

# HOLY CROSS PRIORY LEICESTER

## A PASTORAL MESSAGE FOR TRINITY SUNDAY

SUNDAY 7 JUNE 2020

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit!*

Dear Friends,

Trinity Sunday usually marks the beginning of the end of the academic year, and the pastoral year for our parish community. The warmer days of summer brighten up our Sunday gatherings, and we would normally be basking in the glory of the achievement of Blackfriars' Market, our First Communion, Confirmation, RCIA programmes. We'd be starting to say farewell to students from the University of Leicester and DMU – some to return to us in October, some to enjoy graduations, some who visited for a year or a term. My diary is full of dates for school leavers Masses and the like that I won't be celebrating this year, and much-anticipated celebrations of marriage have been postponed for a date in the future.

I wandered round the church the other day, and I can still see signs of when you were last here – things people left behind by accident, or items for others to pick up; little bits of litter dropped by accident; signs for visitors with prayers to say or providing information. As I wander round, I think of the many different people who use our church in a variety of ways – the regular congregations at their regular times, in their regular places; the many volunteers who help with this and that; those who pass through at different times of the day; those with their favourite spot or shrine. I know how much so many of you miss access to the church building, and you are lacking something without that. I, as someone who has access, also know how much our church building lacks without your presence and your prayers within it. But be intent on prayer, and whatever will happen will turn to our good!

This weekend it has been announced that our churches will soon be able to open for private prayer, at some point from 15 June. We need to follow guidance on how to make this happen, and each church has to submit an assessment of the risks and how it will follow the guidance, before it receives permission to open. We will be attending to this process with the greatest urgency, and we will probably require your assistance to realise the goal of opening safely within the guidelines and in a way we can manage. We will continue to provide livestreaming of our liturgies and other pastoral initiatives in the meantime. So we need you to bear with us. We will be emerging slowly, but we are nonetheless emerging.

So Trinity Sunday might well be the beginning of the end of lockdown, or is it the end of the beginning? Reflecting with many of you over the last while, there is a range of views and opinions on this matter. Some of us might wish to hasten the return of our normal routines, while others are concerned that a hasty advance could bring suffering and risk. Some are concerned about hardship and illness that aren't called covid. Our unique worries or concerns prevent us from gathering in unity at this time.

I'm not going to say "we're all in this together" when we have to spend so much time apart. We are, however, all baptised in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Our Baptism frees us from sin, and marks the beginning of the end of the reign of sin in our lives. Crucially, it is also the end of the beginning of our mission in the life of the church, and that's to enter the 'ordinary time' of the world with the extraordinary message of mercy that we've just proclaimed for fifty days during Eastertide. So we can look forward to working together to get our beautiful church building open again, and then to work towards celebrating together again. I hope and pray that this opportunity and welcome development will be a moment for us to recognise the unique needs and talents of each other, but to foster a true sense of unity in our Holy Cross Family, and allow that to transform our thankfulness within our hearts and homes.

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

**Fr David Edward Rocks OP PP**