



# HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

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

## A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

*It has been said that a week is a long time in politics, and what long weeks we've been having lately! Perhaps the only unifying principle is the sense of frustration about how it is all going. We cannot fail to recognise the extent of division about political matters at present. It is ever more necessary to witness to the unity we have in Christ through our Lenten acts of charity.*

*This is of course the time of this season when a week can be a long time in Lent. Let's take a moment to pray for each other this weekend, that we will all be encouraged in the duties we have assumed. Might it be a day to fast from the unkind word?*

*As we seek to develop our mission here in Leicester to mark our 200 years, there's a lot happening with giving attention to buildings and development for the future. We mustn't lose sight of the people though. Let's also pray for renewal.*

*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*

## DEVELOPING 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. This week we have been pleased to meet with designers, thinking through the various scenarios, and have begun to prepare works to go out to tender. 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.

## QUINQUENNIAL SURVEY AND WORKS TO THE CHURCH AND PRIORY

Our last quinquennial survey of the church and priory in 2017 pointed out significant remedial works and repairs that are required to ensure that our buildings are maintained adequately for the future. Significant renovation to areas of the roof of the buildings and the stone and brickwork are required, in order to prevent further damage. We have been pleased to hold meetings with various advisers and contractors to address these issues, and will develop our plans in due course. We are grateful to those with expertise in these areas for helping to point us in the right direction.

## 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 7 April 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 again in the Autumn.

### 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 EASTER SACRAMENTS

Please pray for the members of the RCIA programme this year, as they continue the journey towards Easter. We hope that this will be a season of grace for them, and we are grateful for their witness in the midst of our parish community.

## 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.

## MOTHERING SUNDAY

Next Sunday, Laetare Sunday, is Mothering Sunday. We will welcome floral gifts for Our Lady's Altar. It is an opportunity to recognise the wonderful contribution that our Mothers and Grandmothers make in the lives of us all and in our community.

## 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 JOHN'S GOSPEL

Our scripture study sessions with Fr Matthew commence again in February on Thursday evenings at 7pm, continuing on 28 March. Please share the flyers.

## ST JOHN PAUL II WALKING PILGRIMAGE – 1<sup>ST</sup> – 4<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST

Come and walk 50 miles for the intention of the New Evangelisation of England and Wales with the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph. Going from Bury St Edmunds to Walsingham, each day we will celebrate Mass, pray Morning and Evening Prayer and the rosary together, and hear talks. Please note that pilgrims must be physically capable of walking 20 miles in one day. **Cost:** £90 per head, £60 for students/unemployed and £50 per head for families. **For more information and to book:** <http://www.dominicansistersofstjoseph.org/JPII>

## APF "RED BOX" MISSION APPEAL

Fr Vincent, who visited us for the appeal earlier in the year, and his team wish to thank us all for the generous response to the appeal. Several additional people took the traditional "red box" away, while others set up direct debits. Please look out for future notices informing about the collecting of the red boxes for return.

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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:

**£ 1400.89**

(Gift aided: £427.50)

**Woodhouse Collection**

**£ 159.00**

(Gift aided: £121.00)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*

# THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

## A THOUGHT FOR THIS SUNDAY

The Gospel on this Third Sunday of Lent relates Jesus' comments on two events of his time. The first: the uprising of some Galileans, which Pilate repressed with bloodshed. The second: the fall of the tower of Jerusalem, which claimed 18 victims. Two very distinct, tragic events: one caused by man, the other accidental.

According to the mentality of the time, people were inclined to think that the disgrace which struck the victims was due to some grave fault of their own. Jesus instead says: "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans... Or those eighteen upon whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who dwelt in Jerusalem?" (Lk 13: 2, 4). And in both cases he concludes: "I tell you, No: but unless you repent you will all likewise perish" (13: 3, 5).

This, then, is the point to which Jesus wants to bring his listeners: the necessity for conversion. He does not propose it in legalistic terms, but rather in realistic ones, as the only adequate response to the events that place human certainties in crisis.

In the face of certain disgraces, he warns, it does no good to blame the victims. Rather, true wisdom allows one to question the precariousness of existence and to acquire an attitude of responsibility: to do penance and to improve our lives.

This is wisdom, this is the most effective response to evil on every level: interpersonal, social and international.

