



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 21ST APRIL 2019

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

Holy Week is always hectic and emotional – a bit of a rollercoaster! So many different emotions, as we celebrate the victory of Christ over death, and proclaim to one another the significance of this great story for each one of us. Hopefully the joy of Easter will bring with it some rest and refreshment, and time to catch up.

The burning of the Cathedral of Notre-Dame in Paris is something that sets this year apart. That the damage was relatively limited is something of a reassurance, filling us with awe at the mastery of our medieval forebears. As we mark the 21st anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, bringing peace to our islands, it is inherently sad that this 'coming of age' was marked by the death of Lyra McKee in Derry. That city, which has known so much bloodshed, needs to be our focus as we work to secure the peace that is still so young and fragile.

At Easter, we take the opportunity to express our gratitude for the kindness and dedication of so many people. Our staff and colleagues both in the Priory and in the various places we work offer us a much valued service. The generosity of our friends and benefactions is invaluable for our ministry here in Leicester. May the joy of the resurrection fill all our hearts.

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

Fr David

EASTER WEEK AT HOLY CROSS

During the week ahead, there will be Mass each day at 12:30pm only, outside of which times the church will be closed. The Priory and Parish offices will also be closed for the duration of the week. We wish all our staff and colleagues, and all our collaborators, a blessed and happy Easter season.

THE NARTHEX OF OUR CHURCH

During the Good Friday Liturgy at 3pm, there was a most unfortunate and distressing accident, in which a young person fainted and fell into the glass narthex doors, shattering the glass. Our thoughts and prayers are very much with this young person and their family. As a precaution, the narthex is now out of bounds, except in controlled circumstances. We have arranged for the remaining glass to be removed, and we will replace with reinforced glass in due course. We thank those who assisted during the incident, most especially the off-duty medical professionals.

HOLY WEEK – WORD OF THANKS

We are grateful to everyone who made our Holy Week liturgies such a beautiful and moving experience. In a special way, we thank our staff: Rachael and Nick; and our Musical Director, Thomas. We thank Michael and Mary, and the many volunteers. We thank Dorothy for the flowers. Following on from Fr Fabian's funeral in the previous week, we're grateful for the major effort to get it all done!

SURREXIT CHRISTUS VERE! ALLELUIA!

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

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. **Update this week:** we have begun to receive quotations for the works and we are looking forward to analysing and discussing these. **There will be more news during Eastertide Please do pray for the success of the project.**

WALK FOR LIFE – SATURDAY 11TH MAY 2019

The UK March For Life brings together all those who wish to defend pre-born children. This year's march will be on **Saturday 11th May** and is once again in London. Find out more at www.marchforlife.co.uk The coach from Leicester will depart 7.30 am from Holy Cross Church, Wellington Street LE1 6HW. We hope for a further pick up point from St Peter's Church on Hinckley Road. If we have more interest from other parishioners we could consider a further pick up point. The Lifefest from 9.30 am has workshops, exhibitions, music and children's events. The March itself starts at 2.00pm. Travel on the coach will be free but donations asked to cover the cost of registering at the event (£5 per adult and £1 for children under 18, free for under 6s). If you would like to reserve a place on the coach please contact me, francisca@sicamartinez.plus.com as soon as you can please as I need to register people. Or text/call on 07943 711549. This is an important opportunity for us to witness to our belief in the inherent dignity of all humans, regardless of class or race - or age. This is an event not to be missed!

GIFT AID BOXES

Your new Gift Aid Boxes are available for collection. They are on the table by the Wellington Street Entrance. Thanks for your continued generosity. After Easter, we can think about how our finances are going and plan for our next steps together.

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.

REGINA CAELI LAETARE, ALLELUIA!

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:

£ 1452.98

(Gift aided: £454.16)

Woodhouse Collection

£ 167.50

(Gift aided: £101.00)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*

THE DAY OF RESURRECTION!

A THOUGHT FOR THIS SUNDAY

"Christ, our Paschal lamb, has been sacrificed!" (1 Cor 5:7). On this day, Saint Paul's triumphant words ring forth, words that we have just heard in the second reading, taken from his First Letter to the Corinthians. It is a text which originated barely twenty years after the death and resurrection of Jesus, and yet – like many Pauline passages – it already contains, in an impressive synthesis, a full awareness of the newness of life in Christ. The central symbol of salvation history – the Paschal lamb – is here identified with Jesus, who is called "our Paschal lamb". The Hebrew Passover, commemorating the liberation from slavery in Egypt, provided for the ritual sacrifice of a lamb every year, one for each family, as prescribed by the Mosaic Law. In his passion and death, Jesus reveals himself as the Lamb of God, "sacrificed" on the Cross, to take away the sins of the world. He was killed at the very hour when it was customary to sacrifice the lambs in the Temple of Jerusalem. The meaning of his sacrifice he himself had anticipated during the Last Supper, substituting himself – under the signs of bread and wine – for the ritual food of the Hebrew Passover meal. Thus we can truly say that Jesus brought to fulfilment the tradition of the ancient Passover, and transformed it into *his* Passover..

