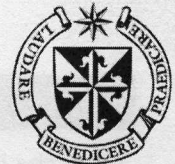


HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH



13 MARCH 2016

YEAR C

THIS SUNDAY – FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT; PASSION SUNDAY (EF)

Entrance Antiphon:	Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.
First Reading:	Ezekiel 37:12–14
Psalm:	<i>At 10.30:</i> With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption. <i>Otherwise:</i> With the Lord there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption. (Ps 130)
Second Reading:	Romans 8:8–11
Gospel Acclamation:	Glory and praise to you, O Christ. = I am the resurrection and life, says the Lord; he who believes in me shall never die.
Gospel:	John 11:1–45
Communion Antiphon:	Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.

NEXT SUNDAY – PALM SUNDAY

Isaiah 50:4–7	Philippians 2:6–11	Luke 22:13–23:56
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WEEKDAY MASSES (YEAR II)

Monday:	Feria
Tuesday:	Feria
Wednesday:	Feria
Thursday:	St Patrick
Friday:	Feria; St Cyril of Jerusalem & the Seven Sorrows of the BVM (EF)
Saturday:	St Joseph, Spouse of the BVM



Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy - December 8th 2015 to November 20th 2016

OUR FINANCES AT HOLY CROSS

Over the last number of years, it has become clear that the financial situation at Holy Cross is very complicated. Large old buildings and a difficult financial climate have not made our lives easy, and a significant amount of attention has been invested in trying to solve our financial problems.

Recently, we received the completed accounts for the first quarter of the current financial year, beginning 1 October 2015. As we expected, these show **that our income is going down significantly**. We need your help to address this, urgently!

Parish "voluntary income" comes from our weekly collections. Some people give by Standing Order, and some use gift aided returns. Other donations come from time to time, and votive candles and the parish shop provide an extra boost. During the first quarter (October, November and December 2015) – our collection income was 21% less than it had been in the 1st quarter of the previous year, and gift aided donations 6% down on 1st quarter last year. Our votive candle income was down 30%, because of the candle stands being repeatedly broken into. Some good news is that parish shop has brought in 55% more than in the first quarter of last year.

What does this mean for Holy Cross?

If our income trends are not reversed, this will mean that Holy Cross cannot support the Dominican Community that serves it. Already, we are struggling to maintain our buildings and keep them fit for purpose. We cannot afford to heat and light the church and the priory, or to carry out essential maintenance and upgrading works. Our financial predicament means we have no chance to develop additional pastoral and social outreach and to enrich our ministry. Ultimately, the situation jeopardises the medium term future of the Dominican presence in Leicester. This is the only Dominican Community in the midlands, and we require your urgent assistance to secure it for the future.

Can we find a solution?

Already we have talked about our renewal programme, *On Firm Foundations*, as the basis for our response. The Pastoral Core Group has been developing an action plan, and the Prior and Bursar are working with a number of people to form Finance Committee. The next stage of this project is to look at development projects which are necessary. We are looking at ways of solving our theft problem - upgrade CCTV, find secure money collection system

What can you do?

We need £39,000 per quarter from collections, gift aid, standing order, shop and other donations. we are currently getting £28,600, so we are £10,400 short. we need an extra £3,460 per month – that's £860 per week, or £123 per day from the collection, gift aid, standing orders. Currently, we have 685 attending mass - that extra is £1.26 per person per week. THIS IS DOABLE!

Can you give by standing orders - could you consider doing one? could you increase what you are already giving by standing order? If you are eligible for gift aid, would you consider signing up by envelopes?

WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO HELP US TO MEET THIS CHALLENGE, AND SAFEGUARD HOLY CROSS FOR THE FUTURE!

