



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 5TH MAY 2019

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

The celebration of the Resurrection is exhausting and exhilarating! I hope you've all managed to have some kind of rest time over the last few weeks. The joy of Easter can settle in, and we can look forward to the summer term ahead, and all the fruitfulness it will bring.

There was a great amount of effort placed into the organization of the Easter ceremonies. This is well spent – over the next weeks we have the joy of building up the many good projects that we've started on, and looking to new things.

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

THE MONTH OF MAY – THE MONTH OF OUR LADY

The month of May is traditionally devoted to particular devotion to Our Blessed Lady. Her image will be venerated in procession after 10:30am Mass, and we encourage you to bring offerings of flowers for the May Altar in the church. Please do enthrone the image of Our Lady in your homes during this month, and bring flowers of the rarest, and blossoms the fairest to honour the Queen of the May.

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 replaced 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!

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

SURREXIT CHRISTUS VERE! ALLELUIA!

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 are continuing 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.**

MARCH 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 Lifest 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!

MARCH FOR LIFE – VIGIL

There will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Friday from 7pm – 8pm to pray for the March for Life.

SCRIPTURE STUDY – THURSDAY AT 7PM

Fr Matthew will resume scripture study sessions on Thursday evenings, focussing on the Gospel of St John. We look forward to seeing you there.

DOMINICAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM – SUNDAY 19 MAY

The Dominican Pilgrimage to Walsingham will travel on Sunday 19 May, leaving the Priory at 8am. Please put your name down in the shop after Mass.

MAY PROCESSION – SUNDAY 26 MAY AT 11:45AM

We will have our annual May Procession on the final Sunday of Lent. Please bring flowers to honour Our Lady during the Procession.

BLACKFRIARS MARKET IS COMING UP – MORE NEXT WEEK!!!

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:

£ 1283.20

(Gift aided: £317.50)

Woodhouse Collection

£ 68.00

(Gift aided: £46.00)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*

THE DAY OF RESURRECTION!

A THOUGHT FOR THIS SUNDAY

Jesus reaches down to that basic yearning of every human being. And that yearning can only be satisfied by the love of God coming into his heart, no conditions, no extra reasons why you should or should not have this gift. He reaches down — as he does to every single human being, into the deepest part of our hearts, where the yearning for completion is born with us and stays with us no matter how many sins, no matter how many betrayals, no matter what we do, there is that hunger of the heart — and Jesus, in his great generosity, forgets everything else and reaches down and says to Peter: “Feed my sheep. I love you, I trust you and now I ask you to take care of them for me.” And when Peter hears that, three times, he knows that there is something here more than forgiveness. It is that Jesus loves him and forgets everything except his love for Peter and he wants him to continue to be the one who would lead his church. This is the kind of forgiveness that is here. It’s as if Jesus was saying, “It doesn’t matter. It doesn’t matter. You don’t have to do penance, you don’t have to be on your knees, you don’t have to cry for my forgiveness, for I have loved you from the beginning, and I will be faithful and true to that love for as long as we are together.” The church is founded not on forgiveness, not on tolerance, not on finally coming to terms that we have to forgive each other. The church is founded on the love of God which doesn’t ask that we ask for forgiveness. For God forgives even before we think of committing the sins, so great is His love. And that’s the lovely thing about today’s gospel. We’re not to go out into the world and say, “Now if you forgive and fall on your knees and say three Hail Marys and three Our Fathers then we will forgive you.” This is not from God. When we say those words what we mean is this: you are already forgiven by a lovely God who forgives and forgets even before you ask Him.

– *Fr Denis J Hanly*

Responsorial Psalm: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS OF THE CHURCH

The apostles, in their recollections, which are called gospels, handed down to us what Jesus commanded them to do. They tell us that he took bread, gave thanks and said: *Do this in memory of me. This is my body.* In the same way he took the cup, he gave thanks and said: *This is my blood.* The Lord gave this command to them alone. Ever since then we have constantly reminded one another of these things. The rich among us help the poor and we are always united. For all that we receive we praise the Creator of the universe through his Son Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit. On Sunday we have a common assembly of all our members, whether they live in the city or the outlying districts. The recollections of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as there is time. When the reader has finished, the president of the assembly speaks to us; he urges everyone to imitate the examples of virtue we have heard in the readings. Then we all stand up together and pray.

