



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2019

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

As I write, I'm reflecting on a wonderful day which we had in St Dominic's London for the Ordination of Fr Luke, and his companion Fr Toby. We look forward to welcoming Fr Luke home on Sunday, and to celebrating his First Mass on Monday evening. Please do make a special effort to attend this wonderful and historic occasion.

Regretfully for Holy Cross, next weekend we will say goodbye to Fr Nicholas, who has been our subprior for the last year. He returns to London, from where he can more easily conduct his vocations ministry. We have much reason to be grateful to Fr Nicholas, and we will wish him well next week.

This time of year always marks new beginnings, and next weekend we mark the 200th anniversary of the beginnings of Holy Cross. As we seek to build a new team here, and a fresh approach to our ministry, please do make a special effort to join us on Saturday at 11am for Mass to celebrate.

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

Fr David

HOLY CROSS WEEKEND – 14 AND 15 SEPTEMBER

Next Saturday marks the 200th Anniversary of the first Mass to be celebrated on this site. We invite you all to join us to mark this occasion with Mass at 11am, followed by celebrations in the halls. This will lead into a year of celebrations for our community. Please make a special effort to join us for this most important occasion. We will continue our celebrations into Sunday.

ORDINATION OF FR LUKE DOHERTY OP – 7 SEPTEMBER 2019

We had a great day in London for the ordination. Thanks to all who attended. Please make a special effort to join us for the First Mass tomorrow, Monday 9 September at 6.10pm here at Holy Cross. A reception will follow and Fr Luke will impart his first blessing. We look forward to seeing a good turnout to support him.

STUDENT BROTHERS ON PLACEMENT

We have very much enjoyed Br Isaac Wharton OP, who has been a regular and well-received visitor to our community over the last few years. We really like his cooking! Br Vincent Antony OP joins us this week and we understand he is a very good cook also! Thank you for assisting us to afford them this important opportunity.

A VERY FOND FAREWELL – RACHAEL POWELL

On 31 August, we said a fond farewell to Rachael, who has been an indispensable member of the Holy Cross Team since she joined us in May 2016. In that time, she has evolved this new role, both as a senior administrator and as PA to both the Prior and the Bursar. She will be greatly missed. We wish her well in her new appointment with the BEP Academy Trust, and we congratulate them on making such an excellent appointment. We have made interim arrangements to fulfil her duties and we are arranging the recruitment process for the substantive position.

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 255 3856.

FAMILY VISITS

Families who would like a house blessing or a pastoral visit at home, can make arrangements by calling 0116 255 3856

FAREWELL TO FR NICHOLAS CROWE

We have had a wonderful year with Fr Nicholas in our community, but the time has come for him to return to London, from where he can more easily discharge his duties as Director of Vocations for the English Dominicans. We are very grateful for everything he has done in the last year and we will miss his kind and faithful presence. Next weekend will be his final weekend with us, and we look forward to wishing him well as we celebrate the beginning of our 200th year.

ORGAN GALLERY AND NARTHEX

Our attention has been drawn to the potential health and safety issues regarding the organ gallery, and the risk of persons falling from it. Therefore, we reiterate that no person has permission to access it without the written permission of the Prior, and that by agreement with the Director of Music. For children, this is also a safeguarding matter.

THE DOMINICAN COMMUNITY AT HOLY CROSS

We have been pleased to welcome Fr Luke over the summer and we congratulate him on his ordination this weekend. Later in the autumn, we will welcome Fr John Patrick Kenrick OP to our community, who will be coming to us from Newcastle. During October, our community will be strengthened by the presence of Fr Bruno Clifton OP. After a challenging year with low numbers of Friars, we are grateful for this growth in our community. Please continue to keep Fr Isidore in your prayers.

INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS FOR OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

We are delighted to have been able to recruit Mr Kelechi Ebirim as an interim person to replace Rachael, while the position is advertised. Kelechi will be with us until 30 September.

EUGENE CURLEY RIP

We would like to thank all those who made Eugene's funeral such a beautiful occasion. His example of service to the Dominican community will remain an inspiration. We renew our condolences to Rita and all the family. May he rest in peace.

ROSSINI STABAT MATER

As a fitting celebration of 200 years of Holy Cross, we are welcoming the Knighton Chamber Orchestra and Coro Nostro Chamber Choir to perform the Rossini 'Stabat Mater' along with choral favourites by Monteverdi, Mozart, Bruckner and others. Please see the flyers and posters in the church and on our website for more information and ticket options. Volunteers will be sought in the coming weeks to help with hospitality and logistics on the night. For now, please save the date! Saturday 12th October, 7.30pm.

THE DOMINICAN COMMUNITY

Fr David Rocks OP PP *Prior*; Fr Tony Rattigan OP *Bursar*;
Fr Nicholas Crowe OP *Subprior*; Fr Matthew Jarvis OP CC; Fr Luke Doherty OP

Interim Office Administrator: *Mr Kelechi Ebirim* – 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 2553856**

Holy Cross Priory, 45 Wellington Street, LE1 6HW. Tel: 0116 2553856

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:

£ 1280.30

(Gift aided: £374.90)

Woodhouse Collection

£ 162.90

(Gift aided: £85.00)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*

23 SUNDAY OF THE YEAR – BE MY DISCIPLES

A THOUGHT FOR THIS SUNDAY

‘The Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.’ Then he said to them all, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.” (9:22-23)

The cost of following Jesus is everything of ourselves, because Jesus desires to redeem everything of ourselves. It means preferring to be like Jesus, God’s Son and inheriting the kingdom ‘which is within you’ (17:21) rather than having anything else. For, as Jesus says, ‘what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world but loses or forfeits himself?’ (9:25)

St Paul certainly understood the consequences of following the saviour. ‘For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.’ (Rom 8:15-17)

Being followers of Christ means being like Christ who emptied himself and gained the world for himself.

