



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 25 NOVEMBER

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, UNIVERSAL KING

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

The last week of the Church year brings us to reflect on a year in which much has changed at Holy Cross. While that has presented us with many new challenges, it is important that we now seek out new opportunities. Let's pray that the season of Advent will allow us to advance forward in hope.

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

THE ADVENT MARKET

We will celebrate the Advent Market next Sunday 2 December, the First Sunday of Advent. Thank you to everyone who has contributed already. Please continue to promote the raffle and to bring in goods. This is a very important event in our calendar, and our aim to reach £5,000 is a significant step in realising our vision for the development of Holy Cross as we enter our third centenary. We look forward to seeing you next week at the Market.

ANNUAL REQUIEM MASS – WEDNESDAY AT 7:15PM

Our annual Requiem Mass for all the Faithful Departed will be celebrated on **Wednesday 28 November at 7:15pm. A candlelight procession will form part of our Mass.** Each year, we use this occasion to remember especially those who have died in the past year. There will be refreshments afterwards. Thanks also to all those who have supported the November List of the Dead this year. Our departed loved ones are remembered with affection. Please note there will not be Mass celebrated at 6:10pm on this day.

TOWARDS ADVENT

During Advent, we will have a special focus on the theme of Encounter, as we look to marking our future. There will be a programme of bible study, led by Fr Matthew, that begins on Thursday of this week, in the Hall at 7pm. Please bring food to share. This will focus on the Gospel of St John. During Advent, we will also have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 7pm – 8pm on Fridays. On the weekend of 8/9 December, Fr Fergus Ryan OP will lead our Advent retreat.

LEICESTER CATHOLIC STUDENTS

On the Feast of Christ the King, there will be an evening trip to Nottingham Cathedral for Mass. The Christmas dinner will be held very soon!

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

MONEY MATTERS

Last week's collections:

£1100.96;(Gift Aid-£390.00) Woodhouse: **£178.70;**(Gift Aid-£80.00)

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 9 December 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

34TH SUNDAY, ORDINARY TIME- CHRIST THE KING

Throughout His ministry Jesus preached about the kingdom of God. He used parables to tell us what it was like and what we must do to enter it. But not once, during His ministry, did He claim to be king. Still less, would He accept that title and role when, at the height of His popularity, the crowds tried to make Him their leader. But Jesus was not prepared to give them the type of leadership they wanted from Him. His mission was not to head a popular uprising against the Romans, occupying the land of Israel.

Only when the crowds had turned against Him for not fulfilling their hopes did Jesus finally claim to be king. Only when Jesus had no support and was incapable of leading a rebellion against the Romans did He accept the title of 'King.' What is more, He added that being king was the whole purpose of His life. It's ironic that Jesus only claimed sovereignty when that appeared to be humanly impossible –when He was powerless and was about to be executed as a criminal. His claim to kingship would seem to be a defiant, but futile gesture.

But at His trial Jesus explained, **'My kingdom is not of this world.'** His kingdom is like no secular state. Nor is He in competition with any of them. His kingdom is like nothing on earth! He posed no threat to their sovereignty or authority. The Romans needn't have feared that He would lead an uprising to remove them.

And yet, in the face of defeat, Jesus claims a very special sovereignty. He would be enthroned on the cross, not in a palace. Instead of people honouring Him, they would despise and reject this ridiculous claimant to kingship. Nevertheless, He would be triumphant and victorious at the moment of His apparent defeat. Not conquering lands by force of arms, but defeating evil through the power of His love. His was the victory of goodness over evil, life over death. As today's Preface tells us His is a kingdom of peace, justice, love and truth. Now Christ, the King, is sovereign Lord of heaven and earth.

With great irony Mark tells us that at Christ's trial and crucifixion He was mocked and sentenced to the death of a criminal for claiming to be king. And so, He was. Both the pagan Romans and the Jewish religious leaders, followed by the people, gave Jesus the correct title, without understanding or believing what His sovereignty meant.

Today's Gospel tells us that only one person understood and welcomed Christ's Kingship. Surprisingly, that was the pagan centurion who supervised Jesus' execution. He exclaimed, **"Truly this man was the Son of God!"** (Mk. 15.59), as Jesus died. At last, after nearly everyone else had failed to understand the title of Mark's Gospel, this centurion received a glimpse of its true meaning. The **'Gospel of Jesus Christ, Son God'** was all about the crucified Christ. For the Son of God to become the promised Messiah/Christ, who would save us from the power of evil, He must be crucified! It was through the cross that Jesus became the Saviour-King. That was the answer to the so-called 'Messianic Secret.'

Today we honour Christ, our King. As we praise Him for the victory, He has won for us we renew our allegiance to Him -not only in word, but indeed. Jesus Himself tells us He won't recognise us as loyal members of His Kingdom if we simply call Him 'Lord' and then flout His will. That would be to mock Him.

Especial today we pray that Christ the King may rule our minds and hearts and welcome us into his heavenly kingdom. May He establish His reign of 'peace, love, justice and truth' throughout the world!

Isidore O.P.