– *Pope Benedict XVI*

Responsorial Psalm: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS OF THE CHURCH

Both the Law and the Word came forth from Zion and Jerusalem, but now the Law has given place to the Word, the old to the new. The commandment has become grace, the type a reality. The lamb has become a Son, the sheep a man, and man, God.

The Lord, though he was God, became man. He suffered for the sake of those who suffer, he was bound for those in bonds, condemned for the guilty, buried for those who lie in the grave; but he rose from the dead, and cried aloud: *Who will contend with me? Let him confront me.* I have freed the condemned, brought the dead back to life, raised men from their graves. Who has anything to say against me? I, he said, am the Christ; I have destroyed death, triumphed over the enemy, trampled hell underfoot, bound the strong one, and taken men up to the heights of heaven: I am the Christ.

Come, then, all you nations of men, receive forgiveness for the sins that defile you. I am your forgiveness. I am the Passover that brings salvation. I am the lamb who was immolated for you. I am your ransom, your life, your resurrection, your light, I am your salvation and your king. I will bring you to the heights of heaven. With my own right hand I will raise you up, and I will show you the eternal Father.

– *From an Easter homily by Melito of Sardis, bishop*

CONTEMPORARY WITNESS

Across the globe on Easter morning, sermons are being preached in a multitude of different languages to congregations of various nationalities and backgrounds. Within these congregations are to be found, sitting beside one another, men and women in very different personal circumstances. Some will have hearts full of joy; some will have lives neither especially happy nor especially burdensome; some will be struggling with worries and cares: trying to make ends meet, fighting ill health, struggling with relationships, but all feeling the weight of the world upon their shoulders. And, yet, despite the diversity of place, background, and personal circumstances, there is the same humanity, the same human condition, and the same message of Easter: *Death and sin have been overcome! The Lord is Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

– *Fr John O'Connor OP*

NEXT SUNDAY:
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY – SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR C)

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

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati OP

THE WORD AT WORK: OUR WEEKLY REFLECTION

THE DAY OF RESURRECTION

The events of the past week have given Fr David some things to think about ...

When I was growing up, adults all around used to mention frequently that they would always remember where they were when they heard the news of the assassination of President Kennedy in the United States. Since I was born some two decades after the event, it was something of a bemusement to me. For my generation, the 'children of the peace process' in Northern Ireland, it was the cessation of violence in 1994, and the signing of the Good Friday Agreement in 1998, that would mark our shared future of hope. We remember these things vividly. The devastating death of Lyra McKee at the hands of so-called dissidents in Derry during Holy Week overshadows that hope.

In the early days of the peace process in Northern Ireland, efforts were already undermined by another epoch-making event. Everyone remembers where they were when they heard about planes flying into the World Trade Center in New York. 9-11. The date is fixed in our minds. A new kind of violence and terrorism was arising. The towers fell, and the devastation was paramount. Such loss of life, and so many years of international anxiety. In the early days of 24 hour television news, we were virtual eyewitnesses to the future unfolding.

Holy Week is not without its drama and emotion, and this one all the more so. Each year, the liturgy invites us to become eyewitnesses to the death and resurrection of the Lord. To learn the story again. In the week just past, we were eyewitnesses to the toppling of the iconic spire of the Cathedral of Notre-Dame in Paris. A thousand years of history was bellowing in smoke, and different perspectives came our way, as the marvels of social media took the motion pictures of the catastrophe to our hand-held devices. What a relief it really was then, to see the interior of the Cathedral so miraculously conserved despite the rampant fires – a dramatic destruction, a blessed relief.

What might it be like if we were to experience this kind of destruction in our own beloved church building? The memories and the value we invest in what we hold dear as a community cannot be underestimated. But they are made from sticks and stones. Together we could reconstruct. Indeed, during the course of this week and the weeks leading towards it, we have deliberately disfigured our church – veiling the statues, removing its beautiful adornments. We need to face the desolation in order to have a role in making it beautiful.

This is the happy fault that is sung about at Easter – that the sinfulness of humanity would win for us so great a Redeemer. That we disfigure our own lives through our sins, and then search with fervour and hope for the forgiveness that we need so very much. Witnessing the destruction of Notre-Dame, there is the fervent hope and determination that the spire will rise above Paris again, and that future generations will see the glory and the value of our own age and our efforts to pass on something important.

Of incalculable value is the fact that no human life was lost in the toppling of the Notre-Dame spire. The devastation, internationally recognised in an instant, is nothing compared to the loss felt by Lyra McKee's family as we celebrate the day of resurrection. Senseless loss of human life is all around us, as well as abuse of human persons in many different forms. We have been eyewitnesses to the death of our Lord this week, and we long to see the resurrection. Witnessing the destruction of Notre-Dame on our iPhones, we must not be blind to the sufferings of our brethren. We do not have to look far for destruction.

As the events of this week go down in history, we can make the historical event of the death of our Lord something that matters to us every day. We can use it as a point of reference, to bring change in our lives. The destruction of his body on the cross was not the destruction of the life within him, and the shedding of his blood gives new life to each one of us. Let's construct that new life within us as we celebrate the Resurrection.

A very blessed and happy Eastertide to you all.

Fr David OP