



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 17TH MARCH 2019

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

A very happy St Patrick's Day to one and all! It's always great to welcome so many visitors to the church and priory as people gather to celebrate this special occasion. Despite the rugby losses, we can all feel a little transfigured today, and take a little respite from the rigors of our Lenten observance.

But just like the disciples, the reality of Lent will have to be taken up. Our celebration of St Patrick helps us to give thanks for how he won our hearts. It reminds us that we must use our Lenten practices to make our hearts pure for love of God and service of one another. It highlights our need to hear the Gospel and respond to it.

The development of our Dominican apostolate continues to flourish. We're looking forward to getting things moving with the Frassati Centre for Preaching and Evangelisation. Thanks for all your interest in the project so far. There's still a long way to go!

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. There is a temporary display in the hall outlining our plans, as we make further progress with designers and potential contractors to begin the project. Please do pray for the success of the project

LENT AT HOLY CROSS

During the season of Lent, we will have Stations of the Cross on Wednesdays and Fridays at 1pm, and Stations of the Cross with Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati on Fridays at 7pm. There will also be an extra opportunity for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Thursdays at 5pm. Scripture study sessions continue on Thursdays at 7pm in St Clement's Hall.

ST PATRICK'S DAY 2019 – SUNDAY 17 MARCH

This Sunday is St Patrick's Day, and the annual St Patrick's Day Parade into the city centre will meet here at 12 Noon. Tickets for the event at the Notts Club are selling quickly, and can be obtained from the Emerald Centre.

PRAYER AND SOLIDARITY WITH NEW ZEALAND

An event is arranged for today, Sunday, at 1:15pm at Masjid Umar, Evington Road, Leicester. All are invited to attend and join the remembrance.

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

Please pray for the members of the RCIA programme this year, as they travel to Nottingham Cathedral for the Rite of Election this Sunday afternoon. We hope that this will be the beginning

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. We have a temporary image in the church, and we have commissioned a portrait that will be enshrined in the Church. Prayer cards will also be available soon. We look forward to finding out more.

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 21 March. Please share the flyers.

NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH: 11 – 19 MARCH 2019

The month of March is traditionally dedicated to devotion to St Joseph. This year we are offering a Novena to St Joseph in advance of his Solemnity. The intention of this Novena is for all families in our city and for an end to abortions. Please join us in praying the Novena

ANCIENT PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH (NOVENA PRAYER)

O St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in thee all my interests and desires. O St. Joseph, assist me by thy powerful intercession and obtain for me all spiritual blessings through thy foster Son, Jesus Christ Our Lord, so that, having engaged here below thy heavenly power, I may offer thee my thanksgiving and homage.

O St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating thee and Jesus asleep in thine arms. I dare not approach while He reposes near thy heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me, and ask Him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, patron of departing souls, pray for me.

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:

£ 1,143.48

(Gift aided: £319.50)

Woodhouse Collection

£ 106.50

(Gift aided: £85.00)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

"IT IS YOUR FACE O LORD THAT I SEEK"

A THOUGHT FOR THIS SUNDAY

Another detail proper to St Luke's narrative which deserves emphasis: the mention of the topic of Jesus' conversation with Moses and Elijah, who appeared beside him when he was transfigured. As the Evangelist tells us, they "talked with him... and spoke of his departure" (in Greek, *éxodos*), "which he was to accomplish at Jerusalem" (9: 31).

Therefore, Jesus listens to the Law and the Prophets who spoke to him about his death and Resurrection. In his intimate dialogue with the Father, he did not depart from history, he did not flee the mission for which he came into the world, although he knew that to attain glory he would have to pass through the Cross.

On the contrary, Christ enters more deeply into this mission, adhering with all his being to the Father's will; he shows us that true prayer consists precisely in uniting our will with that of God. For a Christian, therefore, to pray is not to evade reality and the responsibilities it brings but rather, to fully assume them, trusting in the faithful and inexhaustible love of the Lord.

– *Pope Benedict XVI*

Responsorial Psalm: the Lord is my light and my help

THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS OF THE CHURCH

This marvel of the transfiguration contains another lesson for the apostles, to strengthen them and lead them into the fullness of knowledge. Moses and Elijah, the law and the prophets, appeared with the Lord in conversation with him. This was in order to fulfil exactly, through the presence of these five men, the text which says: *Before two or three witnesses every word is ratified*. What word could be more firmly established, more securely based, than the word which is proclaimed by the trumpets of both old and new testaments, sounding in harmony, and by the utterances of ancient prophecy and the teaching of the Gospel, in full agreement with each other?

