**Holy Cross Priory Church**

**sunday 21 October 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

∙ a roman catholic parisH ∙ the dominican presence in leicester since 1247 ∙

***a word from the prior …***

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

*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

## money matters

Last week’s collections:

**£1140.72**;(Gift Aid-£365.50) Woodhouse: **£127.00**;(Gift Aid-£96.00)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!*

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.

## Shop Repository

Christmas stock is now out in the shop, please come in and have a look at what we have on offer.

## 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.orgDirector of Music: *Mr Thomas Keogh –* thomas@thomaskeogh.co.uk7

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

 **Holy Cross Priory, 45 Wellington Street, LE1 6HW. Tel: 0116 252 1501**

# **the word at work: our weekly reflection**

## 29th sunday – sons of zebedee

Mark’s Gospel could so easily have presented the disciples in an ideal light. Instead, he portrays them as completely misunderstanding Christ’s mission and what it means to follow him. They bicker as to who is the greatest among them and desert Christ in His greatest need. Instead of using the example of the disciples to impress us, Mark wants us to learn from their mistakes.

In today’s Gospel we are told about the sons of Zebedee seeking a privileged position on Christ’s right and left, when He entered his kingdom. It’s remarkable that even though Jesus has just told His inner circle of followers that he must suffer and die and would then rise from the grave. They still thought of Him as a triumphant secular ruler, and themselves as sharing in the spoils of victory. Jesus replies that they don’t realise what they are asking. His kingdom has nothing to do with worldly conquest but being submerged in the baptism of suffering and drinking the cup of death. This is celebrated in the sacraments of baptism and the Eucharist, through which we share in Christ’s death and resurrection.

To their credit James and John say they are prepared to follow Christ along this path, and in the end they do so. But they have a long way to go before they understand that generous commitment. Incidentally, Matthew is kinder to James and John, and has their mother, rather than the disciples themselves, trying to gain advantage over the other disciples. But that lessens the impact of this episode.

The other disciples are no better than James and John! They resent the sons of Zebedee trying to steal an unfair advantage over them. They, too, see Christ’s kingdom in terms of privilege, status and patronage. They, too, want glory without the suffering of the cross.

But then Jesus explains the true nature of greatness and what it means to follow Him. He turns our sense of values upside down. True greatness doesn’t lie in controlling people, nor in status and privileges. Instead, real greatness lies in serving God and each other. That brings out the best in us, in generous self-sacrifice and loving care. Such service is far from being degrading. That was the path Christ, the Suffering Servant of the Lord, took to save the world. It was on the cross that he was enthroned as the victorious king of heaven and earth.

Today’s Gospel episode is about the sons of Zebedee seeking privileged positions on the right and left of Christ, when He entered his kingdom. But with supreme irony Mark tells us that that position was occupied by two criminals –not James and John, or any of the other disciples. Instead, they had deserted Christ when He entered his kingdom.

Today’s reading and the whole of Mark’s Gospel are meant to warn us not to misunderstand Christ’s mission and what it means for us to follow Him. That is a call to life-long service. And that is true even if we occupy a position of authority to which status is attached. In this spirit the Pope is called, ‘The Servant of the servants of God.’

*Isidore O.P.*