– *From the first apology in defence of the Christians by Saint Justin, Martyr*

CONTEMPORARY WITNESS

St Peter has a past, we all know about this past, his betrayal, his failure at the moment of the Cross, and the moment that showed that he really did not know who he was. That failure echoes throughout the whole of the history of the Church. We will remember the words of St Peter until the end of time. ‘I do not know him’. Yet we also know that St Peter is to be redeemed and is with Christ forever, not in spite of those words but through them. The grace of God is great enough. While we live, we are always in a single moment, always at an exact point in time and space, but what we have been is part of that moment, and what we can be, long to be, and by God’s grace will be, is also part of that moment. Do you love me, is always a question for now, but it is never just about that ‘now’. Only Christ can truly know that St Peter loves him, because he sees the whole of his life, he alone knows all things.

– *Fr Euan Marley OP*

NEXT SUNDAY: FOURTH 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

DO YOU LOVE ME?

Fr Thomas Skeats OP reflects on the missionary discipleship of St Peter

At the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus goes to his hometown of Nazareth and entering the synagogue reads a passage from the book of Isaiah: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor and to proclaim liberty to captives and sight to the blind' (Luke 4:14-21). Jesus applies these words to himself and to his mission. He is anointed by the Spirit to bring Good News to the world. He is anointed as prophet, priest and king. Every Christian disciple, anointed by the Holy Spirit at Baptism, is called to follow Jesus in this three-fold mission of prophet, priest and king.

When Jesus appears to Peter after his Resurrection, he asks Peter three times 'Do you love me?' After each declaration of his love, the Lord entrusts Peter with a task: 'Feed my lambs', 'Tend my sheep', 'Feed my sheep'. In each of the three invitations to declare his love for the Lord, Peter is being called to share intimately in the threefold ministry of the Lord. He is called to bear witness to the love of God as priest, prophet, and king. This is the mark of discipleship after the Resurrection - that the love of God is expressed in the world through our baptismal calling to serve one another in imitation of Christ as priest, prophet, and king.

'Simon, do you love me? Feed my lambs.' Christ as priest offers prayers and sacrifices for those entrusted to his care, for his lambs, his little ones. Peter assumes the care of the fledgling flock whose task it will be to pray for the well-being of the Church and the world. Each faithful disciple, having been anointed with the Holy Spirit, in obedience to the promptings of the Spirit is moved to offer prayer and sacrifice to enliven and build up the community of faith.

'Simon, do you love me? Tend my sheep.' The prophet bears witness to the truth of God's love for the world and to his victory over evil, revealed in the mystery of the Resurrection. Christ was put to death for preaching God to the world. Witnessing to God involves taking up the Cross and being led to places we may not wish to go. Peter had struggled with the mystery of the Lord's death. In the events leading up to the crucifixion he had denied the Lord three times. He was fearful and apprehensive. After the Resurrection, however, the Lord reveals to Peter that he too must embrace the Cross, if he is to obey the command to "Follow me." Those in authority will always try to find ways - however subtle - to frustrate the preaching of the Gospel. Preaching the truth of the Gospel is very seldom easy. We see this in our first reading from the Acts of the Apostles. But the message of that reading is that we must be obedient to our vocation to witness, knowing that we do so under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

'Simon, do you love me? Feed my sheep.' The continuing presence of sinfulness and evil in the world makes hope difficult, but it is our kingly calling to work to overcome the power of evil in our own lives and in the world, thereby sharing in Jesus' mission to have God reign in the hearts of all so that peace and the Lord's justice - the proper order of things intended by God - may hold sway in the world. We know that Christ has triumphed over sin and death and has been raised up, the first-born from the dead, to be king of kings (Revelation 1:5). In Baptism, we have died with Christ and are offered a share in his Resurrection. We are offered a share in his kingly reign.

Fr Thomas Skeats OP