



# HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2018

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

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

## A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

*Holy Week is always hectic and emotional – a bit of a rollercoaster! So many different emotions, as we celebrate the victory of Christ over death, and proclaim to one another the significance of this great story for each one of us. Hopefully the joy of Easter will bring with it some rest and refreshment, and time to catch up.*

*The passing of our beloved brother Peter during Holy Week served to add to that emotion here at Holy Cross this year. Our prayers are very much with Fr Isidore at this time. We cannot fail to be inspired by the example given to us all by "Twin Clarke Unlimited".*

*At Easter, we take the opportunity to express our gratitude for the kindness and dedication of so many people. Our staff and colleagues both in the Priory and in the various places we work offer us a much valued service. The generosity of our friends and benefactors is invaluable for our ministry here in Leicester. May the joy of the resurrection fill all our hearts.*

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

*Fr David*

## PERSECUTION OF THE CHURCH IN INDIA – PRAYERS AND ACTION

**We continue to keep contact with Fr Thomas Rathappillil, who has made us aware of the severe challenges he faces in continuing his ministry to the destitute dying in his hospices.** Fr Thomas is a priest of the Diocese of Leeds who is working in the Dindigul District near Madurai and in Kancheepuram District near to Chennai in the state of Tamil Nadu, India. He has been a friend of our community for a number of years. He is very grateful for the prayers of our community and sends his sincere best wishes. Hopefully, during Eastertide, there will be practical ways in which we can help.

## EASTER WEEK AT HOLY CROSS

From Monday to Friday of this week, Mass will be celebrated at 12:30pm each day, and there will be no other services in the church. Normal service times resume on Saturday.

## HOLY WEEK RETREAT

We are very grateful to Fr Chris Thomas who led us in a very beautiful retreat during Holy Week. We wish him every blessing in his important work for the Bishops in England and Wales. We offer our thanks to all those in our community who have worked hard to ensure a beautiful and solemn celebration of the Sacred Triduum.

## NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday is Divine Mercy Sunday. There will not be an edition of the Newsletter next weekend.

## 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 March 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

## FATHER PETER CLARKE OP 1932 – 2018



It was with deep sadness and distress that we received the news from Barbados on Tuesday that Fr Peter had died after a short illness. Peter's frequent visits to Leicester over the years to greet his twin, Fr Isidore, are fondly remembered. Indeed, in the latter years, Peter's voice could be heard in our cloisters each day as he made contact via Skype. His death is a huge blow to our beloved Fr Isidore, and we are grateful for the many messages of sympathy and support. Rest in peace, "our kid".

## BLACKFRIARS MARKET – 20 MAY 2018

We have begun to think about Blackfriars Market, the most important fundraising event in our calendar. Over the last number of years, this event has helped us raise £60,000 for the fabric and maintenance of the church and priory. This money has assisted us to address many issues with fabric within the priory itself. Over the next few years, we will need to turn our attention to facilities in the various halls and meeting rooms, as well as heating in the church. A successful Market in May will be a significant step towards addressing these needs.

## HOLY CROSS SOCIAL GROUP

**Social Group is taking a break** on Tuesday March 27 and April 3; it will return at 6pm on Tuesday April 10. **This Sunday's Breakfast Clubs are postponed** until Sunday April 8. It is a free event after the 8.00am Mass with bacon/egg baps and tea/coffee/juice and after the 10.30am Mass we will have an Easter theme, so if people would like to bring Easter Cakes, we would appreciate it. All welcome; see you there.

## CARING FOR OUR OLDER BRETHERN

An important part of our Dominican Community are our older brothers, Fr Isidore and Fr Fabian. Following many years of service here at Holy Cross, both of them now face the challenges of old age and illness. We now have a care team working in the priory to facilitate their changing needs and support us with their care. We are grateful for the many kindnesses afforded to them, and to us. We need to ensure they have time and space to be as well as they can.

### 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:

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:

**1855.76**

(Gift aided: £582.56)

### Woodhouse Collection

**£ 174.10**

(Gift aided: £151.00)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*

# THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

## EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

### 1<sup>ST</sup> READING:

The This reading is taken from the fifth of the eight speeches delivered by Peter in the Acts of the Apostles. The scene takes place in Caesarea, in Cornelius' house. It is there that he joins a group of pagans who are to be baptized. This passage is a valuable piece because, in short, it presents the preaching done in the early Christian communities. Placing it on the mouth of Peter, the author intends to confer it the authority and guarantee of officialdom. Let us see what are the main points of this preaching. Foremost, it refers to the life of Jesus. "He went about doing good and healing all who were under the devil's power, because God was with him" (v. 38). It also indicated the place and the time when his activity began. It all began in Galilee after the baptism, which John preached (v. 37). That which happened before—his childhood and youth spent in Nazareth—spurs our curiosity on, but does not constitute a point of reference for our faith.

