



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 26 MAY 2019

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C)

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

As the month of May draws to a close, it will be good for our families to get some time together during the half-term break. It is a busy time of year, as we seek to consolidate all the good things we have achieved during the year. Examinations are never pleasant, so we wish the best to all those involved in whatever kind of challenge.

During the week I had a day long meeting with Fr Martin, our Prior Provincial. This was an important opportunity for me to spend some time thinking and reflecting on the best way to bring things forward as we enter our special year of celebration. There's much work to be done these next weeks, but a concrete plan is emerging!

As we work together to make Blackfriars Market a success, we recognise as always that each and every member of our community is important to realise our aims. As we celebrate the May Procession today, let's ask the intercession of the first and perfect disciple as we honour Her Name.

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

Fr David

MAY PROCESSION IN HONOUR OF OUR BLESSED LADY TODAY

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. Our annual May Procession takes place today at 11:45am. Please gather at the bottom of New Walk.

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.

ASCENSION THURSDAY – THIS WEEK, 30 MAY – DAY OF OBLIGATION

This Thursday, 30 May, is Ascension Thursday, and a Holyday of Obligation. In recent years, the obligation was transferred to Sunday, but it has now been reinstated. All Catholics are obliged to attend Mass. Masses at the Priory will be 6:10pm Vigil (Weds); 8am (EF Low Mass in Latin); 12:30pm; 6:10pm; 7:15pm. Mass will be celebrated at St Edward's Aylestone at 10am.

DOMINICAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM – SUNDAY 19 MAY

Many thanks to all those who made the pilgrimage a success and an enjoyable day out. We look forward to the next one – Sunday 18 May 2020!

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

PENTECOST SUNDAY

We are delighted to welcome Fr Martin Ganeri OP, our Prior Provincial, to join us for Mass on Pentecost Sunday at 10:30am. This is the day we will celebrate Blackfriars Market, and it will also be a celebration of the beginning of a year of celebration and renewal of our Dominican Life and Mission at Holy Cross as we mark our 200th Year. We hope to present our plans for the shape of those celebrations, and to renew our efforts at developing our common role as disciples in serving the Church while rooted in our Dominican tradition. We look forward to welcoming you all.

DEVELOPING THE FRASSATI CENTRE

We have been busy developing plans 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 finalising details 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 June as our proposals are developed***
Please do pray for the success of the project.

SCRIPTURE STUDY – THURSDAY AT 7PM

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

BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast Club will not take place on Sunday 2 June. there will be the usual bacon and egg baps served from 8.30 at Blackfriars' Market on June 9

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!!

The next meeting will be on Monday 10 June at 7pm; following that, Saturday 29 June; Monday 8 July; Saturday 27 July. Monday evenings will include a talk by a Dominican friar. As usual, we start with bring-and-share food at 7pm, followed by talk and discussion, finishing with Compline just before 9pm. The Saturday meetings will be child-friendly and have more of a social feel alongside the prayer and liturgy in church. Mondays will be more study-focused around the talk and discussion. If you wish to invite young adults, or would like to know more, please email Fr Matthew at matthew.jarvis@english.op.org

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:

£ 1215.96

(Gift aided: £417.50)

Woodhouse Collection

£ 101.80

(Gift aided: £86.00)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!**

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – BE MY DISCIPLES

A THOUGHT FOR THIS SUNDAY

This Sunday's Gospel, taken from Chapter Fourteen of the Gospel according to St John, gives us an implicit spiritual portrait of the Virgin Mary when Jesus says: "Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him and we shall come to him and make our home with him". These words are addressed to the disciples but can be applied to a maximum degree precisely to the One who was the first and perfect disciple of Jesus. Mary, in fact, observed first and fully the words of her Son, showing that she loved him not only as a mother, but first of all as a humble and obedient handmaid. For this reason God the Father loved her and the Most Holy Trinity made its dwelling place in her.

– *Pope Benedict XVI*

Responsorial Psalm: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS OF THE CHURCH

Those who have a sure hope, guaranteed by the Spirit, that they will rise again lay hold of what lies in the future as though it were already present. They say: "Outward appearances will no longer be our standard in judging other men. Our lives are all controlled by the Spirit now, and are not confined to this physical world that is subject to corruption. The light of the Only-begotten has shone on us, and we have been transformed into the Word, the source of all life. While sin was still our master, the bonds of death had a firm hold on us, but now that the righteousness of Christ has found a place in our hearts we have freed ourselves from our former condition of corruptibility."

