



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 28 OCTOBER

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

I hope that you've enjoyed 'the extra hour', and haven't turned up too early for Mass! November brings the Month of the Holy Souls, and the St Martin Novena begins next Saturday. Please help us to promote this by taking and sharing the flyers. Our Solemn Mass for families opens things on Saturday.

*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 begins next Saturday with Solemn Mass at 12:30pm, and continues 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. Highlights include a healing Mass at 12:30pm on Saturday 10 November, and a keynote lecture on the Hope for Christians in Iraq by Fr Timothy Radcliffe on Friday 9 November at 7:15pm. Please see the flyers and take them away for distribution.

SUPPORTING OUR FAMILIES

On Friday we were pleased to have the first meeting of our series supporting the dads of our parish community, which opened naturally into a wider discussion. The first meeting for mums takes place on Friday 30 November at 7pm. More details to follow.

NOVEMBER – MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

Envelopes for the November Dead List are now available. Please insert the names of your deceased loved ones into the envelope along with your donation, and return it to us. Mass is offered every day in November. Our annual Requiem Mass for all the Faithful Departed will be celebrated on Wednesday 28 November at 7:15pm.

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

Social Gathering on Sunday evening after the 7pm Mass. This Wednesday, we celebrate the All Saints Party, from 7pm in the Hall, please do come along. We still have places for our weekend retreat to the Briars next weekend, so don't miss out on that.

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:

£1249.39; (Gift Aid-£339.50) Woodhouse: **£112.00**; (Gift Aid-£88.00)

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 on 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

30TH SUNDAY – TRUE AND FALSE DISCIPLESHIP IN MARK

Mark's Gospel is constructed with great artistry. Last Sunday's Gospel showed the disciples competing for privileged status when Jesus enters His Kingdom. He had to show, that like Him, they'd been called to service. Now was not the time to think about status and privilege. They must press on to Jerusalem where the call to service would reach its climax on the cross. Next Sunday's Gospel tells us that Jesus made His way to Jerusalem where He would celebrate the Passover Last Supper. This would make sacramentally present His sacrifice on the cross, which Jesus was about to undergo.

With great artistry Mark inserts today's Gospel about Bartimaeus between last Sunday's Gospel and next Sunday's. Today the blind beggar is presented as a shining example of what a true follower of the crucified Christ should be like. He began with need, went on to gratitude, and finished with loyalty, following Jesus on the way of the cross. That is a perfect summary of the stages of discipleship -very different from what Christ's hand-picked apostles expected and wanted.

Mark has a surprising way of showing us what a true follower of Christ should be like. He contrasts Christ's hand-picked disciples unfavourably with minor characters who briefly appear throughout his Gospel. Blind Bartimaeus is one of them. The fact that his name has been remembered makes it likely that he did become a Christian. But, let's see what Mark found wrong with the apostles. Though they'd left everything to follow Christ they persisted in misunderstanding Him. They competed for promotion and privileged status in the kingdom, not realising that they, like Christ, are called to serve. Jesus had to rebuke Peter with the harsh words, 'Get behind me Satan' when the leader of the apostles tried to persuade Him not to go to Jerusalem and the cross. When Jesus most needed their support, they slept during His agony in the garden, deserted Him when He was arrested. Peter disowned Him, and Judas betrayed Him. The Gospel ends in total confusion, with the women at the tomb being so afraid that they failed to tell the apostles that Jesus had risen and that they should meet Him at Galilee. In sharp contrast with this negative portrayal of the apostle we have the 'little people' in Mark's Gospel. They have cameo roles, appear and then disappear. But each one tells us something about what it means to be a true follower of Christ.

First, there's the little children, who had no authority, privileges or status. Not only must we become like them, but we must also welcome them, not turn them away. These children typify all those who are under-privileged. To welcome them is to welcome Christ, and the Father who sent Him.

Next there's the poor widow who gave all of the little she had. She is another of these 'little people.' While the wealthy gave what they could spare, without causing themselves any hardship, she gave all that she had. This is not so much about giving money, but the total commitment Jesus expects of us, His followers. It's significant that Jesus alone noticed her generosity.

Now we come to Bartimaeus, the subject of today's Gospel. He was a blind beggar. When he shouted to attract Jesus' attention and seek a cure, those who were full of their own importance tried to silence him for being a nuisance. But he wouldn't give up and shouted all the louder, until Jesus instructed His followers to bring the beggar to Him. Eagerly Bartimaeus sprang up, came to Jesus, and with a wonderful act of faith acknowledged to be 'Son of David.' Bartimaeus, believing Jesus had the power to heal his blindness, appealed to His compassion. Jesus answered his request and restored his sight, adding that He had cured the beggar in response to his faith. Bartimaeus then followed Jesus. This blind beggar, whom everyone dismissed as a nuisance, is a wonderful example of the determination and perseverance required of a true disciple.

Finally, there's the pagan centurion who supervised Christ's execution. He was the only one to proclaim the crucified Christ as the Son of God. He was the only one who really understood Jesus.

In different ways the minor characters in Mark's Gospel illustrate the meaning of true discipleship. We must learn from them and become like them. And we must never dismiss anyone as being unimportant. God has a special love and concern for them, and so should we. The other Gospels present the apostles in a more positive light.

Isidore O.P.