



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 27TH MAY

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

Last week's Blackfriars Market was a great success, and so a big thanks goes to everyone who made it happen. There was a great atmosphere on the day, and that makes a huge difference. In working together in this way, we witness the great unity of the Church, because we are making sure that Holy Cross will remain solid and steadfast for future generations. So our efforts take their toll on us, but they are very much worthwhile.

Over the winter months we have done much in terms of renovation and building works in the Church and Priory. This is due to the generosity of our benefactors and the hard work we have all put in. However, it has become all too apparent that the state of our halls is becoming unsustainable. This week, I have been holding meetings with our Director of Development, and enlisting the assistance of some community groups to see how this might be addressed. Please keep this in your prayers.

I'm really looking forward to our First Communion celebrations this weekend. I'm very proud of the children who have worked so hard. They really are a credit to their families. Let's pray for them, and hopefully they'll help us see what's really important.

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

Fr David

BLACKFRIARS MARKET – MANY THANKS!

Blackfriars Market, the most important fundraising event in our calendar, has been really successful! A huge effort was made by a great number of people towards raising our target of £10,000. So far, we've reached a total amount of £5,693.59. This money goes a long way to making Holy Cross secure for the future, so we are very grateful for your ongoing support. A second collection for the upkeep of the Priory will be taken this weekend

CONGRATULATIONS TO FR FABAIN!

On Tuesday of this week, Father Fabian will celebrate his 90th Birthday. Fr Fabian is the oldest Dominican in England, and has been a very treasured presence amongst us here in Leicester for many years. Over the last few months, Fr Fabian's age has begun to be more evident, and he has been learning to enjoy his retirement. He is very grateful for the many kind good wishes that he is receiving. He will celebrate this momentous occasion privately with members of his family and with the Dominican Community. Please keep him in your prayers.

GOING INTO HOSPITAL

One of the very important ministries we are engaged with here at Holy Cross is the chaplaincy to LRI. Josephine is the chaplain there, and works very hard to visit all the patients and provide for their needs. If you, or a relative, is due for a spell in hospital, do let us know. This makes it easier to have names added to the list, and ensure that we are able to provide for your needs until you feel better.

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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION – SUNDAY 27 MAY

Congratulations to all our children who celebrate their First Holy Communion today at 10:30am Mass. It is a special day for your families and friends, and we are glad to welcome visitors to celebrate with us today.

LEICESTER CATHOLIC STUDENTS

There will be no more Campus Masses this term. These will start again in the new academic year.

Catholic Wednesdays: *Adoremus* is happening next Wednesday (30th) at 6.45pm in St Clement's Hall. Food, fellowship and a Holy Hour: a great way to relax during exam term.

CATHOLIC VOICES DAY – 9 JUNE

Please keep 9 June in your diaries for the Catholic Voices workshops: we're honoured to be hosting this event for young adults across the diocese, and hope for a good turnout from our home crowd!

CATHOLICISM 101: ADOREMUS

Catholicism 101 returns for a short series on the Eucharist, as we prepare for the National Eucharistic Congress in September. The next session will be Thursday 31st May in St Clement's Hall. Food is served at 7pm. This will look at Eucharistic Adoration

THE MONTH OF MAY

We encourage you to erect May altars in your homes in honour of Our Lady for the month of May. Our May Procession will take place today, Sunday 27 May at 11:45am, starting from the bottom of New Walk. Please bring flowers to honour Our Lady.

PARISH SHOP

Copies of the Dominican Rite Mass are now available to purchase in the Shop.

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION FOR CHILDREN

Children of secondary school age who have been baptised will begin to think about celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation. We hope to have a date for this in the next academic year. Children over the age of 12 who have not made First Holy Communion will need to follow this programme when it begins. Likewise, children over the age of 7 years who are unbaptised can be baptised as part of the First Holy Communion programme.

HOLY CROSS MIDSUMMER EVENING WALK

We have arranged an evening walk through Bradgate Park (approx. 3 miles) on Thursday 21st June. Meet at Rocliffe Rd car park (north side of park) at 6.15pm. The walk will be a medium pace mainly on footpaths. Suitable footwear needed (and your own refreshments). After the walk we will go to the Badgers Sett pub in Cropston for a drink. Hot meals are available there until 10 pm. It would be great if you could join us. For more details or to arrange a lift if needed please contact Tony/Liz Scarborough via the office.

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; 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:

£ 1199.91

(Gift aided: £344.81)

Woodhouse Collection

£ 106

(Gift aided: £90.00)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*

THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

1ST READING:

Although the exhortations in this passage are attributed to Moses, they really belong to an anonymous author of the sixth century B.C. The author was born in Babylon among the Israelites who were aware of being responsible of the condition of slavery they find themselves in. They were also convinced to have finally compromised with the sins of their history. They were dejected, discouraged and they needed to hear words of comfort and hope. The prophet turned to these deported people and invited them to reflect on the past. He asked them to remember the work of salvation wrought by the Lord in Egypt and to compare them with the deeds that other people attribute to their gods. The conclusion was obvious: in the whole world no one has ever heard that a God has intervened so hard to free his people, as the Lord has done with Israel. No God has ever spoken as he did with Abraham and the patriarchs and to Moses in the burning bush. It was never heard that a God has done extraordinary wonders, as did the Lord to save his people (vv. 32-34).

