



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2019

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

Writing on Holy Cross Day, it really does feel like a new beginning. Yesterday, we had the great joy of sharing in the 200th Anniversary of the first Mass to be celebrated in our priory buildings. Now it is for us to embrace the opportunities for development and new life that are presented to us as we embark together on the third century of Holy Cross.

Over the previous two centuries there has been much challenge and great change at Holy Cross. The past year, indeed the past few years, have been no exception. As we bid a fond farewell to Fr Nicholas, and as we continue to celebrate Fr Luke's recent ordination to the priesthood, that change continues. Now we have an important opportunity to harness that change and make it into an opportunity.

This week, Fr Matthew, Fr Luke, and myself are spending some time in sustained reflection on our way forward. We will be in touch.

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

Fr David

HOLY CROSS WEEKEND – 14 AND 15 SEPTEMBER

Many thanks to everyone who joined us yesterday to mark the 200th Anniversary of the first Mass to be celebrated on this site. Thanks to all those who worked hard to make it all happen. This was a fitting start to a year of celebrations for our community. We will continue our celebrations into Sunday. Please join us after 10:30am Mass in the halls for the various celebrations.

ORDINATION OF FR LUKE DOHERTY OP – 7 SEPTEMBER 2019

We had a great day in London for the ordination. Thanks to all who attended. Also, many thanks are offered to all who attended Fr Luke's First Mass and the reception on Monday of last week. Fr Luke will be available to offer first blessings this weekend. Please take and share the prayer cards.

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.

SPONSORED WALK NEXT WEEKEND – SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

Next weekend, Steve Scott and Tony Scarborough will take part in a sponsored walk from Mount St Bernard Abbey to Holy Cross, to raise funds for the Frassati Centre project. They aim to arrive here for the 6:10pm Vigil Mass. Please do support them with sponsorship, and by joining the Vigil Mass next Saturday.

MEMORIAL CARDS FOR FR FABIAN RADCLIFFE OP

These are now available from the church and priory. Please take and share.

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 3 October 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

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 last 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.

THE FRASSATI CENTRE – DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

We are already receiving an encouraging response to our initial fundraising efforts with this project. Some external drainage works have already commenced, and this means we can now start to move forward with plans to get things started inside the buildings. We will keep you informed as things emerge. Do please continue to assist with our fundraising any way you can.

WELCOMING STUDENTS – FRESHERS' MASS AND EVENTS

Over the next few weeks we welcome students from our two universities to our city and our parish community for the new academic year. We extend a warm welcome to freshers, or new students, in particular. We want to give them a 'home from home' within our community during their time with us. There will be a special welcome event for freshers and students following the 6:10pm Mass on Saturday 28 September. Mass for the Opening of the Academic Year will take place on Sunday 13 October at 10:30am.

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.

IRISH TRADITIONAL MUSIC CLASSES

Each Monday in the Emerald Centre, Gipsy Lane, from 7pm – 9:30pm. Call Rosaleen on 07857849887 for more details.

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:

£ 1067.46

(Gift aided: £211.50)

Woodhouse Collection

£ 123.00

(Gift aided: £69.00)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*

24TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR – REPENT

A THOUGHT FOR THIS SUNDAY

'In today's Gospel chapter 15 of St Luke Jesus recounts the three "parables of mercy". When he speaks of "the shepherd who goes after the lost sheep, of the woman who looks for the lost coin, of the father who goes to meet and embrace his prodigal son, these are no mere words: they constitute an explanation of his very being and activity" (Encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*, n. 12). In fact, the shepherd who finds the stray sheep is the Lord himself who lays upon his shoulders, with the Cross, sinful humanity, in order to redeem it. The prodigal son, then, in the third parable, is a young man who having obtained his inheritance from his father "took his journey into a far country, and there, he squandered his property in loose living" (Lk 15: 13). Reduced to a penniless state he was obliged to work as a servant, even accepting to satisfy his hunger with food intended for animals. Then, the Gospel says, "He came to himself" (Lk 15: 17). "The speech he prepares for his homecoming reveals to us the full extent of the inner pilgrimage he is now making... leading "home"... to himself and to the father". (Benedict XVI *Jesus of Nazareth, Doubleday, 2007, Chapter 7, p. 205*). "I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against Heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants"' (Lk 15: 18-19). St Augustine wrote: "The Word himself calls you to return, and with him is a place of unperturbed rest, where love is not forsaken unless it first forsakes. "While he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him" (Lk 15: 20) and, full of joy, had a feast prepared.

– *Pope Benedict XVI*

Responsorial Psalm: I will leave this place and go to my Father

THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS OF THE CHURCH

Had there been no cross, Christ could not have been crucified. Had there been no cross, life itself could not have been nailed to the tree. And if life had not been nailed to it, there would be no streams of immortality pouring from Christ's side, blood and water for the world's cleansing. The legal bond of our sin would not be cancelled, we should not have attained our freedom, we should not have enjoyed the fruit of the tree of life and the gates of paradise would not stand open. Had there been no cross, death would not have been trodden underfoot, nor hell despoiled.