### Responsorial Psalm Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

### 2<sup>ND</sup> READING: PHILIPPIANS 2. 6-11

Writing to the Christians of Colossae, Paul reminds them that, on the day of baptism, they were born to a new life, a life, which has its fulfillment not in this world but in the world of God. Faith in this new life is what differentiates the believers from the atheists, who are convinced that humans, relying only on their own strength, manage to attain salvation in this world. It is not difficult to realize that, even if all the material problems are solved, there would be food for all, pain and disease would be overcome, yet there will still be unresolved questions remaining in the depths of the human heart: why do I live and why do I die? Where do I come from and where am I going? Only Christ who died and rose from the dead can give a satisfactory answer to these questions. Paul does not say that Christians should not concern themselves with the reality of this world. They work and are committed as the others. However, they are not convinced that the fullness of life cannot be reached here (v. 2). Good works are not wanting—says the reading. They are a manifestation of the new life. They are signs of his presence. They are like fruits that can sprout and grow only on a living and thriving tree.

### GOSPEL

All Let's see what happens when Mary sees the empty tomb: the scene changes as if by magic. Caught by a sudden thrill, all the characters are shaken from their slumber and taken to move quickly. "Mary of Magdala runs to Simon Peter... who rushes out with the other disciple... They run together, but the other disciple, outruns him..." (vv. 2-4). Taking everyone by surprise, the day after the Sabbath, life explodes in all its force. God intervened and opened the tomb, but Mary of Magdala does not know it. She thinks that the corpse was stolen. And it's a natural and spontaneous reaction. It is the first thought that crosses the mind of anyone running into an empty tomb. One can stop at this first finding or continue searching for meaning of what one observes. In the face of death one can resign, cry or open the heart to the light from above. The Magdalene exits the scene momentarily as if passing the baton, in the race toward the faith, to two other disciples. One is well known—Peter—the other has no name. It is generally said that it is the Evangelist John. But this identification took place much later, about a hundred years after the Apostle had died. It may be that it was he, the disciple that Jesus loved. However, in the Gospel of John, this figure certainly has a symbolic character and that should be understood.

### NEXT SUNDAY:

### SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY) (YEAR B)

*'Arguments and human reasoning will never teach us as much as humble recourse to God.'*

St. Ignatius of Loyola

# THE WORD AT WORK: OUR WEEKLY REFLECTION

## DEATH AND RESURRECTION

*Last year, Father Isidore wrote these words for our Easter reflection. They are particularly poignant on this day, as we share in his mourning for his beloved twin brother, Father Peter.*

Most of us have had the sadness of mourning the death of our loved ones. They were part of our lives, and with their death part of us has died. We feel a deep sense of loss, a great emptiness. We grieve that the life of someone dear to us has come to an end. There's a mysterious finality about death, which we find difficult to handle. And yet we know that sooner or later each of us must die.

That was true for Jesus. By becoming man the Son of God chose to share our human vulnerability to death. He even chose to allow Himself to be brutally executed on the cross. In itself His death was evil, not only because it was so unjust, but also because it put an end to what was so good -His life. For most people death has the last word in their life-story. For them death reduces us all to nothingness. They, who live on, are left only with memories of the joys and sorrows they shared.

But as death extinguishes the spark of life, Easter shines forth as a bright beacon of hope. Jesus, who died on the cross, has risen bodily from the grave. That's a staggering claim, which we only believe because sceptical, reliable witnesses saw Him and risked their lives to share the Good News that the Lord had truly risen. His wounds and His words convinced them that He was the same person as the man whom they'd come to know and love and who had died on the cross.

Though He was not some kind of disembodied spirit, the quality of His life had changed. The crucified Christ had not been resuscitated to resume His former mode of existence. That was true for Lazarus and the other people Jesus raised from the dead. They all had to die again.

But not Jesus. His rising to new life was very different from theirs. While remaining the same person, before and after His death on the cross, His mode of existence has been transformed. Instead of remaining vulnerable to death He now enjoys the glorified life of the resurrection. We can't really understand what that's like, since it's way beyond our experience. But among other things, we do know that Jesus, the Son-of-God-made-man, now radiates His divine power and majesty. Now He enjoys the fullness of human life. This was concealed during His earthly life.

Easter is not just about Christ's resurrection, but ours. We believe that Jesus will raise us, bodily, from the grave to share in the glory of His resurrection. We will be the same men or women of flesh and blood as we are now. But as with Christ, when we rise with Him from death, the quality of our lives will be radically changed. What that will mean we don't know –except that we will be supremely happy as God fills us with His life and happiness. We will enjoy the company of God, who is supremely good and loving. We will be re-united with our loved ones. Then, indeed, every tear will be wiped away!

Far from death having the last word in our life-stories, the resurrection writes the final and best chapter. That makes all the difference to our attitude to life and death. The risen Lord has given us hope of a better future. In the midst of death and grief we can rejoice!

*Isidore O.P.*