This means that none of us lives in the flesh any more, at least not in so far as living in the flesh means being subject to the weaknesses of the flesh, which include corruptibility. *Once we thought of Christ as being in the flesh, but we do not do so any longer*, says Saint Paul. By this he meant that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us; he suffered death in the flesh in order to give all men life. It was in this flesh that we knew him before, but we do so no longer. Even though he remains in the flesh, since he came to life again on the third day and is now with his Father in heaven, we know that he has passed beyond the life of the flesh; *for having died once, he will never die again, death has no power over him any more. His death was a death to sin, which he died once for all; his life is life with God.*

– *From the commentary on the second letter to the Corinthians by Saint Cyril of Alexandria*

CONTEMPORARY WITNESS

Recognising that Jesus in our passage today is focussing on His humanity, we can start to appreciate not only how Jesus properly speaks in this context of the Father being greater, because an uncreated, omnipresent, purely spiritual being, unconstrained by the limits of time and space is evidently greater than a finite and limited human nature, but also that this passage is revealing to us something really quite magnificent and completely unprecedented: Jesus in His human nature, in a body which shares our finitude, our weakness in all things but sin, is going to be glorified and is going to enter into the life of the Trinity in heaven. Jesus in his full humanity and full divinity will be at the right hand of the Father, and from there He will send the Spirit, opening up the way for us, through the gift of His grace, to follow Him and to come to dwell with the Father also.

– *Br Toby Lees OP*

NEXT SUNDAY: SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR C)

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

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati OP

GROWING AS DISCIPLES – OUR WAY FORWARD

SEEKING RENEWAL AND DEVELOPMENT OF OUR DOMINICAN LIFE AND MISSION

Fr David shares some thoughts about developing the Dominican life and mission of Holy Cross.

Dear Friends,

When we celebrated Easter Sunday together a few weeks back, I invited you to join me in sharing Eastertide as a time devoted to prayer of thanksgiving in particular. Today, as we celebrate the Sixth Sunday of Easter, we prepare for Eastertide to come to the great climax of the Ascension and Pentecost. In many different ways, the Lord shares His Risen Life with his disciples in the forty days that now draw to a close. They are then privileged to witness the glory of His Ascension, before spending nine days together in prayerful preparation for the great day of Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit. What a superabundance of gifts are given to them as they set about fulfilling the commandment to 'make disciples of all the nations'.

I reflected with you that prayer of thanksgiving helps us to recognise the things we have rather than the things we need. That's not to be short-sighted or unambitious about our approach to prayer of intercession. Rather, it gives us the opportunity to realise what needs to be inserted into our prayer of intercession, helping us to know what we really need to ask for. I know that very many of you have responded to my invitation to devote Eastertide to thanksgiving prayer, because I have felt the power of the Holy Spirit as I have thought about the way forward.

May is the month of Our Blessed Lady, and today we celebrate our May Procession. As Pope Benedict points out in the little phrase quoted in the newsletter, the Gospel this Sunday reflects on Her as the first and perfect disciple of Jesus, observing first and fully the words of Her Son. This is surely the bedrock of authentic Marian devotion, and an inspiration to all of us who have been chosen as disciples of the Lord, and invited by Baptism and Confirmation to 'make disciples of all the nations'. We are reminded of this most fundamental calling at the conclusion of every Mass. The life and mission of the Dominican Order is to make this manifest amongst the people to whom we are sent as preachers. It is often said that the aim of the Dominican Life is to contemplate, and to share the fruits of contemplation with others. This particular phrase has resonated with me during Eastertide, and I want to use it now to shape our way forward in this significant year for us.

A number of years ago, the Dominican Community presented to you a programme for pastoral development entitled ***On Firm Foundations***. Much of that involved looking at structural and managerial issues (not least financial) that required attention. Looking forward to this year of anniversary, we had many hopes and dreams, summed up in a pastoral assembly. A great deal has been achieved, thanks to our spirit of collaboration, and indeed some of the foundations laid in those days are only starting to bear fruit. We no longer have the significant financial problems of those days, and our buildings are much more adequate. The time has come to build on those firm foundations. Our efforts have resulted in bearing fruit. Now is time to share the fruit.

Over the next few weeks, I want to develop with the Dominican Community and with all of you a new pastoral programme: ***Share the fruits***. We will want to root this in our Dominican tradition. This will involve a recommitment to our shared calling to discipleship, and our mission to 'share the fruits' by 'making disciples of all the nations'. As we celebrate Ascension on Thursday, I invite you all to join me in a novena of prayer for this pastoral strategy for our community. Then we will celebrate the launch of it on Pentecost Sunday with our Provincial. You can find the prayer below.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I look forward to embarking on this exciting journey of renewal with you.

Fr David OP

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

V. Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created. R. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.