



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 14 OCTOBER

28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

As the Autumn rolls in, things are beginning to show fruitfulness here at Holy Cross again. It's been exciting to meet with a variety of people in the last week or so, and think about a range of new initiatives for our life and work together. We've made some new appointments, and we're carving out new plans.

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

THE ANNUAL ST MARTIN NOVENA: 3 – 11 NOVEMBER

Our annual Novena in honour of St Martin de Porres will take place between the two feast days of St Martin de Porres, the saintly Dominican tertiary, and St Martin of Tours, the patron saint of our city. This year, we hope to highlight various issues of social justice as part of the Novena. We will have a full programme available soon

SUPPORTING OUR FAMILIES

A number of initiatives are forthcoming for supporting family life amongst our community. There will shortly be a "Mums' Meeting" and a "Dads' Fellowship" that will meet, alternating, on the fourth Friday of the month. We are also working at developing the children's liturgy and catechesis for young people.

LIFE IN THE PRIORY – NEW APPOINTMENTS

Following a time of significant transition, Fr Nicholas Crowe has now been appointed sub-prior of our community, and Fr Matthew Jarvis appointed curate in the parish. Please pray for them in their new roles and please also remember the infirm members of our community.

RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION AT MASS

Thank you for your co-operation as we have revised arrangements for receiving Holy Communion at Masses. You are invited to stand or kneel as you wish, and you may receive on the tongue or in the hand. We hope that this arrangement will make it safer and easier to receive Holy Communion, and indeed increase our reverence and respect for one another for this important part of our Mass.

LEICESTER CATHOLIC STUDENTS

There will be the usual social gathering for students following the 7pm Mass this Sunday, and there you can find out what else is happening

Office Administrator: *Mrs Rachael Powell* – leicester.admin@english.op.org

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For the Office Administrator, please call **0116 252 1501**

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MONEY MATTERS

Last week's collections:

£1178.94; (Gift Aid-£435.50) Woodhouse: **£112.00**; (Gift Aid-£112.00)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

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 4 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 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

THE WORD AT WORK: OUR WEEKLY REFLECTION

28TH SUNDAY – TRAVELLING LIGHT

When I was much younger and more active I used to enjoy camping. I would carry all I needed in a rucksack. Sometimes I would walk several miles and on other occasions I would cycle much further. I soon learnt the need to travel as light as possible. A heavy load would have exhausted me, especially when going up steep hills. I would not even reach my planned destination.

I think my experience sheds some light on today's Gospel. The rich man was full of zeal and wanted to do more than fulfil the basic requirements of the Law. So, he rushed to Jesus, knelt before him and asked, 'What must I do to enter the Kingdom of Heaven?' Jesus responded to his generous enthusiasm and told him to sell his possessions and follow Him.

But that was too much for the rich man. He couldn't part with his creature comforts, with the security and status they provided. That would have been like my wanting to set out for my campsite, while carrying a comfortable bed on my back. His excess baggage would have made it very hard for Him to follow Christ, and mine would have prevented me from making my journey. So, Jesus told the rich man the best way to the Kingdom would be for him to get rid of his wealth by giving it to the poor and following Him. In other words, he should travel light.

This shocked the disciples since it seemed to contradict the traditional Jewish belief, that prosperity was God's reward for our living a good life, hardship punishment for a bad life.

Since we're all called to follow Christ does that mean we must all give up our possessions? The answer's, 'No!' Only a few are called to the kind of poverty Jesus asked of the rich man. Most people have to earn a living, support a family and pay off the mortgage. And there's nothing wrong with being ambitious and wanting a reasonable life style.

But acquiring wealth and possessions can be fraught with danger. They can distort our judgement as to what is most important in life – seeking first the kingdom of God. We can so easily become materialistic and greedy, thinking money can provide all that we want and need. Those who think they are self-sufficient are likely to see less need for God than do the poor who realise they depend on Him. For these reasons' wealth can make it difficult for the rich to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

But certainly not impossible. With God's help we all must learn not to become obsessed with owning or acquiring possessions. With His help we all must realise that wealth cannot buy us real happiness and fulfil our deepest longings. Wealth is an unreliable support, which will ultimately let us down. We all must learn to place our trust in God, rather than wealth.

Gradually sickness, old age and then death will strip us of the worldly supports upon which we'd relied. We will be forced to recognise our need for God and place all our trust in Him, knowing that we are in loving, safe hands.

If we learn to travel light we will find it easier to let go of all that is dear to us, far easier to follow Christ, who gained the happiness and glory of heaven by being stripped of everything on the cross. My camping expeditions certainly taught me the truth of St. Augustine's Rule, that "it's better to need little than to have much." What is true of hiking and camping is far truer of following Jesus to His Heavenly Kingdom.

Isidore O.P.