



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 6 OCTOBER 2019

27TH SUNDAY (C) – ROSARY SUNDAY

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

Rosary Sunday is one of my favourite days of the year. I have so many happy memories of celebrating Rosary Sunday with the different Dominican Communities of which I have been a member over the years. I look forward to sharing it with you!

Today we bless our "Missionary Roses", which take the message of the Rosary outside our walls. The Most Holy Rosary celebrates the 'mystery' of our faith – that we are uncertain in our rejoicing. The roses represent the beauty of God's calling to each of us. But that's a vulnerable beauty as we experience it. Please take the roses and enable their mission. Share the fruits of our joy!

Next Saturday is the much anticipated Rossini concert. A real treat for us all. Scripture study starts again this week, and sacramental programmes will begin very soon. Thanks to all who helped with the meeting on catechesis last week, and we look forward to developing things further.

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

Fr David

ROSARY SUNDAY AND THE MONTH OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY

Today we celebrate Rosary Sunday, and roses will be blessed at all Masses. Please do take these away with you. We will have our Rosary Sunday Devotions and Procession at 10:30am Mass and at the Holy Hour.

BLESSING OF ROSES FOR ROSARY SUNDAY

The Dominican Order has a long tradition of blessing roses in honour of Our Lady of the Rosary, and asking the faithful to take these roses on mission to the sick and housebound, to prisoners, and to those who might need prompting to recognise God's call to them in their lives. Please do use these missionary roses to share the joy of the Gospel with others, in whatever way the Lord calls you to do so.

MONTH OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY AT HOLY CROSS

Other events for this month at Holy Cross:

- Friday 18 October @ 7pm – Holy Hour and Rosary Vigil for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life, and intercession for priests
- Saturday 19 October from after 10am Mass – Rosary Vigil of Prayer for Life until 6pm
- Saturday 26 October – Day of Prayer in Honour of Our Lady of the Rosary

Please do make an effort to help us propagate devotion to the Holy Rosary this month.

WELCOMING STUDENTS – LEICESTER AND DMU

We have been very glad to welcome students both new and old to our university chaplaincies. We have Mass every week on campuses – Tuesdays, 12:30pm at Leicester and Wednesdays 3pm at DMU. Our priest chaplains will be on campus throughout the day on each campus on these days, and are available at other times. Please do keep in touch with us.

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

ROSSINI STABAT MATER – NEXT SATURDAY, 12 OCTOBER

This takes place next Saturday 12 October as a celebration of 200 years of Holy Cross. We welcome 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 share the flyers and posters in the church and welcome your friends to this special event.

SCRIPTURE STUDIES FOR THIS TERM

Fr Matthew will commence the scripture study for this term on Tuesday 8 October, beginning at 7pm in St Clement's. This term will look at the book of Jonah. Please join us for this special course of studies.

A HOLY CROSS WELCOME – FR BRUNO CLIFTON OP

We are very pleased to welcome Fr Bruno to our community for the next while. He is our Master of Novices, and therefore a member of the Dominican Community in Cambridge. Please extend him a warm Holy Cross welcome!

WORKS AROUND THE CHURCH AND PRIORY

A gas leak on Wellington Street adversely affected the church and priory during the week. British Gas have been working to address this leak, necessitating works that have closed passage on Wellington Street. Following the rains, Wayne and his team have plugged the latest holes on the rooves of the church and priory. Piece by piece!

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.

CONFIRMATION AND SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES

Bishop Patrick will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on Monday 24 February 2020 at 7pm. We are now receiving names of young people of secondary school age who would like to make confirmation this year. Information about the programme of preparation will be announced soon. We also invite any university students or adults who require confirmation to make themselves known to us. During the month of October, we will be enrolling for various sacramental programmes.

VACANCIES

We have now advertised for the two vacant positions of Office Administrator and University Chaplaincy Pastoral Assistant. Please pray that we find the right people to fill these roles and develop our team.

THE DOMINICAN COMMUNITY

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

Office Administrator: *vacant* – 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:

£ 1034.34

(Gift aided: £240.50)

Woodhouse Collection

£ 177.00

(Gift aided: £95.00)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*

27TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR – BE FAITHFUL

A THOUGHT FOR THIS SUNDAY

The month of October is called the month of the Rosary, a "spiritual cadence", so to speak, that derives from the liturgical Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary, which is celebrated on 7 October. We are therefore asked to let ourselves be guided by Mary in this prayer, ancient and ever new, which is especially dear to her because it leads us directly to Jesus, contemplated in his Mysteries of salvation: joyful, luminous, sorrowful and glorious. In the footsteps of Venerable John Paul ii (cf. Apostolic Letter *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*), I would like to recall that the Rosary is a biblical prayer, interwoven with Sacred Scripture throughout. It is a prayer of the heart, in which the repetition of the *Hail Mary* directs the thoughts and affections to Christ and therefore becomes a trusting supplication to his Mother and ours. It is a prayer that helps us to meditate on the word of God and to assimilate Eucharistic Communion, modelling ourselves on Mary who cherished in her heart all that Jesus did and said, and his Presence itself.

