



# HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2019

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

## A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

*It's great to see the days lengthening and the signs of spring increasing all around us. The brightness following the dark winter is full of hope and promise. We already can rejoice in the signs of a fruitful summer to come.*

*The Season of Lent is an opportunity to look into our hearts and identify the need for change and conversion that is part of all of our lives. Repentance is a hopeful and promising springtime in each of our lives, always new no matter how old we are. The brightness of the new life promised in Baptism is already present for us to enjoy. That's the great benefit of repentance.*

*The development of our Dominican apostolate continues to flourish. Our RCIA group are preparing their next stage of the journey as we look forward to Lent and the Rite of Election. The whole process of Easter is before us, and we have many things to look forward to in the events that are scheduled each week.*

*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*

## LAUNCH OF THE FRASSATI CENTRE

Over the last few months, we have indicated the plans we are developing for a new pastoral centre here at Holy Cross – **The Frassati Centre for Preaching and Evangelisation**. This would seek to breathe new life into the original church buildings that we knew as the 'Holy Cross Centre'. We've assembled £180k so far to develop these buildings, and we are seeking to embark on a major fundraising project as we look towards our bicentenary. Please see the posters which outline what we're trying to achieve, and think about anything you might be able to do to help us!

## SATURDAY 2 MARCH – SOCIAL EVENING WITH IRISH THEME

Thanks to all who helped to make our evening so enjoyable, especially all those who volunteered and especially to our musicians and dancers.

## BREAKFAST CLUB @ 8AM MASS

Please join us this morning in St Clement's Hall for breakfast, bacon and eggs, tea and coffee. This is a great opportunity to meet other members of the congregation on the first Sunday of each month.

## LENT BEGINS THIS WEEK

Ash Wednesday this week marks the beginning of the Holy Season of Lent. Please see our Mass times below. Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence, which means we refrain from eating meat, and that we fast apart from one main meal and two smaller collations. Fridays in Lent are also days of abstinence from meat. Sick and elderly persons are exempt from this.

## NOTICE BOARD

### BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you wish to have your child baptised, please attend one of our baptism preparation sessions. The next will be on Sunday 9 March 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

## RCIA GROUP PREPARES FOR LENT

As we move into the weeks before the beginning of Lent, we pray for all those in our RCIA group who are preparing to complete the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. Please keep them all in your prayers.

## WHO IS BLESSED PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI?

He's the inspiration for our new initiative with developing our buildings and our apostolate, but who is he? He's a lay Dominican, whose life was marked by living the Dominican Charism in his everyday life. He was deeply devoted to prayer and study, and he inspired great fellowship with his contemporaries, and devoted himself to the service of others, especially the most vulnerable members of the community. We look forward to getting to know him more closely as we develop our apostolate.

## IMAGE OF BLESSED PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI

We want to foster devotion to this Dominican Beatus. At 10:30am Mass this Sunday, Fr Robert Gay, prior of our community in Oxford, will bless an image, as we prepare to enshrine Blessed Frassati in our church.

## NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Please do begin to come forward for communion when the server rings the bell at the priest's communion. We remind you that it is perfectly acceptable to receive communion on the tongue or in the hand, standing and/or kneeling. Self-intinction is forbidden by our Bishop. The worthy reception of Holy Communion is something that should always be before our minds and hearts.

## 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, continuing on 7 March. Please share the flyers.

## ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT 2019

Lent begins this week with Ash Wednesday on 6<sup>th</sup> March. Masses at 8am (EF Latin), 12:30pm; 6:10pm, 7:15pm. Ashes will be distributed in schools, hospitals, and both universities.

## CELEBRATING LENT 2019 AT HOLY CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be celebrated each Wednesday and Friday of Lent at 1pm, and on Fridays at 7pm. There will also be an extra opportunity for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Thursdays from 5 – 6pm.

## A PRAYER FOR THE CANONISATION OF BL PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI

O merciful God, Who through the perils of the world deigned to preserve by Your grace Your servant Pier Giorgio Frassati pure of heart and ardent of charity, listen, we ask You, to our prayers and, if it is in Your designs that he be glorified by the Church, show us Your will, granting us the graces we ask of You, through his intercession, by the merits of Jesus Christ, Our Lord, Amen.

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### 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](mailto:leicester.admin@english.op.org)

Lay University Chaplain: *vacant*

Director of Music: *Mr Thomas Keogh* – [thomas@thomaskeogh.co.uk](mailto: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](http://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:

**£ 1,104.30**

(Gift aided: £344.50)

**Woodhouse Collection**

**£ 118.00**

(Gift aided: £61.00)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*

# THE EIGHTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

## BEARING GOOD FRUIT

### A THOUGHT FOR THIS SUNDAY

Today's first reading tells us that in some sense we can judge another person by the way he speaks. And, the Gospel tells us not to judge. Can we reconcile these two passages? Definitely! The Scriptures are always speaking to us about spiritual growth. We can never judge another person because we do not know his or her heart: is he or she maturing to a greater spirituality? We can make judgments about actions and words, though. We are not called to be stupid (lacking critical faculties) to follow the Gospel, even though we may be called to be a fool—in the world's eyes and ways—to follow the Gospel.

Today God invites us to look at others and to be able to recognize good words and good deeds and to distinguish them from bad words and bad deeds. Cassian in his *Conferences* refers to this ability discretion, the ability to discern what is of God and what is not. God also invites us not to condemn (but extend compassion to) the people who may do bad deeds or speak bad words.

