



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 2019

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

St Brigid, Candlemas, and St Blaise – sure and certain signs that spring is here, for those of us from Irish background. We live in hope, and despite the cold weather, we're glad of the lengthening days and the new life springing up all around us.

It's been a controversial week here at the Priory. Our attempts to increase our security have met with challenge and hostility. We're grateful to Leicester City Council for listening to our concerns and assisting us to move forward positively. We hope that this is an end to the sorry attacks on our beautiful building.

We hope to see you at breakfast club after 8am Mass, or to join us at any stage to say hello! It's great if we can all work together to build our community and get to know new people.

Please do look through our events, and get involved with the range of things that are happening.

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

Fr David

VANDALISM IN THE CHURCH AND PRIORY

During the past week, there has been much controversy in the press regarding our erection of security grilles on the lower level windows of the church and priory. We had no choice but to take these measures, as expenditure on window replacement as a result of repeated and consistent vandalism runs over £10k at present. Following meetings with Leicester City Council, we have agreed a suitable way forward, which means that the security provided by the grilles remains in place until alternative arrangements can be made. While we are disappointed that some of our neighbours on New Walk, and some of the businesses that operate in the vicinity, have been hostile and confrontational, we hope that our openness to addressing the issues will be fruitful in the longer term.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

In preparation for the Feast of our Lady of Lourdes, there will be Mass with Sacrament of the Sick on Saturday 9 February at 12:30pm, and Mass with Lourdes Procession on Sunday 10 February at 12:30pm. Please bring along any infirm people who might be able to attend.

THE FRASSATI CENTRE – A NEW DEVELOPMENT

As we approach 200 years of our ministry on this site, we have been developing plans for redeveloping our buildings and extending our outreach. Part of that is the establishment of the Frassati Centre. We want to creatively reimagine the space in the original church and school buildings to make a pastoral resource for the 21st Century. There will be much more news about this in the weeks to come, so do please watch this space, and lend your support! Already, plans and schedules are in an advanced stage of preparation.

NOTICE BOARD

BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you wish to have your child baptised, please attend one of our baptism preparation sessions. The next will be in February 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 on 16 January.

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

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC? – RCIA HAS BEGUN!

Those adults interested in becoming Catholics are invited to join our RCIA programme which continues at 7pm on Wednesdays for the next five weeks. We hope to see some more new faces there.

BLESSING OF THROATS

Following the celebration of Candlemas, the blessing of throats in honour of St Blaise will take place after all Masses this weekend.

LEICESTER IRISH SOCIETY

The Society celebrates its Golden Jubilee this year, and invites everyone to join for a celebratory luncheon at Devonshire Place on St Patrick's Day. More details to follow

NEW ARRIVALS

Congratulations to the different families in our community who have recently had new-born children. We look forward to growing together in faith.

USE OF THE PRIORY ORGANS

We are currently inundated with requests for organists who wish to use our organs for practice. While we want to support this, we also need to safeguard the church as a place for prayer and reflection. The Prior and Chapter now forbid organ practice on Sundays, so that the church may be reserved for prayer. Those who wish to practice the organ on other days may do so by arrangement with the Prior and Chapter, in collaboration with the Director of Music, Mr Keogh. This request must be accompanied by a reference from an accredited music teacher. Thank you for your co-operation.

FR ISIDORE AND FR FABIAN

As a Dominican Community, we are very grateful for the presence of these two very dear brothers in our lives and for their immense contribution to Holy Cross over quite a number of years. However, we are now forced to face the reality that both gentlemen are seriously ill. Thankfully, as a parish community, we were able to mark Fr Isidore's Diamond Jubilee in 2017, and Fr Fabian's retirement celebration back in February was a very memorable occasion. We also have happy memories of a private celebration of Fr Fabian's 90th Birthday in May. Both gentlemen are grateful for your prayers and good wishes. Respectfully, we now ask that parishioners refrain from asking to visit with them. This is to allow both men the opportunity to reflect on their situations and to embrace their challenges with the support of their brethren, families, and close friends. Many thanks for your continued prayers. We will arrange for greetings to be sent in the Christmas period.

ENCOUNTERING THE WORD: SCRIPTURE STUDY OF THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Our scripture study sessions with Fr Matthew commence again in February on Thursday evenings at 7pm, beginning on 7 February. Please take and share the flyers.

THE DOMINICAN COMMUNITY

Fr David Rocks OP PP *Prior* Fr Tony Rattigan OP *Bursar*;
Fr Nicholas Crowe OP *Subprior*; Fr Matthew Jarvis OP CC

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

Lay University Chaplain: *vacant*

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

For more details, visit: www.holycrossleicester.org

MASS TIMES

Sundays:

8am; 10:30am (sung);
12:30pm (old rite);
7pm

Weekdays:

8am (old rite);
12:30pm; 6:10pm

Saturdays:

10am; 12.30pm;
*6:10pm Vigil Mass for
Sunday*

CONFESSION

Saturdays:

10:30-11:30am
5:00-6:00pm

MONEY MATTERS

Last week's collections:

£ 1169.76

(Gift aided: £364.50)

Woodhouse Collection

£ 76.00

(Gift aided: £58.00)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!**

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

THE PROPHET IS NOT WELCOME

A THOUGHT FOR THIS SUNDAY

Today's Gospel — taken from chapter four of St Luke — is the continuation of last Sunday's Gospel. Once again we find ourselves in the Synagogue of Nazareth, the village where Jesus grew up, where every knew him and his family. Then, after a period of absence, he returned there in a new way: during the Sabbath liturgy he read a prophecy on the Messiah by Isaiah and announced its fulfilment, making it clear that this word referred to him, that Isaiah had spoken about him. The event puzzled the Nazarenes: on the one hand they "all spoke well of him and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth" (Lk 4:22).