– *Pope Benedict XVI*

Responsorial Psalm: O that today you would listen to his voice, harden not your hearts

THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS OF THE CHURCH

In the beginning was the Word. The spring was gushing forth, yet still within himself. Indeed, *the Word was with God*, truly dwelling in inaccessible light. And the Lord said from the beginning: *I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction.* Yet your thought was locked within you, and whatever you thought, we did not know; for who knew the mind of the Lord, or who was his counsellor?

And so the idea of peace came down to do the work of peace: *The Word was made flesh and even now dwells among us.* It is by faith that he dwells in our hearts, in our memory, our intellect and penetrates even into our imagination. What concept could man have of God if he did not first fashion an image of him in his heart? By nature incomprehensible and inaccessible, he was invisible and unthinkable, but now he wished to be understood, to be seen and thought of.

But how, you ask, was this done? He lay in a manger and rested on a virgin's breast, preached on a mountain, and spent the night in prayer. He hung on a cross, grew pale in death, and roamed free among the dead and ruled over those in hell. He rose again on the third day, and showed the apostles the wounds of the nails, the signs of victory; and finally in their presence he ascended to the sanctuary of heaven

– *From a sermon by St Bernard of Clairvaux*

CONTEMPORARY WITNESS

Belief considered as an attitude admits of degrees, of more or less, and hence one can have a stronger or weaker faith according to how strongly one believes in these articles. Probably what Jesus had in mind was how fickle the disciples could be at this stage of their time with him. We know, for example, that Peter would deny Christ three times during the Passion and that at times the other disciples were not much better. Indeed not only would the Lord have to die and rise from the dead before the disciples became aware of all the articles of faith, but the Holy Spirit would also have to come at Pentecost to finish the Lord's instruction and to solidify their faith. So at this stage of their time with Jesus the disciples could have done better. Yes they had their impressive moments, but from time to time they also stumbled quite seriously.

– *Fr Dominic Ryan OP*

NEXT SUNDAY: 26TH 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 ROSARY SUNDAY

DOMINICAN FIDELITY AND DEVOTION TO THE MOST HOLY ROSARY

Fr David writes about the traditions connected with Rosary Sunday in our Dominican Communities.

The first Sunday in October, Rosary Sunday, inaugurates the Month of the Most Holy Rosary. It is a month of missionary opportunity. It is an opportunity for evangelisation. Such opportunities always offer each of us a moment for reflection on our need for repentance, and our call to discipleship. We are here because we have been called to share in the knowledge of the mysteries of our faith, the mysteries we contemplate in the Rosary. Our Dominican vocation calls us to **#ShareTheFruits** of our missionary calling.

In the Dominican Priory in Newry, which was such a part of my youth, Rosary Sunday was always a great festival of mission. Indeed, my heart and mind is very close to the brethren and people there as we celebrate in Leicester today. Over the years, each Rosary Sunday was marked by the visit of the Dominican Student Brothers from Tallaght, and our priory there dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary. That was where they trained in those days. On Rosary Sunday, those men would travel to thank us for our regular prayers for them, and for our financial support for their training. Now that training has been moved to Dominick Street in Dublin, this tradition still remains. My own family, my parents and my sisters, generously open our family home to the young men training as Dominican priests, and are part of encouraging them on their pathway. Sharing the journey of young Dominican students was a very important part of my own vocational growth. We are all part of one mission.

Times change, but some things remain constant. Over the years, my own perspective has changed, and now I am a Dominican priest who benefitted from the training I received from my brethren and from the prayers of the people who attend our Dominican churches, not to mention the invaluable and immensely generous support from my family. But there is something very special about the roses.

I have vivid memories of Rosary Sunday in the kitchen of my late Grandmother's house. The table was covered in freshly cut roses, leaves, paper, and clingfilm. Throughout the summer months, she would carefully and skilfully tend her rose garden, so that the roses would be in fresh bloom for Rosary Sunday. Taking the blooms available, they would be lovingly carried to the Dominican Priory for blessing, then preserved in clingfilm so that they could be retained in our homes to ward off evil. As a district nurse in the treacherous areas of South Armagh in those days, they'd be an extra aspect of her house calls, and many people were grateful for the 'missionary roses' which were a part of Nurse O'Brien's service of her patients, something the NHS hadn't thought about. The NHS doesn't do missionary roses, but if they did ...?

The roses are my favourite part of the garden. We have to wait for the longest time to get blossoms from them, but we need to relate to them all the year through. Pruning and dead-heading is a great pastime in the summer months. The colours and scents are breath taking, and the handsome arrangements of petals are mesmerising. Caring for roses involves brutal pruning and tender carefulness. It is rewarded by gorgeous blossoms right into October.

On Rosary Sunday we get to celebrate the beauty and sustain it into the autumn. We need hope and healing, and that's what the blessed roses are for. They're a reminder of God's merciful love for each of us. Sometimes we have to wait for a while to see the beauty of God's love for us. Then we see it, just for a while, in a wonderfully beautiful way, and we want to preserve that beauty. We can, just like my Granny carefully preserved the blessed roses in clingfilm, so they reminded us of hope during the year ahead.

So the roses you receive today are missionary roses. Please take them and use them. Who is it in your life that needs them? Maybe I need them myself right now? What might happen after that, if I do? What if I don't know that I need them? Wherever we are today, let's embrace these roses as missionary roses. What can we do with them? Whose lives can they change?

Fr David Rocks OP