enables us to do this. Appropriate light fittings have been sourced and ordered, which will mean the system will be installed early in 2018, and in plenty of time for the Diamond Jubilee of our Dedication in May of next 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 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

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

Please note there will not be Mass at 8am on Monday and Tuesday, and not at 6:10pm on Monday. On Wednesday 29, Mass is at 7:15pm and not at 6:10pm. Many thanks for your co-operation.

CATHOLICISM 101: THE FINAL SESSION FOR THIS TERM

Catholicism 101 resume on Thursday 30 November, with the final episode on the artist Michelangelo. See you there – we begin with food at 7pm. Plans will soon emerge for Catholicism 101 next term

PARISH REQUIEM MASS

The Annual Parish Requiem Mass for all those who have been associated with Holy Cross takes place this **Wednesday 29 November at 7:15pm**. In particular we will welcome back families who have held funerals at Holy Cross recently.

PROTECTING OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents new Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. The Prime Minister has acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and had promised previously to abandon it. Now the Government may decide to keep this discriminatory policy in place instead of removing it. We need to tell the Government not to discriminate against Catholics and to remove the admissions cap on new faith-based schools. Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

OUR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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

The final Catholic Wednesday of this term takes place next week, and it has been great to watch this apostolate grow in the past few weeks. Look out for more developments.

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 252 1501.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Our Holy Hour, each Sunday at 6pm
- Organ recital THIS 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

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:

£ 1,142.37

(Gift aided: £382.87)

Woodhouse Collection

£102.04

(Gift aided: £59.40)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*

THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

SOLEMNITY OF JESUS CHRIST, UNIVERSAL KING

1ST READING: WISDOM 6:12-16

In 587 B.C. Jerusalem and its marvelous temple were destroyed, the walls razed to the ground. The Babylonian soldiers gave themselves up to all sorts of violence and barbarism. Thinking back to the misfortunes that have struck his people, Ezekiel compares the Israelites to a flock without a shepherd and in disarray and pronounces at the same time a message of salvation. He does not announce the advent of other kings—who would not have been the best precedents that had led the people to ruin—but promises that God will personally take care of his sheep (v. 11), will gather them from all the places where they were dispersed “in a time of cloud and fog” (v. 12), and will take them to good pastures on the high mountains of Israel (v. 15).

2ND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-26,28

The rabbis believed that at the coming of the Messiah, a first realm would begin—called the “kingdom of the Messiah”—which would be succeeded by a second, the “kingdom of God.” Paul—educated at their school—had assimilated this opinion and thought that the first kingdom would last as the history of mankind and would conclude at the end of the world. It is in this historical perspective that today’s reading is understood. Paul is convinced that gradually the Messiah will destroy, during his reign, all his enemies. His victory will be complete when the last adversary, death, is finally defeated (vv. 25-26).

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 25:31 – 46

This Gospel passage is generally regarded as a parable, but this is not accurate. It belongs to the genre called judgment scene, found both in the Bible (cf. Dan 7) and in rabbinic literature. The structured schema is always the same: there is a presentation of the judge, accompanied by angels who serve as assistants and security guards, then the convocation of all people, the separation of groups, the sentencing and finally the righteous are rewarded and the wicked punished. The aim of this literary genre is not to inform about what will happen at the end of the world, but to teach how to behave today.

NEXT SUNDAY – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - (YEAR B)

“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

YES. I AM A KING

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters. I'm Fr. Peter Clarke. Today I offer you a few thoughts for the Solemnity of Christ the King which the Church celebrates this Sunday.

"Yes, I am a king." So, said Jesus to Pontius Pilate. "I was born for this, I came into the world for this, to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice." Shortly before this He had told His apostles, "You call me Master and Lord, and rightly; so I am. ¹⁴ If I, then, the Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you must wash each other's feet." Jesus also allowed Himself to be called Rabbi – which means 'teacher.'

Yes, allowed these and other leadership titles to be applied to Him. There's a verse in the Letter to the Hebrews, (12.2), "Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection." As I meditate on the Solemnity of Christ the King it occurs to me that anyone who holds a position of authority would do well to keep his or her eyes fixed on Jesus. Were they to do so it would be of great benefit to all those over whom they preside. Those leaders who fix their eyes on themselves in one big 'ego-trip' of self-admiration and self-inflation are much to be regretted!

For Jesus the defining quality of any leader should be that the greatest of all should be the servant of all - whether he or she be king, queen, president, prime minister, manager, head or whatever. The greatest of all would be the servant of all. Their ideal should be unity and collaboration rather than division and confrontation, reconciliation rather than retaliation. The Mission of Jesus Himself is stated in the Preface of the Mass for the Solemnity of Christ the King, "That He might accomplish the mysteries of human redemption and, making all created things subject to His rule, He might present to the immensity of the majesty of His Heavenly Father an eternal and universal kingdom, a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love and peace."

Jesus was the valiant, conquering King who alone could overcome the enemies of mankind - death and sin. And this He did through His Crucifixion and Resurrection. We ourselves, as we follow the leadership of Jesus, are called to allow Jesus to continue His great good work through us. This is to live according to the values of His Kingship, to promote these values and thereby have a godly influence on others.

Our Christian Faith should convince us that those who are brash and self-centered, those who measure significance by wealth and weaponry, power and persuasion, were never meant to control and demean the quality of living of the human family. As we celebrate the Kingship of Jesus we are to realize that when the Son of God became man He affirmed and elevated the humanity, the dignity, of every boy and girl, every man and woman, that ever existed. Each and every one without exception is made in the image and likeness of Almighty God, Heavenly Father of them all – His beloved children.

Every day the Media make us aware that God's beloved sons and daughters are being made to suffer, allowed to suffer, throughout the world. Pope Francis describes this as a culture of global indifference. And yet people talk of human progress! God the Father realized the Son He sent into the world had to be Saviour as well as King.

Yes, as we celebrate Jesus as King we must rejoice over the blessings Christianity has brought the world throughout the ages. Yes, we must look forward to that day when Jesus will come in all His Kingly Glory to welcome us in to His Father's Heavenly Kingdom.

But, in the name and power of Christ the King, we must also do all that is possible to save multitudes from having to endure man-made hell on earth. Attempting to do this, empowered the grace of God, is surely the most effective way of celebrating the Christ as King!

GOD BLESS YOU – Fr Peter and Fr Isidore