Let us pray in the Eucharist today for mastery over those "small rudders", our tongues, that will help us live our daily lives in a way that reflects the love, mercy and compassion of God; and, work to do good and speak well.

– *From the Monastery of Christ in the Desert*

### Responsorial Psalm: It is good to give you thanks O Lord

### THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS OF THE CHURCH

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the ministers of God's grace have spoken of repentance; indeed, the Master of the whole universe himself spoke of repentance with an oath: *As I live, says the Lord, I do not wish the death of the sinner but his repentance.* He added this evidence of his goodness: *House of Israel, repent of your wickedness. Tell the sons of my people: If their sins should reach from earth to heaven, if they are brighter than scarlet and blacker than sackcloth, you need only turn to me with your whole heart and say, "Father," and I will listen to you as a holy people.*

In other words, God wanted all his beloved ones to have the opportunity to repent and he confirmed this desire by his own almighty will. That is why we should obey his sovereign and glorious will and prayerfully entreat his mercy and kindness. We should be suppliant before him and turn to his compassion, rejecting empty works and quarrelling and jealousy which only lead to death.

– *From a letter of Pope St Clement I to the Corinthians*

### CONTEMPORARY WITNESS

In the present scandals in the Church, we need humility more than ever. Jesus says that 'every tree can be told by its own fruit', and that we draw good or bad from the store of goodness or badness in our heart. People might be justified in questioning the goodness of the Church when the outward actions of her members (especially in high places) are so visibly rotten. We urgently need humility to heal us all the way down, rooting us totally in Christ, until our inner core is pure, far purer than our outward appearance. That would eliminate all hypocrisy, however we define it.

– *Fr Matthew Jarvis OP*

### NEXT SUNDAY: FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR C)

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

*Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati OP*

# DISCIPLESHIP

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM BISHOP PATRICK'S PASTORAL LETTER

The first essential element of discipleship is, as we began to explore last Advent, time spent with Christ, so as to discover more deeply both his love for each one of us and his desire that we grow in our personal relationship with him. I find it significant that John begins his gospel with the account of Jesus inviting the two disciples of John the Baptist to come and spend time with him (John 1: 36-39). It points us to the truth that it's as a consequence of time spent with Jesus in personal prayer, Eucharistic Adoration or reading the scriptures, that we come to discover more and more, both who he is and what he is asking of each of us; how he invites us to follow in his footsteps, to be his disciples. Christ Jesus is constantly inviting us to be his disciples, his co-workers, in and through the ordinary daily circumstances of our lives, in our home, our school, our parish, our place of work, and our wider neighbourhood. St Teresa of Avila expressed this very simply and beautifully when she said:

'Christ has no body on earth now but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours; yours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on the world; yours are the feet with which he walks to do good; yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.'

So, a disciple is someone who wishes not only to grow in their relationship with Christ, but also to be used by Christ as a way in which his love, care, compassion, healing, blessing and forgiveness can be shared with others. The disciple is someone who is trying each day to move from a 'me-centred' relationship with Christ, to one that seeks to hear and respond to what Christ may be asking of them: 'Here I am, Lord, I come to do your will' (Psalm 40). David Wells told us, in the recent parish representative's sessions we had with him on 'Discipleship & Missionary Discipleship', of how a young woman, very committed to the idea of being Christ's disciple, would begin her day with this simple prayer: 'What are we going to do, today, Lord?' (repeat) She then asked Christ to help her to see that day, with his eyes; to see little opportunities when she could put her discipleship into action. So, for example, as she travelled in on the bus to work she would say a little prayer for the people sitting or standing immediately around her; that God would bless their day; that they might come to know how much Christ loved each of them. Perhaps this Lent we might all approach the start of each day in that way; asking Christ to help us to see opportunities, throughout the day, when we can be his eyes, his hands, his feet, in our Christ-like response, as his disciples, to those around us.

Secondly, a disciple is also someone who, through prayer, knows that that they often fall short of what Christ wants for them. The Season of Lent is a grace-filled time of renewal; we begin on Ash Wednesday with the invitation to 'Repent and believe the Gospel', and throughout Lent we are encouraged to acknowledge that there are things in all of our lives that we need to let go off, because they prevent us from being the disciple that Christ is calling each of us to be. So disciples of Christ are grateful recipients of God's merciful forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, so that they in turn may become instruments of that mercy and forgiveness to others. Please, especially if you haven't been for a while, do make use of the opportunities this Lent provides to make a good Confession. It is, after all, the sacrament of God's merciful love, and it brings us much healing and spiritual strength. Fasting and almsgiving are also good ways to grow in discipleship; to put what we have into God's service by offering it up for the benefit of others. And at the end of Lent, in the Renewal of Baptismal Promises at Easter, we are given the opportunity to recommit ourselves as Christ's disciples.

Thirdly, Christ is actually calling all his disciples to holiness of life, in and through the daily circumstances of our lives; to open our hearts and lives more and more to God, who alone is holy and so is the source of holiness: 'Be holy for I am holy' (Leviticus 11: 44). This is truly what God asks of us! Pope Francis teaches us this in his Exhortation 'Rejoice and be glad', that it is in and through our baptism and through the guidance of the Holy Spirit that we are each called by God to holiness of life.

*+Patrick*