Responsorial Psalm: Happy the people the Lord has chosen as his own

2ND READING:

Paul describes with moving words the condition of the Christian after baptism. He is no longer a mere creature, not a submissive slave to a master, but a son, because he has received from the Lord his own life. God has not only pitched his tent among us, but he came to involve us in his life, as Peter says to the Christians of his community: "His divine power has given us the most extraordinary and precious promises. Through them you share in the divine nature" (2 Pet 1:3-4). This participation is the work of the Spirit. It is his inner urge that from the bottom of the heart there breaks an irrepressible cry of joy turned to God and cries: "Abba, Father" (v. 15). At this point the Apostle feels the need to define the difference between the sonship of the Only Begotten, Christ, and ours. He does this by using the image of adoptive sonship. It is an institution unknown in Israel, but widespread in the Greek-Roman world. Those who were adopted enjoyed the same rights as the biological children, including participation in family inheritance. In a similar way, indeed, much more so—explains Paul—man is introduced by God in his "family". He offers him a free, full sonship and the same "legacy", the same bliss enjoyed by his only-begotten Son.

GOSPEL

In primitive communities, baptism was administered in the name of Jesus. Peter, on the day of Pentecost, turned to the people and urged them to repent and be baptized "in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven" (Acts 2:38). The custom of baptizing in the name of the Trinity was introduced later. It is the formula that Matthew puts in the mouth of the Risen One. It reflects the liturgical practice of the second half of the first century A.D. The scene told in today's passage is set on a mountain in Galilee (v. 16). The mountain, in biblical language, indicates the location of the revelations of God. By placing the manifestation of the Risen Lord on the mountain, Matthew means that only one who has made an authentic experience of Christ and has assimilated his message is qualified to fulfill the mission he entrusts to his disciples. In the second part of the passage (vv. 18-20) this mission is presented. The disciples receive the commission to make disciples of all nations, to baptize them and teach them to observe all that Jesus commanded. They were already sent by the Master to proclaim the kingdom of heaven, but with a limitation: "Do not visit pagan territory and do not enter a Samaritan town. Go instead to the lost sheep of the people of Israel" (Mt 10:5-6). After Easter, their mission expands; it becomes universal.

NEXT SUNDAY:

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (YEAR B)

'To enjoy interior peace, we must always reserve in our hearts amidst all affairs, as it were, a secret closet, where we are to keep retired within ourselves, and where no business of the world can ever enter.'

St. Antonino Pierozzi

THE WORD AT WORK: OUR WEEKLY REFLECTION

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

Bishops have been known to provide a pastoral letter for Trinity Sunday. They wanted to spare us priests the task of having to talk about the Trinity, which could get us bogged down in abstract philosophy and could be a real turn-off for the congregation. So, they provided us with the escape route of a pastoral letter, usually about the feast of Corpus Christi.

But some years ago, as a community, we decided that the feast of the Blessed Trinity was far too important to pass over. Hence this back-page comment. I will try not to be abstract, and to show that the Blessed Trinity is at the heart of our Christian daily lives.

Why is the Blessed Trinity so important to us? Well, we were made in God's own Trinitarian image and likeness. When we were baptised in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we began to share in God's own life. The Blessed Trinity gives us our identity as God's children. Our perfection consists in becoming ever more like the Blessed Trinity. Our happiness lies in knowing and loving God as He really is. That means as one God, who is three equal persons, each being fully God, not a part of God. We express our faith in the Blessed Trinity by beginning our prayers by saying, 'In name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,' and are blessed in the name of the Blessed Trinity, which is involved at every moment of Our Christian lives.

When we try to know and love the Blessed Trinity, let alone explain it, we'd be right to think that's taking us out of our depth, as we realise we're confronted with a mystery –the greatest of all mysteries. But let's not panic! We're used to living with mysteries in our daily lives. We don't fully understand ourselves, let alone anyone else. We're constantly being taken by surprise.

But that doesn't prevent us loving each other. In fact, the mystery makes us much more interesting to know and love. We can destroy love by too much analysis –by trying to define and categorise people. So, we shouldn't be put off by God being the greatest of all mysteries.

Instead, we should welcome and love the mystery of the Trinity, which is God. If we try to force God to fit into our limited understanding, we will end up with a deity of our own fashioning. That would be idolatry. If we can't force people into pigeon holes and then think we understand them that's much truer of the Blessed Trinity. For people to love a fantasy of us would be an insult. The same would be truer if we treated God that way. He, we, want to be loved for ourselves, not for what people want us to be.

God has revealed something of Himself by telling us the different ways in which each member of the Trinity is involved in our salvation. In John's Gospel we're told that God loved the world so much that he sent His only Son, not to condemn the world, but to save it. The Son expressed God's love for us by becoming one of us and sacrificed His human life so that we could share His divine life. No one could show us greater love than that. And before ascending to heaven Jesus sent God's Spirit into the world to enable us to share the divine happiness which Jesus had won for us on the cross. Without the activity of each member of the Blessed Trinity our life as Christians would be meaningless.

Obviously, there's much more that could be said about the Blessed Trinity. But in the end, we don't get to know someone by putting him or her on psychiatrist's couch or anatomist's dissecting table. That's no way to get develop a loving relationship. Instead. We welcome them for who they are. We welcome the wonder, the mystery of their being. We delight in being with them and have the confidence to share our joys and sorrows, hopes fears. That's how human relationships grow, not through cold analysis. The same is true for us getting to know and love the Blessed Trinity.

So, let us not be put off by God being so mysterious, but welcome him for what He really is –the Blessed Trinity. Today, above all others, let be reduced to silent adoration before the mystery of the Blessed Trinity. We will know, love and praise God much, much better in heaven. That will be our eternal happiness.