Therefore, the cross is something wonderfully great and honourable. It is great because through the cross the many noble acts of Christ found their consummation – very many indeed, for both his miracles and his sufferings were fully rewarded with victory. The cross is honourable because it is both the sign of God's suffering and the trophy of his victory. It stands for his suffering because on it he freely suffered unto death. But it is also his trophy because it was the means by which the devil was wounded and death conquered; the barred gates of hell were smashed, and the cross became the one common salvation of the whole world.

– *From a sermon by St Andrew of Crete*

CONTEMPORARY WITNESS

Rhetorical questions don't always work. Once after a little accident in our priory of Holy Cross in Leicester, I asked the question. 'Well who here hasn't accidentally set fire to the kitchen while cooking?' Annoyingly quite a few hands went up. I could have pointed out that not everybody there actually did much cooking, but I know when I'm beat. Rhetorical questions only work when you are sure of your facts, which is not a problem for the incarnate word, Jesus Christ, the Son of God. His rhetorical questions are rock solid. He sees into the depths of humanity, and so he can ask questions which admit of only one answer. that.

– *Fr Euan Marley OP*

NEXT SUNDAY: 25TH 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

O CRUX AVE SPES UNICA!

HOLY CROSS, OUR SINGULAR HOPE!

Fr David reflects on the theme of our Patronal Feast.

How can it echo through the life of our Dominican and Parish community, and inform our mission?

Perhaps this phrase is the best known and most frequently quoted from the ancient hymn *Vexilla Regis*, which we know better as *The Royal Banners Forward Go*. The hymn always features as part of our patronal celebrations, standing out somewhat like a Christmas carol in June. It's just that bit out of context. Do you know what I mean?

Imagine singing "In the bleak mid-winter" on an afternoon in June. It doesn't fit. It's nice for the December carol concert, when we're looking forward to the mince pie afterwards and the lights on the trees look so comforting. In June, we're making the most of what we've got. So with the *Vexilla* in September, it's out of context. We're not preparing to follow the Lord on the Holy Week journey at the moment, so the sentiments of the hymn which pray for a fervent journey through passiontide, are out of context. But they seem to fit a bit more. There is a sentiment in this little phrase that we can embrace. We can own it. *O Crux Ave, spes unica!* Holy Cross, our singular hope!

At the Mass celebrated to mark the 200th Anniversary of the first Mass to be celebrated in these buildings, Fr Robert Gay OP beautifully reflected on this very theme in his homily. He reflected on the context we find ourselves in here in Leicester, with the many challenges life presents to us and to those around us. For many people – too many people – those challenges are almost unbearable, if not impossible. We are surrounded with poverty, homelessness, addiction, and violence. Deprivation and economic downturn leave us with injustice, uncertainty, and depression. The reality of human suffering is all around us. Nor is this simply a material phenomenon. There is moral and spiritual destitution in abundance, absorbing our energy and undermining our hope. In the midst of this stands Holy Cross Priory. In this place is based a Dominican Mission for those who are "sent to preach the gospel to the poor". To enrich the lives of others, in whatever form that enrichment is required, Holy Cross exists to enshrine the mystery of the Lord's Cross, which we venerate as our singular hope, our one reliance.

Over the years we've seen lots of people come and go from Holy Cross. Often our ministry is focussed on those who pass briefly through our parish – those in prison and in hospital. University students pass through and find a home with us for a few years. Throughout the world there's many of them remembering us, and their time here. Something of what is shared here is unique and special. Maybe that's the best thought we can share with each other today. That we share in something unique – the "Holy Cross Factor". It's to say that our mission in the church and in our city is a particular reflection on the Dominican charism as we celebrate our patronal feast – a mission to find joy in the mystery of the Lord's Cross, because we're called to preach it as a singular hope.

There's a lot of hope in the air as we celebrate this particular occasion. We've been working very hard to ensure that Holy Cross has a bright future, and those efforts are just beginning to show signs of new life. In that context, *Vexilla Regis* is not out of season, as Holy Cross is entering a springtime. We have spent years attempting to arrive at this point, with lots of fundraising and planning, lots of discussions and decisions. Lots of upheaval and change. These have not been easy. We have not been without our divisions. But the new life of springtime is evident for our community. In caring for that harvest, together we can share the fruits.

O Crux Ave, spes unica! This is a phrase that echoes through the walls of this place. Across the last two centuries, it has been an important text that has marked new beginnings. In 1819, it inspired those who were establishing many of the things we now take for granted. For them, it powered an ambition to lay firm foundations for those who would profess the Catholic Faith in more tolerant times. In 1919, it inspired those who had just endured the Great War to rebuild their society and community and to be a voice for justice and the dignity of every human person. During the past century, as Holy Cross has seen much upheaval, only one singular hope has been preached.

Our mission is not something we do, it is who we are. To be a member of the Holy Cross Family, to have the #hxfactor, is to have a share in our Dominican preaching. And in that preaching, the mystery of the Lord's Cross is our singular hope.

Fr Matthew Jarvis OP