In today's liturgy these words of St Paul also ring out: "Love is not... boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right" (1 Cor 13:43-6). Believing in God means giving up our own prejudices and accepting the actual face in which he revealed himself: Jesus of Nazareth the man. And this process also leads to recognizing him and to serving him in others. —
Pope Benedict XVI

Responsorial Psalm: My lips will tell of your help.

THE WISDOM OF THE EARLY FATHERS OF THE CHURCH

I celebrate the glory of Jesus Christ as God, because he is responsible for your wisdom, well aware as I am of the perfection of your unshakeable faith. You are like men who have been nailed body and soul to the cross of Jesus Christ, confirmed in love by his blood.

In regard to the Lord, you firmly believe that he was *of the race of David according to the flesh*, but God's son by the will and power of God; truly born of the Virgin and baptized by John, *that all justice might be fulfilled*; truly nailed to a cross in the flesh for our sake under Pontius Pilate and the Tetrarch Herod, and of his most blessed passion we are the fruit. And thus, by his resurrection he raised up a standard over his saints and faithful ones for all time (both Jews and Gentiles alike) in the one body of his Church. For he endured all this for us, for our salvation; and he really suffered, and just as truly rose from the dead.

— *From St Ignatius of Antioch's letter to the Church of Smyrna*

CONTEMPORARY WITNESS

Perhaps the strong reaction to Jesus reflects that his challenge is far more significant, in fact, has divine significance. Human jealousy of human success and knowledge would be one thing, but Jesus actually has knowledge of the divine. Jesus uses his appreciation of divine justice to challenge human injustice in fundamental terms. Jesus challenges his detractors in human terms, but perhaps it is a sense that his authority is divine that is really irksome.

Jesus turns around and challenges the very idea that he should be expected to stay at home. When the people in the gospel say 'This is Joseph's son, surely?' they are perhaps hinting that he should stay with his family. But Jesus doesn't ignore this, instead he puts words into their mouths to express their true feeling, that what they really think is that what he did in Capernaum, curing the human condition through divine authority, he should be doing there.

. — *Fr David McLean OP*

NEXT SUNDAY:

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C)

“The higher we go, the better we shall hear the voice of Christ.”

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati OP

THE ASTONISHMENT OF LOVING

THE JOY OF LOVE IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Fr John Farrell gives an exhortation about the practical demands of St Paul's challenging 'hymn to love'

The so-called "Hymn to Love" of the First Letter to the Corinthians, our second reading, is familiar from many a wedding ceremony or funeral. It acts often as a bridge between the Christian community and those who have no faith, or have other beliefs, but are attending and participating in significant celebrations of our God-given common humanity. Extolling our human yearning for love at its purest and implicitly exhorting us to strive for this higher standard, it is right and proper that it is taken to be part of the common heritage of all humankind. But for the Christian disciple of the risen Lord to treat it only in this way is to diminish its power and run away from its demands.

Significantly this chapter of the letter comes between Saint Paul's teaching on the Christian community as Body of Christ in chapter 12 and, in chapter 14, the on-going necessity of the task of the constant up-building of the Christian communion. The Holy Spirit of the Risen Lord gives the Body of Christ both unity and diversity; diversity and unity. This is not an easy dynamic. Similarly the mutual obligations of Christians in chapter 14 are expressed in the themes of on-going building up of the common life, mutual encouragement, and loving consolation. Seen in this context our present chapter is not a hymn of idealised love but the demands of a practical program. The Christian Community in Corinth was being torn apart by selfish party factions, arrogance and contempt, angry speech, unruly behaviour and indifference for the common good and indifference to the truth. The characteristics of love listed here by Paul are neither arbitrary nor exhaustive but suitable for the situation in Corinth.

"Love is not easily angered but patient,
Love is not rude. Love keeps no record of wrong,
Love does not delight in evil.
Love rejoices in the truth."

They are, in a similar practical and demanding way, suitable for all Christian communities. But these characteristics of love have particular force especially in a contemporary political and cultural and social media environment and even in our ecclesial world. Our cultural worlds are becoming more divided and aggressively hostile to each other. Parties and Factions project falsehoods onto one another. The Like-minded increasingly only talk to each other so polarisation increases. The situation in Corinth is now globalised. The "Walls of Hostility" – St Paul's phrase in Ephesians - grow higher and stronger. For us Christians, we must hear, through this hurtful noise and fog of untruths, the crystal clear words of the Lord spoken on the Mountain in Galilee with divine and human simplicity.

Our "hymn to Love" is for the Christian a rebuke and a demanding evangelical programme to be integrated into the speech, the life, the evaluations, and expectations of the disciple. In the letter to the Ephesians Paul tells us that it is only by the blood and flesh of Christ that the walls of hostility have been broken down. A new power of Love, divine and broken on the cross, has flowed into our world and into our Christian communities. "But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us," (Rom.5.8). Living Eucharistic lives, dying daily to self and rising to newness of life, Christians must let that peace and love which the world cannot give flow through them into the world that needs upbuilding, encouraging, and consoling. It is a sign of human and intellectual maturity to be able to hear and entertain ideas without promptly denying or affirming, rubbishing or idolising them. It is self-love and hate and fear that moves us to unreasonable assumptions, rash judgements, prejudicial conclusions. In contrast wisdom both human and divine is born of wonder, surprise, and openness, and love. When truths emerge out of their certainties into wonder; and abstract love is transfigured into the astonishment of loving.

Fr John Farrell OP