



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 18 AUGUST 2019

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

The Fifteenth of August has come and gone, and our minds begin to turn towards the Autumn and the return to term time. The fruitfulness of the summer period is something we can enjoy as we seek to focus our minds and hearts on all the things we want to achieve in the year ahead.

In the course of the next week, we will spend forty hours in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. This is an important opportunity to pray for the fruits of our contemplation to be shared among us and with the wider society in which we are called to be disciples of the Lord. Please take some time to join us for part of that.

While Br Bede enters into the last week of his placement with us, we say a big welcome back to Fr Matthew and Br Luke. We are getting very close to Br Luke's priestly ordination in just a few weeks, so please do sign up to join us in London for this very happy occasion. We'd also love to see you on Tuesday evening, when we will learn a little more about Frassati and the apostolate we're hoping to develop.

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

40 HOURS OF EUCHARISTIC ADORATION – PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

We will hold 40 hours of Eucharistic Adoration beginning with the evening Mass at on Wednesday 21 August and ending on Sunday 25 August. The object of this will be to pray for a renewal in our discipleship and ask the Lord's blessing on our way forward.

The timings are as follows:

Wednesday 22: Mass of Exposition 6:10pm. Adoration until 10pm

Thursday 23, Friday 24: Adoration between 8am and 6pm (Masses as usual)

Saturday 25: Adoration between 10am and 6pm (Masses as usual)

Sunday 26: Adoration between 8am and 7pm (Masses as usual)

Sign-up lists are now available, so please join us for this time of continuous prayer. There will be various opportunities to contribute to the success of this sacred time of preparation.

ORDINATION OF FR LUKE DOHERTY OP – 7 SEPTEMBER 2019

Bro Luke will be ordained to the Priesthood in St Dominic's London by Archbishop Malcolm on Saturday 7 September, together with Bro Toby Lees. A coach will depart from Holy Cross at 8:30am on the day. Please put your name down to attend, as we require a healthy number of people to show their support, the list is in the Shop or please email the office on leicester.admin@english.op.org. Fr Luke will celebrate his First Mass on Monday 9 September at 6.00pm here at Holy Cross.

VISITING FRIARS FROM OXFORD

We are very grateful to Fr Robert Gay OP who has kindly arranged for some of our brothers in the Oxford Community to join us to assist our ministry and enrich our community life during the summer months.

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 8 September 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

WHO IS BLESSED PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI?

This Tuesday, 20 August, we will host an evening to discuss more about the Frassati Centre plans, with a light supper. Please do come along to find out more. St Clement's Hall from 7pm. During the evening, Br Bede Mullens OP will speak to us about his recent pilgrimage to the lands of Frassati and who he is. Hope to see you there!

STUDENT PLACEMENTS AT HOLY CROSS

During the summer months, our Dominican students for the priesthood take the opportunity to visit our different foundations and experience the different aspects of the life of our Order, as well as enriching our life and ministry by their presence and example. This week, Br Bede Mullens OP will offer a short retreat with reflections on the Rosary around the Discipleship of our Lady and the Glorious Mysteries. This will take place daily just after 12:30pm Mass.

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 during their meeting in August for approval and decision. Hopefully we will get things started very soon.

GOING INTO HOSPITAL

If you or a family member are going into hospital, please let us know by informing the priory office, especially if you would like to receive pastoral support during your time of illness. The priests are able to liaise with the chaplaincy offices in our hospital, to ensure you will receive the pastoral care you need. Perhaps you would like to celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick in advance of your hospital stay, which can be done in your home or at the church.

EUGENE CURLEY RIP

During the past week, we were saddened to learn of the death of Eugene Curley. Eugene was one of the longest standing parishioners here at Holy Cross, having been part of our community all through his life. For many, many years he has been a familiar presence around the church and priory, ensuring collections got where they needed to be and that the halls were well stocked with loo rolls etc. The Dominican Community has lost a true friend and our parish has lost a great stalwart. Our condolences are with Rita and all the Curley family at this time, and indeed with his wide circle of friends. As we would say at home, "Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilis". May he rest in peace. Funeral arrangements will be announced later.

THE DOMINICAN COMMUNITY

Fr David Rocks OP PP *Prior* Fr Tony Rattigan OP *Bursar*;

Fr Nicholas Crowe OP *Subprior*; Fr Matthew Jarvis OP CC; Bro Luke Doherty OP

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:

£ 1193.79

(Gift aided: £407.50)

Woodhouse Collection

£ 118.00

(Gift aided: £101.00)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!**

20 SUNDAY OF THE YEAR – DO NOT BE AFRAID

A THOUGHT FOR THIS SUNDAY

A week after the Solemnity of her Assumption into Heaven the Liturgy invites us to venerate the Blessed Virgin Mary with the title of "Queen". We contemplate the Mother of Christ crowned by her Son, in other words associated with his universal kingship, as she is portrayed in numerous mosaics and paintings. This year too the Memorial falls on a Sunday, receiving a greater light from the word of God and from the celebration of the weekly Easter. In particular, the image of the Virgin Mary as Queen finds important confirmation in today's Gospel, where Jesus declares: "Behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last" (Lk 13: 30). This expression is typical of Christ as it clearly reflects a theme dear to his prophetic teaching, because the Evangelists recorded it several times although differently formulated. Our Lady is the perfect example of this Gospel truth, namely that God brings down the proud of this world and raises the humble. (cf. Lk 1: 52).

