



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 30 SEPTEMBER

26 SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

As we enter the month of the Most Holy Rosary, we have the opportunity to reflect on our need to deepen our contemplation on the mysteries of the Gospel. In joy and in sorrow, we are invited to share in God's glory. Let's put that in the very centre of our parish life and our family life.

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

OCTOBER – MONTH OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY

Next Sunday is Rosary Sunday. Roses will be blessed at all Masses, and the October Procession will take place after 10:30am Mass. A Rosary Novena will be prayed from 6-13 October, with a special Mass in honour of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima on 13 October at 12:30pm.

OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

At the beginning of October, all our 22 Catholic schools in Leicestershire will become "academies" and become part of the St Thomas Aquinas CMAT (Catholic Multi Academy Trust). We are grateful to our colleagues and governors in our schools for their hard work at this time of transition. Please see copies of Bishop Patrick's letter which explains what is happening.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Do you attend the 8am Mass? If so, we'd like to welcome you to our free Breakfast Club. Breakfast Club takes place on the first Sunday of the month. We provide bacon and egg baps - with croissants usually available too - along with tea, coffee and fruit juice. Hope to see you there on October 7 - after the 8am Mass.

LEICESTER MARATHON – SUNDAY 14TH OCTOBER

Please be aware that this year's Leicester Marathon takes place on Sunday 14th October and restriction will be in place from early Saturday morning until late into the afternoon. These will have an impact on travelling into Leicester and parking around the Church, so please plan your journey with plenty of time in mind, alternatively please come to another one of our other Masses on the Saturday Vigil or Sunday 7pm.

LEICESTER CATHOLIC STUDENTS

If you're a newly arrived fresher, WELCOME to Leicester! We'd love to get to know you, so come and say hello to the priests after Mass. There's also a welcome event for you here on Wednesday 3 October, 7pm. Check out the noticeboard in church and our Facebook page for updates. And welcome back to our returning students: I look forward to catching up in the next week or two! – Fr Matthew, Chaplain to Leicester Catholic Students.

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NOTICE BOARD

BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you wish to have your child baptised, please attend one of our baptism preparation sessions. The next is today, Sunday 30 September 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

MONEY MATTERS

Last week's collections:

£1,181.95; (Gift Aid-£334.50) Woodhouse: **£ 127.81**; (Gift Aid-£91.00)

THE WORD AT WORK: OUR WEEKLY REFLECTION

26TH SUNDAY - BROKEN BODY FOR A BROKEN PEOPLE

Some time ago I read a book entitled, '**A Broken Body for a Broken People.**' In this the author, Fr. Maloney, argues that right from the time of Christ there have been two tendencies in the Church –one to exclude people, the other to make the outsider welcome. This tendency to exclude those who were different has bedevilled society throughout the ages, leading to Hitler trying to produce a pure 'master race.' That policy led to the Holocaust. Racial prejudice and discrimination are still widespread.

The first attitude of exclusion is expressed in today's Gospel, with the words, '**He was not one of us, so we tried to stop him.**' The apostles, as Christ's chosen inner circle, wanted to have a monopoly on working in His name. They resented an outsider as being an intruder. There are many other examples of the apostles and the Jewish religious authorities thinking Jesus shouldn't mix with certain people, such as tax collectors and sinners.

But in sharp contrast, we have the openness of Jesus. Throughout the Gospels there are many examples of Jesus reaching out to the marginalised and underprivileged. It's highly significant that He was executed between two criminals. These were the kind of people He had come to save, but whom pious people rejected. Christ's approach was summed up in His saying that He'd come to save the sick, who recognised their need for the good physician –not those who thought they were healthy and saw no need for Him. And in reply to the disciples who resented the outsider who had cast out demons in Jesus' name, He said, '**He who is not against me is for me.**'

The infant Church had to work through the tension between making everyone welcome and excluding certain groups of people. Most obviously, there was the heated debate about whether or not pagans were to be welcomed into the Christian community. Was the Gospel for them? Again, was the Church only for holy people or were sinners to be welcomed?

This kind of tension between being open to people or shutting some out has always bedevilled the Church and society. There's the constant danger of our wanting to form an exclusive group of like-minded people. So, we shut out those who are different from us. For one reason or another we think, '**He or she is not one of us, so we tried to stop them.**' We're only comfortable with people from the same social or ethnic background.

But in a multi-cultural society like ours there's a great need for all of us to break down the barriers which drive people into isolation. Certainly everyone, regardless of his or her colour or class, should be welcomed in the Church as an equal and full member and, as a result of Vatican II, we have become more aware of God's Spirit working in people of different faiths and even of no faith. We can and should be eager to learn from each other, and there are many areas in which we can co-operate.

The great irony of the Gospels is that the apostles who strove to become an exclusive group around Christ became outsiders to Him. They all deserted Him in His greatest need. And yet the risen Lord forgave them and welcomed them back. Only when they'd been forced to accept that they, too, were broken people in need of healing could Christ commission them to preach the Good News of God's mercy. That will always remain true for the Church and each of us, its members. Our mission is to break down the barriers which keep us apart –to make the stranger feel at home with us. We should always remember that once we were outsiders, but now we are fellow citizens in the household of God.

Isidore O.P.