The writings of the two testaments support each other. The radiance of the transfiguration reveals clearly and unmistakably the one who had been promised by signs foretelling him under the veils of mystery. As Saint John says: *The law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ*. In him the promise made through the shadows of prophecy stands revealed, along with the full meaning of the precepts of the law. He is the one who teaches the truth of the prophecy through his presence, and makes obedience to the commandments possible through grace.

– *From a Sermon of Pope St Leo the Great*

CONTEMPORARY WITNESS

Sometimes we can too easily assume that this intimacy with God that the saints and holy people enjoy is meant only for a spiritual aristocracy and that the rest of us must know our place and make do with something much more mundane. But this is not the message of our Gospel reading. When Jesus climbed the mountain with his closest companions and shone with divine light as he allowed his human nature to become utterly transparent to his divine nature he showed us our own destiny: we are, each one of us, called to be transfigured. Our human flesh, imprinted with our sins, worn down by age, anxiety, sickness, neglect and misuse is destined to be transformed through our union with Jesus and the action of the Holy Spirit.

– *Fr Nicholas Crowe OP*

NEXT SUNDAY:
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR C)

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

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati OP

CHANGE OF HEART?

SOME THOUGHTS FOR ST PATRICK'S DAY

"I testify in truth and in great joy of heart before God and his holy angels that I never had any other reason for returning to that nation from which I had earlier escaped, except the Gospel and God's promises."

(Patrick of Ireland, *Confessio*, 61)

The year 432 AD is an easy one to remember. It has a nice ring to it. For those of us who call a place across the Irish Sea our home, it brings memories of our schooldays and learning the stories of his life and mission. It was the same year that the Basilica of Santa Sabina was built in Rome. That Basilica eventually came under the care of the Dominican Order, and to this day it remains the Conventual Church for the Master of the Dominican Order and the General Council.

The reason for the erection of that Basilica was the martyrdom of a young noble lady, St Sabina. She had been converted to Christianity by her slave, Seraphina. Unique amongst the basilicas of Rome, Santa Sabina has preserved and retained its simple architectural design and restrained decoration. It marks a transition between the architectural styles of the Roman Forum and the early foundations of Christian architecture. It is but one reminder of a reality that is all too apparent. Cultures and philosophies, religions and ideologies, can embrace and enhance each other; but equally they are fearful, and threatening to each other.

In 432 AD, Patrick, a Roman Bishop, returned to the land in which he had been held captive in slavery during the years of his youth. His mission was to free the people of Ireland from slavery to sin and harmful ideologies. In his *Confessio*, he writes: "*How has this happened in Ireland? Never before did they know of God except to serve idols and unclean things. But now, they have become the people of the Lord, and are called children of God.*" (*Confessio*, 41). Great traditions of culture and scholarship arose from the achievement of Patrick. The people of that island nation looked across the seas and engaged with the wider world, embracing new ways of thinking and spreading the gospel message. Their lives, their culture, had changed!

These days we live in times of great uncertainty. Long established truths and moral codes have been upended, and different forms of ideology are competing aggressively for space and attention. Close to home, we see that with "Brexit", but it is true also with the horrible effects of abortion, of promiscuous sexual behaviour, with modern day slavery and destitute poverty. The horrific events in New Zealand during the past week show how much ideologies can corrupt our hearts and blind us to freedom.

Our religion must never become for us an ideology of this kind, or a collection thereof. Patrick describes his own realisation of God's love for him when he writes: "*So I turned with all my heart to the Lord my God, and he looked down on my lowliness and had mercy on my youthful ignorance. He guarded me before I knew him, and before I came to wisdom and could distinguish between good and evil. He protected me and consoled me as a father does for his son.*" (*Confessio*, 2). Our Faith is something that needs to change our hearts, and it is only the changing of our hearts that will change the hearts of others. It is the experience of love, and not the propagation of ideals, that we are called to preach.

Today is a great day to be Irish, and to be proud of the achievements of our small but not untroubled island home. Patrick's arrival in 432 opened the way to one of the key things that this day represents – an international celebration of Irish culture and identity. But let's go back for a moment and revisit Santa Sabina, that small Roman basilica that is in many ways undiscovered, but has its particular uniqueness in its unspoiled simplicity. It represents a transition between a time of persecution and a time of tolerance. The slave girl changed the heart of the noble lady Sabina, and she gave her life for the newfound freedom of the Gospel. Patrick changed the hearts of a nation, which for generations sought change in the hearts of the world. Whose heart can you win today?

Fr David OP