– *Pope Benedict XVI*

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, come to my aid!

THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS OF THE CHURCH

Love is sufficient of itself, it gives pleasure by itself and because of itself. It is its own merit, its own reward. Love looks for no cause outside itself, no effect beyond itself. Its profit lies in its practice. I love because I love, I love that I may love. Love is a great thing so long as it continually returns to its fountainhead, flows back to its source, always drawing from there the water which constantly replenishes it. Of all the movements, sensations and feelings of the soul, love is the only one in which the creature can respond to the Creator and make some sort of similar return however unequal it may be. For when God loves, all he desires is to be loved in return; the sole purpose of his love is to be loved, in the knowledge that those who love him are made happy by their love of him..

– *From a sermon by St Bernard of Clairvaux*

CONTEMPORARY WITNESS

The incarnation has brought this shift in family: we know that God is our Father, but this means that we are all brothers and sisters: the poor, the objectionable, the outcast are our family.

This is the *division* that Jesus brings: into our closed networks of preferences and petty partiality; into our bonds of sin that keep us from salvation.

And it is not *peaceful*: but brings turmoil and pain because our very idea of who God is and who we are must be challenged, re-thought and transformed.

When we hear these words of Jesus, we should trust in the God he reveals to us as family, always remembering the prophecy he quotes.

"But as for me, I will look to the Lord, I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me" (Micah 7:7)

– *Fr Bruno Clifton OP*

21 SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C)

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

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati OP

TOWARDS A CULTURE OF EVANGELISATION

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, and in particular on the relationship between discipleship and prayer.

As I pointed out last week, the newly elected Master of the Order, Fr Gerard Timoner OP, has said that "**Mission is not what we do, it's who we are.**" And I've suggested that if that's not a challenge that we can accept, I don't know what is ...

... so this week I'd like to share some thoughts about discipleship and prayer.

I'm suggesting four things that we can focus upon during our 200th Anniversary Year of Renewal here at Holy Cross. I believe these themes will assist us to launch into a new phase of Dominican life and mission here in the heart of Leicester. The key themes are: **discipleship, humility, fidelity, evangelisation**. As we seek to root these in our Dominican Spirituality, we grow in our commitment to share the fruits of our contemplation. So I am linking each of these themes to our four Dominican pillars of **prayer, study, community, mission**. I will endeavour to take each in turn during the next few weeks.

From the Gospels we learn that discipleship is in the first place a response to the calling of the Lord. The disciples are chosen to enter into a particular relationship with the Lord. This relationship is not the same for everyone, precisely because each disciple is chosen and called, individually to follow God's will. The relationship is different because the chosen ones have different gifts, different challenges, different struggles. The calling of the Lord helps the disciple to celebrate God's gift of grace in the context of their lives, and to endure trials in union with the Lord so they can serve as the Lord desires. But it is precisely this relationship which sustains the disciple in being faithful to their calling.

So humility, fidelity, and the obligation to spread the Gospel by evangelisation are not optional extras for our discipleship, they are intimately a part of it. But what I'm suggesting is that prayer is the foundation of the relationship between the Lord and the chosen disciple. Prayer is a school for life, allowing us to learn from the different moments that life presents to us. Prayer is a means of communication between the Lord and the chosen disciple. Prayer is itself a relationship.

To my mind, understanding prayer essentially as a relationship presents us with a necessary conclusion: that prayer is not easy. If it were easy, it would not be a relationship. That's not to say that relationships are always difficult, but it is necessary for us to work at developing and sustaining them if we wish them to flourish.

One of the things that people very often say to me as a priest is that they find it difficult to pray. They might say that they want to pray, but they can't. This means that they want a relationship with the Lord who has chosen them for discipleship, but they are struggling at developing the relationship. Whose fault is that? If we think of our relationships with others, are we not disappointed when a relative or friend has perhaps not granted something we dearly wanted? Perhaps we want to maintain the relationship, but we're angry or frustrated within it. They say it's good to talk, and that's how we arrive at a resolution.

There was a laybrother in our Order who always used to say that the times that it's hardest to pray are the times we need to pray hardest. I used to think that was nonsense. But it makes perfect sense when we see prayer as the way to sustain and develop our discipleship, which is the flourishing of our being chosen for a relationship with the Lord which offers great promise.

So as I so often quote, be intent on prayer, and whatever may happen will turn to our good. Let's never be afraid to talk things out in prayer, to express freely, and to develop our relationship with the Lord who has chosen us to be his disciples. How else can we be able to share the fruits?

Fr David OP