



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 12TH MAY 2019

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

On the Fourth Sunday of Easter, the Church calls us to reflect on the mystery of vocation. This is particularly significant for us at Holy Cross, as Fr Nicholas's work is focused on the promotion of the vocation of the Dominican Priest and Brother. We are all called to support each other in the callings we have received.

This week in particular, I was saddened personally to learn of the death of Fr Gabriel Harty OP in the Priory in Dundalk. Many years ago, he was the first person to suggest to me that I might receive the grace of a Dominican vocation. Today, I offer you some of his reflections on his own journey as an advocate of the Most Holy Rosary.

As we journey through Easter together, we are constantly called to share the joy of the resurrection with one another. That takes courage and commitment. Preparations for Blackfriars Market, and working together to develop our mission, are all necessary and enlivening aspects of our common journey and our calling.

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. 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.

BLACKFRIARS MARKET – SUNDAY 9 JUNE 2019

It's that time of year again, and our most important fundraising event of the year is planned for Sunday 9 June from after the 8am Mass until around 1pm. We aim to raise £10,000, and if everyone in our community manages to contribute something, this target is very small indeed. Next week, we launch the raffle, and this week you can take away a bottle bag and return with your donation next week. This year, Blackfriars Market is aimed at raising funds for our 200th anniversary redevelopment plan – the Frassati Centre and securing our future.

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.

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.

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 1 June 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 are now expecting the last quotations for the works and we are looking forward to presenting these to the Provincial Council for decision and commissioning the works. ***There will be more news during Eastertide Please do pray for the success of the project.***

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.

MAY PROCESSION – SUNDAY 26 MAY AT 11:45AM

We will have our annual May Procession on the final Sunday of the month, Sunday 26 May. Please bring flowers to honour Our Lady during the Procession.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION – SUNDAY 7 JULY 2019

This year, we will celebrate First Holy Communion for children aged 7 and above on Sunday 7 July at 10:30am Mass. There will be a meeting for children and their parents on Sunday 2 June after 10:30am Mass.

FRASSATI GROUP FOR YOUNG ADULTS – FIRST MEETING THIS WEEK!!

Inspired by the legacy of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, a new initiative aimed at young adults is being launched at Holy Cross this week, for Catholics aged 18-35. The first meeting is on Monday 13 May, 7-9pm in St Clements hall. The evening will include a simple meal, talk and discussion on the Role of the Laity, and night prayer to finish. If you wish to invite young adults, or would like to know more, please email Fr Matthew at matthew.jarvis@english.op.org

THE EASTER DUTY

At Easter, the Catholic Church requires that all Catholics who have made their First Communion receive Holy Communion sometime during the Easter season, which lasts through Pentecost Sunday, 50 days after Easter. (They should also take part in the Sacrament of Penance before receiving this Easter communion.) This reception of the Eucharist is a visible sign of our faith and our participation in the Kingdom of God. Of course, we should receive Communion as frequently as possible; this "Easter Duty" is simply the minimum requirement set by the Church.

SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN

May we take this opportunity to remind you that parents and carers need to take responsibility for supervision of their children at all times. We need to make sure that our church is a welcoming environment, but we need to be safe!

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:

£ 1156.11

(Gift aided: £270.80)

Woodhouse Collection

£ 159.00

(Gift aided: £86.00)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - VOCATIONS

A THOUGHT FOR THIS SUNDAY

The Christian life thus finds expression in those decisions that, while giving a precise direction to our personal journey, also contribute to the growth of God's kingdom in our world. I think of the decision to marry in Christ and to form a family, as well as all those other vocations associated with work and professional life, with the commitment to charity and solidarity, with social and political responsibilities, and so forth. These vocations make us bearers of a promise of goodness, love and justice, not only for ourselves but also for our societies and cultures, which need courageous Christians and authentic witnesses of the kingdom of God. In encountering the Lord, some may feel the attraction of a call to the consecrated life or to the ordained priesthood. It is a discovery that can excite and at the same time frighten us, since we feel called to become "fishers of men" in the barque of the Church by giving totally of ourselves in commitment to faithful service of the Gospel and our brothers and sisters. Such a decision carries the risk of leaving everything behind to follow the Lord, to devote ourselves completely to him, and to share in his work. Many kinds of interior resistance can stand in the way of making this decision, especially in highly secularized contexts where there no longer seems to be a place for God and for the Gospel. Places where it is easy to grow discouraged and fall into the "weariness of hope". And yet, there can be no greater joy than to risk one's life for the Lord! I would like to say this especially to you, the young. Do not be deaf to the Lord's call. If he calls you to follow this path, do not pull your oars into the boat, but trust him. Do not yield to fear, which paralyzes us before the great heights to which the Lord points us. Always remember that to those who leave their nets and boat behind, and follow him, the Lord promises the joy of a new life that can fill our hearts and enliven our journey.

– *Pope Francis, Message for Vocations Sunday 2019*

Responsorial Psalm: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS OF THE CHURCH

Beloved brothers, let us set out for these pastures where we shall keep joyful festival with so many of our fellow citizens. May the thought of their happiness urge us on! Let us stir up our hearts, rekindle our faith, and long eagerly for what heaven has in store for us. To love thus is to be already on our way. No matter what obstacles we encounter, we must not allow them to turn us aside from the joy of that heavenly feast. Anyone who is determined to reach his destination is not deterred by the roughness of the road that leads to it. Nor must we allow the charm of success to seduce us, or we shall be like a foolish traveller who is so distracted by the pleasant meadows through which he is passing that he forgets where he is going..