– *Pope Benedict XVI*

## Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is compassion and love

### THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS OF THE CHURCH

Offer your soul to God, make him an oblation of your fasting, so that your soul may be a pure offering, a holy sacrifice, a living victim, remaining your own and at the same time made over to God. Whoever fails to give this to God will not be excused, for if you are to give him yourself you are never without the means of giving. To make these acceptable, mercy must be added. Fasting bears no fruit unless it is watered by mercy. Fasting dries up when mercy dries up. Mercy is to fasting as rain is to earth. However much you may cultivate your heart, clear the soil of your nature, root out vices, sow virtues, if you do not release the springs of mercy, your fasting will bear no fruit. When you fast, if your mercy is thin your harvest will be thin; when you fast, what you pour out in mercy overflows into your barn. Therefore, do not lose by saving, but gather in by scattering. Give to the poor, and you give to yourself. You will not be allowed to keep what you have refused to give to others.

– *From a Sermon by Saint Peter Chrysologus, bishop*

### CONTEMPORARY WITNESS

If we try to imagine God, we are likely to imagine God in our own image, a God who saves the just – like us - and punishes the wicked with hell – and most especially the sinners we particularly hate, terrorists, or paedophiles, or that bloke over there. We can quote plenty of Old Testament texts to that effect. But God is. Jesus, the Son of God is heading to Jerusalem, the site of the disasters talked about, to reveal God's love, that God is..

– *Fr Peter Harries OP*

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

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

*Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati OP*

# FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

## SOME THOUGHTS FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION

There are few things more welcome to pious ears than the sweet sound of the Angelus Bell! The punctuation of our daily activities with the beautiful and rhythmic sound of the bell! The words of a popular Marian hymn capture that: "*The Bells of the Angelus are calling to pray, in sweet tones announcing the Sacred Ave!*" But can we hear it? Do we listen?

From my childhood days I remember vividly my Grandmother and her brother and sister, arresting whatever activity was in order at midday, when the great tenor bell of Newry Cathedral sounded the call to prayer. I'd listen and long to be able to join in the responses, gradually getting to know them. Of course, there was the familiar and comforting sound of the Hail Mary repeated three times, reflecting the thrice ringing bell, and the three times for the Sign of the Cross, together with this practice taking place three times a day at morning, noon, and evening.

But childlike awe lessens with age, and familiarity muffles sensitivity. During my teenage years, I heard the Angelus bell announce the proximity of lunchtime, or the end of a period of afternoon study. It marked a time of liberation, if only brief, but did it retain its meaning? In Newry, the great tenor bell of the Cathedral was a fair match for the tenor bell at the Dominican Priory; and, not to be outdone, the treble bell at St Clare's Convent and the Convent of Mercy would make their mark felt ever more gently. Years later, visiting Rome, I remember being astounded by the great pealing of the Angelus at 7pm from the great basilicas and churches of that city – marking the liberation from the working day, as people rushed from business to recreation. But can they hear it? Do they listen?

When I first moved to Oxford, there were many bells all through the city, but not the Angelus. In a different country, with a variety of traditions, that familiar sound was missing. I couldn't hear it, no matter how hard I might listen. I had taken the Angelus for granted, and over the years it had become perhaps too stale, over familiar, and I didn't always listen. You see, it can be an interruption – it can terminate a conversation, lose a train of thought, arrest a worthwhile activity. The Angelus isn't always convenient, its interruption isn't always welcome. We don't want to hear it. We won't listen. In Leicester, where I live, the Angelus rings from our priory as a lonely voice, nonetheless shrill. Sometimes it startles me at my desk or in mid conversation when I'm there. But sometimes, if I'm at a distance from the priory, it's there faintly, like an echo in the din of the city. I can hear it. I try to listen.

The Angelus and the great feast of the Annunciation celebrates that great moment of interruption, when the Angel of the Lord announced unto Mary, and She conceived by the Holy Spirit. Mary's life was interrupted, human history was interrupted, the long reign of sin was interrupted, and the long division between God and humanity began to be healed, as the Word became flesh. That new communion, the new relationship that God desires with each one of us, necessitates the interruption of our own plans and strategies, to provide opportunity for repentance, so that we recognise that we have been chosen to a fresh and vibrant new life.

So ask not for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee. It might inspire childlike awe and amazement, it might inspire piety and prayer. It might be a sound of liberation, a distraction, or an inconvenient interruption. Hear it, listen. God elected to interrupt the tyranny of sin and division when he chose Mary as the Mother of His Son. An Angel of the Lord announced this unto Mary. She heard. She listened. She said Yes.

*Fr David OP*