



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 21ST JANUARY 2018

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

This week, we celebrate the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity. It is an important time for us to reach out to Christians of other denominations, who are part of different structures, but still seek to preach the same Gospel as we do. We are reminded of the fervent prayer of Christ – "May they all be one". We must always strive to overcome divisions.

But we must never think that divisions are only between different groups of Christians, denominations, and styles of worship. There is division among ourselves too, and indeed within each one of us. Identifying these divisions can help us to see where healing and forgiveness are necessary in our lives.

On Saturday we celebrated a beautiful Mass in honour of Blessed Cyprian Tansi, and it was followed by a very busy and well-attended Parish lunch and celebration. Thanks to all those who worked so hard to make it happen. In a few weeks, we will celebrate Our Lady of Lourdes. Meanwhile, we're managing to work around the contractors as they make our exciting lighting project a reality!

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

Fr David

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR THE EASTER SEASON

RCIA – This is the sacramental programme which prepares adults to receive the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist). It is also the means by which we prepare baptised adults for Confirmation and Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church. An information meeting and initial gathering will take place on Saturday 3 February, at 1:15pm, meeting in the church. Please contact us on leicester@english.op.org or call the office if you are interested.

CHURCH LIGHTING PROJECT NOW UNDERWAY

The installation of the new lighting scheme continues, and most of the time spent so far has been the difficult job of installing new wiring. We are grateful to them for ensuring that the church was returned to full use for the weekend. Please note that, in order to facilitate the works, all Masses from Monday – Friday will be celebrated in the Lady Chapel until further notice. As always, we deeply appreciate your ongoing generosity, which has enabled the project to take place.

THE MONTH OF JANUARY – THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS

During the month of January, the Church encourages us to renew our devotion and reverence for the Most Holy Name of Jesus. Hopefully this particular devotion will begin to shape our preparation for the National Eucharistic Congress in 2018.

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY – 28 JANUARY

The theme is "Belonging, All are welcome". City of Sanctuary will join us for 10:30am Mass to talk about their work with refugees, and how we can help.

NOTICE BOARD

BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you wish to have your child baptised, please attend one of our baptism preparation sessions. The next is Sunday 4 February 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 will begin in the next few weeks.

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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION IN 2018

This year we will celebrate First Holy Communions on Sunday 27 May at 10:30am Mass. Parents of children aged 7 years and above who would like to put their children forward for this year are invited to fill in a form and return it to the sacristy. The programmes to prepare our families for this special day will begin shortly. Likewise, parents of children who are of secondary school age and would like to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation should pass their details to the office.

HOLY CROSS SOCIAL GROUP

We meet every Tuesday from 6.30-8.00pm (doors open at 6.00) in St. Clement's Hall (entrance by the ramp next to the priory car park). We enjoy a light bite to eat, chat and play the occasional game of cards or fun bingo. Newcomers always welcome. For more details, contact Jeff on hcross.social@gmail.com.

CHAPLAINCY TO OUR UNIVERSITIES

Please note that Mass will not be celebrated on either Campus this week, but will return at the normal times next week. We take this opportunity to congratulate all who will celebrate Graduation this coming week.

LEICESTER CATHOLIC STUDENTS

Our regular "Catholic Wednesday" events will return on 31 January, and this term will explore a range of "hot topics" for Catholics. Please see our forthcoming adverts for more details. In addition, students will meet together on a number of Sundays for Sunday Lunch.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

We will mark the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, and World Day of Prayer for the Sick, with a special Mass for Healing on Saturday 10 February at 12:30pm. We would hope to bless the hands of all those who are part of the caring profession. Please let us know in the sacristy if you would like to have your hands blessed. There will be a Lourdes procession following the 10:30am Mass on Sunday 11 February.

CATHOLICISM 101

The popular series will resume for a further six sessions on the Thursday nights in Lent. More details will emerge soon.

PARISH SHOP

Our Parish Shop is open all weekend, and every day after the 12.30pm Mass, come along and have a look at what wonderful items we have available.