– *From a homily on the Gospels by Saint Gregory the Great, Pope*

CONTEMPORARY WITNESS

Jesus never set limits to those he was prepared to get involved with, he ate and drank with the rough end, and now he has broken the barrier that separates the clean from the unclean. That barrier is always there. There's no clamour, is there, to do the mucky jobs, to get involved in other people's filth. Some people are called to go deeper, to where they will get involved in human dirt and disorder. There are those who are called to go into the prisons and young offenders' units and get involved with people who do drugs and crime. In one of my parishes the nice neat ladies of the Union of Catholic Mothers decided to volunteer to go into the local prison with the chaplains! Did their husbands panic? They panicked! Of course it was a great success.

– *Fr Robert Eccles OP*

NEXT SUNDAY: FIFTH 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 HISTORY OF MY HEART

Fr Gabriel Harty, who died this week, expresses the joy of his calling to promote devotion to the Most Holy Rosary.

I cannot tell you the history of my heart unless I share with you something of the journey, which for fifty years took me all over the roads of Ireland and Great Britain where I have many precious friends and lovely memories. All these have been joined together by the golden chain of the Rosary. They form indeed a living Rosary and one sweet mystery of life. The Rosary is not just something I say. It is something I have become. Blessed and beautiful as the beads are, they only come alive when used by those who believe and love. The mysteries viewed as events of two thousand years ago, are past history. They become life-giving present mysteries only when we make them our own. We have to lay hold of them in our personal lives. I think this is what the poet had in mind when he wrote those lovely lines: *Sweet blessed beads, I would not part with one of you for richest gem that gleams in kingly diadem. Ye know the history of my heart.*

The Annunciation mystery is my first morning prayer. Like Mary, I wait for God's message for this day. I try to answer: Be it done to me according to your word. It is exciting wondering what may turn up. The Word has to become flesh for me today. In the Visitation, I pray: O Mary visit me this day as you were with Elizabeth. When God and his Blessed Mother are with us, beloved, every day becomes a Cana day. Mary watches out for every need and notices if the wine of joy and gladness may be running out. For the Nativity, I alternate between asking Mary to bring me Jesus and wondering how I may bring him to birth in others. Every day is a birthday as our Christ-life reaches a new stage of growth. In the Presentation, I think of the old man in the temple proclaiming Jesus as the Light of the nations, and I trust that no act of mine, may hinder the light of Christ from shining through. I ask Mary and Joseph to carry me to God's temple and make me presentable to God and presentable to you, my beloved. What I like about the Finding in the Temple is the bit where Jesus is sitting among the wise old men listening to them and asking them questions. I ask the Father to make us temples of the divine presence, and let his Son sit beside us to listen to our needs and to search our hearts with his questions.

My comfort in any personal Agony, is to walk in the garden or along the streets, thinking of Jesus who sweated blood beneath the green olives of Gethsemane. There, I pray for courage, to take my share in the agony of our times. For the Scourging at the Pillar, I ask Jesus to use the sufferings of life as a means of healing, remembering the words of the Prophet, By his wounds, we are healed. In this way nothing is lost. Even the trials and tribulations of daily living work unto eternal life. At the Crowning with Thorns I pray: "O Jesus, my heart is in your hands. You are King of my life." The Carrying of the Cross conjures up the Saviour struggling through the narrow streets of Jerusalem. From there, I see a long line stretching through the bloodied streets of war-torn lands and through all those areas of disaster and devastation that light up our television screens. Past history becomes living mystery and we are all caught up in it. In the Crucifixion I behold the dying Saviour and think of my own death. This is something I want you to recall, if and when, beloved, I go home before you. I do not wish you to grieve much over me, as I want to make my death an offering, as Jesus did. I desire this to be the supreme moment of surrender into the hands of a loving Father. We must not miss the glory of this moment. Whether you be near or far at the time, I would simply wish you to stand in spirit with me, as Mary stood beside the Cross.

The Resurrection and the Ascension give direction to all our struggles and wanderings. At times we get lost. Again I run ahead of myself. But this I'm sure of: we know where we're going. We're heading for the place Jesus has prepared for us. There we will be home at last. Meanwhile we want all the graces and gifts the Holy Spirit has in store. We're tempted to go it alone, to live out of our own meagre ration, instead of relying on God's infinite supply. Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth. Renew what is old and stale. Restore the lost years and put a new heart within us. In the glorious Assumption of Mary into heaven, as I near the end of my Rosary journey, I picture the Blessed Mother at the window of Heaven, calling: "Arise my love my dove my beautiful one and come. The flowers have appeared in our land. The time for singing has come." As I look to you, beloved, as my Queen on earth, I see you as the image of the heavenly Queen. She is the icon who enshrines within herself, the little lives of us all. The graces bestowed on her are unique, yet in a sense shared by all. Her Coronation inspires every believer to work in the service of Jesus, her Son, who is Lord and King.

Fr Gabriel Harty OP (The Rosary Priest).

1921 – 2019