– *Fr Bruno Clifton OP*

Responsorial Psalm: O Lord, you have been our refuge, from one generation to the next

THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS OF THE CHURCH

We read in the gospel that when the Lord was teaching his disciples and urged them to share in his passion by the mystery of eating his body, some said: This is a hard saying, and from that time they no longer followed him. When he asked the disciples whether they also wished to go away, they replied: Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. I assure you, my brothers, that even to this day it is clear to some that the words which Jesus speaks are spirit and life, and for this reason they follow him. To others these words seem hard, and so they look elsewhere for some pathetic consolation. Yet wisdom cries out in the streets, in the broad and spacious way that leads to death, to call back those who take this path. Finally, he says: For forty years I have been close to this generation, and I said: They have always been faint-hearted. You also read in another psalm: God has spoken once. Once, indeed, because for ever. His is a single, uninterrupted utterance, because it is continuous and unending.

– *From a sermon by St Bernard of Clairvaux*

CONTEMPORARY WITNESS

United as our human soul is to a mortal body, we can have little hope of discovering God’s will. Our knowledge is first of all directed to things of this world, and even on this score learning can be difficult. Though human knowledge of the things of this world has come an extraordinarily long way over the centuries, humanity is still a long way off discovering the fulness of God’s will by its own lights.

Why, though, should any of this matter? Why do we earthly animals need to know the things of heaven? The answer is that we are made for heaven. We are made to learn about our world, our universe, and so to wonder what made it. And when we ask what made it, the desire for God is set in train, our hearts and minds on fire. We are made to want to know and so love the infinite God. Without knowing and loving God, we can never be happy, never be fulfilled. And yet it is more than that.

– *Fr Simon Gaine OP*

NEXT SUNDAY: 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C)

“Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always doing the smallest right and doing it all for love.”

St Therese of Lisieux

CELEBRATING OUR DOMINICAN SPIRITUALITY

REFLECTING ON THE EXPERIENCE OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER 2019

Fr Matthew reflects on his recent adventure as a translator at the Elective General Chapter of our Order in Vietnam. Let's hope and pray that his experiences will be a true inspiration to us in our year of renewal here at Holy Cross.

The 2019 General Chapter in Biên Hòa: a translator's view

Dominicans have a peculiarly participative form of governance which has stood the test of 800 years. The General Chapter, gathering friars from all over the world every three years, is the highest authority in the Dominican Order. Even the Master, elected every nine years, is subject to its decisions and must serve the wishes of the brethren for the common good.

This was my second General Chapter, having served as an interpreter (French-English) at Bologna in 2016. But Biên Hòa (Vietnam) in 2019 was something quite extraordinary. The first General Chapter in a non-Christian country and the first to elect an Asian as Master of the Order, Fr Gerard Timoner from the Philippines: these are reasons enough to call it 'historic'. The Vietnamese province itself is extraordinary, with the largest membership of the Dominican Family by far. We joyfully witnessed this at the Closing Mass of St Dominic on 4th August, including the Solemn Professions of 21 friars, attended by an estimated 18,000 members of the Dominican Family.

As the Chapter went about its business, it was clear that the Dominican mission to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ has increasingly global dimensions: the Order is a 'communion of provinces' and not a federation, such that initial formation, fraternal life, study and mission will need to be approached in fresh ways that strengthen communion in an ever more connected – yet sadly not so unified – world.

As a translator, I had the privilege to see some of these challenges up close. Language barriers must be overcome if we are to be true brothers and sisters. To paraphrase St Thomas, communication is necessary for communion. Thus, translators are bridge-builders, enabling fraternal exchange, fostering a communion of minds and hearts. It's a daunting fact that without us translators the Chapter could not function, and the meetings would probably be even longer!

Simultaneous interpreting is hard work, requiring intense concentration and a proactive familiarity with diverse topics under discussion. I think that building fraternal communion is similarly hard: we have to work at it, seeking mutual understanding with a generous heart, to overcome the personal, cultural, and even theological distances between us. But both tasks are rewarding in the end. I get great pleasure from translating what the brethren say, knowing I am serving the Chapter, and when we build communion we inevitably find joy in the bonds of friendship.

When language barriers remain, we should not forget that communication is much deeper than words. I tried learning some Vietnamese words, especially thanks to the student brothers who were patient with me. But when I failed to say much, my new friends could still understand what I meant through body language and an underlying sympathy of hearts.

As I fondly look back on my month in Vietnam, it's the language of the heart that I thank God for. Through this language, I have discovered new brothers and sisters and made new friends. It also reminds me of the first time I met Fr Gerard. It was ten years ago in Manila when I was working as a Dominican lay volunteer. He wanted to know how I was getting on learning the Tagalog language, and added that I could always fall back on 'the universal language'. 'What, mathematics?' I asked. 'Or do you mean music?'

'No, no,' he laughed out loud, '...the smile!'

Fr Matthew Jarvis OP