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:

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:

£ 1,494.35

(Gift aided: £378.50)

Woodhouse Collection

£156.00

(Gift aided: £92.00)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*

THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING -

Jonah begins to preach, without enthusiasm, only “for a single day’s journey” Lazy, he does not even reach half of Nineveh and his message is reduced to just five words, the bare minimum. It is a catastrophic announcement, other than that which the Lord had given him. God had not spoken of the destruction of the city, but only the need for the Ninevites to be aware of their wicked life. Despite the sloth with which the mission is carried out, the people of Nineveh believe in God and are converted. The fact is amazing. With subtle irony, the author suggests the conflict: Israel has not listened to the voice of the prophets, the Ninevites instead, at the first words—badly spoken—of Jonah, have changed their lives. This is what the Lord had said to Ezekiel: *“It is not to a people with a difficult foreign language to whom you are sent; it is to the people of Israel. All of them are defiant and stubborn of heart”* (Ezk 3:4-7). Jonah is not just Israel. He is anyone who still imagines God as an avenger, anyone who cultivates the secret hope of one day witnessing the punishment of the wicked, anyone who has not figured out that there are no enemies to defeat, but only brothers to love and to help to turn themselves away from sin so that they can be happy.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: Lord, make me know Your Ways.

SECOND READING

Time is short, those who have wives must live as if they have none, those buying something as if they don’t possess, those who use material goods as if they are not using them. This is, in short, the message of the passage. It gives the impression of introducing a certain devaluation of the reality of this world in favor of those of heaven. This is not what Paul means. He wants Christians *to give earthly things their true importance*. They are important all right, but will not last forever. Like all good things, marriage, the family, property can seduce and turn into absolutes. They become idols, totally absorb the human heart and make them lose the meaning of life. To recall the transience of the scene of this world (v. 31) Christians are moved by an unshakeable faith in the Risen Lord. Some renounce marital life, refuse the possession of material good, put their own lives and person at the service of the brothers. This choice represents the imminence of the future world where there is no more marriage nor death, for they are like angels of God (Lk 20:35-36).

GOSPEL

The passage opens with a brief introduction wherein Jesus goes in the villages of the Galilean mountains and preaches the gospel. *“The time is fulfilled—he said—and the kingdom of God has come; Repent and believe the gospel”* (vv. 14-15). This is the first sentence he says and it is the synthesis of all his message. He speaks of the kingdom of God. His listeners, educated by the prophets, know what he actually refers to. For five hundred years, Israel has had the experience of the monarchy. The Davidic dynasty has included also able sovereigns. However, the analysis that the Bible makes of this historical period is entirely negative. Except for a few noble exceptions, all the kings have fallen away from the Lord. They did not listen to the prophets and led the people to ruin. In 587 B.C. the last king was deported to Babylon with his people. Was it the end of everything? Someone dreamt of the restoration of the Davidic dynasty; some others put their hopes in a future messiah. All came to the conclusion however that only the Lord could revive the fortunes of Israel, personally picking up the leadership of his people, proclaiming himself king in place of the previous unworthy rulers.

NEXT SUNDAY: FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)

“Frequently people lose time in longing for time to suit themselves, for they do not employ what they have otherwise than in suffering and gloominess.”

St. Catherine of Siena

THE WORD AT WORK – OUR WEEKLY REFLECTION

BLESSED CYPRIAN MICHAEL IWENE TANSI – PRAY FOR LEICESTER

Fr David reflects on the privilege of our close connection with Blessed Tansi, and his example to us.



It was on 20 January 1964 that Fr Cyprian Michael Iwene Tansi, of Mount St Bernard Abbey, died at the LRI, just a few streets away from the Priory. It is a real privilege for us that such an inspirational man for our times should have spent his last hours within the territory of our Parish. We should pray fervently that he might soon be revered throughout the whole Church as a Saint, and ask his intercession for the needs of our families and our community.

Blessed Tansi gave great pastoral and spiritual leadership to the people he was called to serve in his homeland of Nigeria. His dedication to them demonstrates how he recognised the Lord in their needs, and applied himself to total care for them. He could see their need to be close to the Lord, especially in the Eucharist, and so his ministry was marked by a total outpouring of himself in service of his people. His deep love for the people of the Diocese of Onitsha made him ardent in propagating devotion to the Sacred Heart, to Our Lady, and the Rosary. Ultimately, he discerned that there was a deep value in living a hidden life of prayer, and he was called to serve the Church in this way, and to inspire the living of this sacred way of life in his beloved homeland.

In the 1950s, he began to follow the Cistercian Rule at Mount St Bernard Abbey. There he is remembered as a man of strength and tenacity, completely dedicating his life to prayer and the manual work of the Monastery. With this determination, he enjoyed a supreme confidence in God's holy providence. He was heard to remark: "If you are to be a Christian at all, you might as well live entirely for God".

May Blessed Tansi, who spent his last few hours so close to our Church, now intercede for our needs.

Prayer to Blessed Cyprian Michael Iwene Tansi

Blessed Cyprian Tansi, during your life on earth
you showed your great faith and love in giving yourself to your people
and by the hidden life of prayer and contemplation.

Look upon us now in our needs, and intercede for us with the Lord.

May he grant us the favour we ask through our prayers. Amen.