



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 30 JUNE 2019

STS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES (C)

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

The centrality of the mystery of the Eucharist in the life of our community cannot be overemphasized. This is the reason we gather together each week, and for many of us it is part of our daily lives. In schools, hospitals, universities, prisons, it is the mystery of the Eucharist that is most valued and desired from the ministry of priests.

So the Eucharist means something to each one of us. One of the most difficult things I've had to deal with as a priest are the conversations that happen when someone is unable to share in the fullness of the Eucharist through Holy Communion. There is real pain there, but often also a desire for real belonging, for full communion. It means a great deal even when we are at a distance from it. I once had a moment in Lourdes where I witnessed a late night Mass at the Grotto from across the river. I felt distant and detached from the Mass. I recognized that I needed to go on a journey.

The summer months take us to many different places. As we carry the Blessed Sacrament in procession through the streets today, lets encourage one another on the journey we all face. We are nourished by God's grace in so many ways. We're called to feast on that grace at the Mass.

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

Fr David

SHARE THE FRUITS – BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

Share the Fruits is our new pastoral initiative as we go forward. This is a way for us to reflect on the heritage of the last 200 years at Holy Cross, and seek to work for the future. We're seeking to renew our commitment to one another as disciples of the Lord and to develop the Dominican mission of preaching and evangelisation that we all share.

BLACKFRIARS MARKET – A WONDERFUL ACHIEVEMENT - £13,000

The preparations all paid off in the end and Blackfriars Market was a great success. We surpassed our target of £10K with the **fabulous amount of £13,002.76** – so that's a massive boost to our efforts. Many thanks to everyone who contributed in any way. In particular we thank those who arranged stalls, and those who gave oversight and co-ordination for the whole event. It was great to have our Provincial, Fr Martin with us, and to celebrate the opportunities that are here for us in the year ahead. **Very many thanks once again for this fantastic achievement!**

SUMMER MONTHS AT HOLY CROSS

As the academic year reaches its conclusion, we look forward to another glorious English Summer! During the next few months, the Dominican Fathers will take the opportunity for some holiday time, as well as opportunity for retreat and training. In addition, Fr Matthew will represent our community at the General Chapter of the Order in Vietnam for the month of July, where he will serve as an interpreter. We will welcome Fr Gregory Pearson back among us, and four of our student brothers will join us for pastoral placements at various points. **While the times of Sunday Masses will be sustained, times of Masses on weekdays will be subject to alteration.** Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.

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 July 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

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 grateful to all those who have assisted us in obtaining quotations that we will now present to the Provincial and his Council for approval and decision. Hopefully we will get things started very soon.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Scripture Study sessions on Thursdays have concluded for the summer. There will be a new series in the autumn.
- Celebration of Pier Giorgio Frassati – for his feast day on 4 July from 6:10pm
- St Dominic's Day, 8th August: Solemn Mass at 12:30pm; Solemn Vespers and Benediction 6pm.
- First Holy Communion – Sunday 7 July at 10:30am Mass

PARISH SUMMERS EVENING WALK

We have arranged a walk on Wednesday 3rd July. Meet at Bradgate Park-Hallgates (Cropston) car park at 6.15pm for 6.30 pm start. Suitable footwear needed for approx. 4 mile walk on footpath and tracks. You may wish to bring a snack/drink. We will go to the Badgers Sett pub in Cropston afterwards for some food for those who wish to stay on after the walk. If you need any further details, please contact Rachael at the Holy Cross office. We look forward to seeing you on July 3rd.

FRASSATI GROUP FOR YOUNG ADULTS

The next meeting will be on Saturday 29 June from 11:30am; following that, 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

FIRST MASS OF THANKSGIVING

Following Ordination to the Priesthood, Fr Liam Carpenter of the Diocese of Nottingham will celebrate Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday 7 July at 3:00pm. Fr Luke Doherty OP will celebrate on Monday 9 September.

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK – PLEASE TAKE NOTE!

There will not be Mass at 8am on Monday and Thursday, and no Mass at 6:10pm on Thursday this week. All other times as normal

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:

£ 1174.86

(Gift aided: £363.50)

Woodhouse Collection

£ 130.60

(Gift aided: £76.00)

*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*

XIV SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES (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.