

SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS

Last Wednesday, 28th January, was the feast day of St Thomas Aquinas. He is one of the most distinguished members of the Dominican Order, so it seems right to devote this Back Page to him.

He was born about 1225, in Italy, of a family that had links with many of the chief houses of Europe. His parents intended that he would become a leading churchman, and when he was five years old they sent him to be educated at the Benedictine monastery of Monte Cassino, not far from his home. He remained there until he was about 15, when he went to Naples to study liberal arts at the university. He was noted as a very promising pupil; and around the age of 20 he decided to join the recently established Dominican Order. His family fiercely opposed this, since they had envisaged a career for him in the respectable Benedictine Order. His elder brothers literally kidnapped him and imprisoned him in the family castle of Roccasecca for about a year. But they could not break his resolve. Eventually he managed to escape and return to the Dominicans, who sent him first to Rome and then to Paris, and finally to Cologne, where he studied under the famous St Albert the Great.

His life after this was a continuous round of study, teaching and writing. He moved between the main Dominican centres: Paris, Rome and Naples, and was constantly in demand to deal with theological and philosophical issues of the day. He reorganised the studies of the Order, and answered questions which came to him from all directions, from Popes to the humblest Dominican brother. The intensity of his work was possibly unique as a human achievement. He was said to have dictated three different books simultaneously to three different scribes. Small wonder that at the age of 49 he was exhausted. At this point he had an experience at Mass that made him say: 'such things have been revealed to me that all I have taught and written seems quite trivial to me now'. He stopped writing, leaving his major work, the *Summa Theologica* unfinished. Three months later he died, while travelling to take part in the Council of Lyons.

What does he say to us in the 21st century? First, he was a man of prayer, so that he was always and constantly conscious of God being present with him, and in everything. And in that respect, we can all try to follow him, always. But second, we live in a culture which effectively says: 'We have science, so we don't need God', as though God is simply the explanation of why things are. St Thomas, and the great catholic tradition, says: 'God is; and that is why there is everything else'. St Thomas' thinking and his prayer are therefore completely united, as ours can be too.

Fr Fabian OP

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

1 February 2015

The Newsletter of **HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER**

www.holycrossleicester.org



Entrance Antiphon:	Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.
At 11am – page nos in Missale:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mass Ordinary, p 13; Asperges, p 42, Mass Proper, p 117• Sung setting: English Mass; Credo III, p 210• Communion motet: Magnificat <i>Grassi</i>
1st Reading:	Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm R:	The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. (Ps 118)
2nd Reading:	1 Corinthians 7:32-35
Alleluia V:	I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my own and my own know me.
Gospel:	Mark 1:21-28
Communion Antiphon:	<i>Either:</i> Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you. <i>Or:</i> Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the land.

Baptism Preparation: the next session is **TODAY, 1 February**; please come to the sacristy at the end of the 9.30am Mass. If you wish to have your child baptised at Holy Cross, you need to attend one of these sessions, usually held on the first Sunday of each month.

On-Street Car Parking. Please note that on-street parking charges on Sundays are due to start today, 1 February, and there will be a charge of £1 for 3 hours, probably between 7.30am and 6pm, in the Wellington Street area and around New Walk Centre.

The demolition of New Walk Centre is scheduled for Sunday 22 February. There is still no clarity as to exactly what will happen on that day, but there is a meeting scheduled this week with the demolition contractor, and it is hoped that arrangements will become clear after that.

News from the Parish Shop. The latest edition of *Catholic News* is now available. *The shop is open after the 12.30pm Masses during the week, on Saturdays from 11am until after the 12.30pm Mass, and after every Sunday Mass. The shop is in the room beyond the sacristy.*

The new 10.30 Mass will start on Shrove Sunday, 15 February

On 15 February we will begin our new Sunday Mass schedule, with the new combined morning Mass at 10.30am. This is the coming together of two long-standing Eucharistic Communities in charity and friendship. On that Sunday we want to have a "bring and share" lunch, and we hope that pancakes will be served! We are involved in a process of organising and developing the various ministries around this new Eucharistic Community.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £1180.20 (of which £518.20 was Gift Aided and £662.00 was not) and in addition the parish receives approximately £240 per week in donations made by standing order, nearly all of which are Gift Aided; SVP £4.63; Friends of Holy Cross £8.13; Holy Souls £5.98; Grenada Church Restoration £ - .

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

We welcome our new Director of Music, Mr Thomas Keogh. He comes to us from a previous post at Edgbaston, and travels from Worksop to be with us. He is an accomplished organist with significant liturgical experience. We look forward to enjoying his talents. We are grateful to Mr Gibson, Mr Beardsmore and Mr Marriott who have managed musical matters since Mr Cowen's departure.



Today's Gospel: The people said, "Here is a teaching with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him."

Would you like to learn New Testament Greek? There is a course for beginners at the Adult Education Centre. It gives a taster of the Greek used by the Gospel Writers, and there are five weekly meetings starting Thursday 26th February, 1pm - 2.30pm. Fee £37.50, or £11.25 for some concessions. Please contact the Adult Education Centre, Wellington St, LE1 6HL, tel 0116 454 1900.

King Richard III. We are getting very excited about welcoming many people to our city and our church during the events surrounding Richard III's burial in March. This week, the refurbishment work to the walls and floor will commence. Areas of the church will be closed off, but normal service times will be retained.

The Ballot process has begun for the Requiem Mass on Monday 23 March, to be celebrated here by Cardinal Vincent Nichols at 5pm. We will have a number of official guests present and people from around the country are asking to attend this historic event. Although our church is a good size, we cannot accommodate everyone wishing to come. Parishioners of Holy Cross will have a protected percentage of the places available. The only fair way to allocate these tickets is by a ballot of the applicants. A maximum of two tickets per application will be issued to the successful applicants. **If you wish to attend this event** please write your name, address, parish and diocese on a piece of paper and send with a stamped addressed envelope to: Richard III Event, Holy Cross Priory, 45 Wellington Street, Leicester LE1 6HW. It is also possible to apply by email to kriiii@holycrossleicester.org giving all the information already stated when applying. **The cut-off date is 25 February.**

The Dominican Fathers will sing the Office of Vespers in Leicester Cathedral on Tuesday 24 March. All are welcome to attend this service at 5.30pm.

Rosmini Centre. Greetings from the Centre for 2015. The focus this year for Saturday mornings is on the initiatives taken by Pope Francis – "Consecrated Life", "Family Relationships", "Ecology". The Saturday afternoon themes for reflection are "Prayer". All the details including Healing Masses, retreat days, Tuesday and Wednesday Prayer you will find on the www.rosminicentre.co.uk site.

VACANCY: The Federation of English Martyrs, Oakham, and St Augustine's, Stamford, Catholic Voluntary Academies is seeking to appoint an Executive Head Teacher as from the Autumn Term (or earlier if possible). Full details are available from EPM, the Federation's HR providers, at headship@EPM.co.uk. The closing date for applications is 6 February.

Year I	This week's calendar & Mass Intentions	Psalter Week 4
Sunday	Fourth Sunday per annum. Today is Education Day.	
	Vigil 18.10 ✠ Martinez	
	8.00 Bunten intention	
	Sung 9.30 Mead family	
	Solemn 11.00 Dr Amit Raj (GP) & family	
	OP Rite 12.30 ✠ John Beardsmore	
	19.00 ✠ Keith Wright	
Monday	THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD	
	OP Rite 8.00 <i>Pro populo</i>	
	12.30 Thanks to St Francis Xavier	
	18.10 Sue Tatler (sick)	
Tuesday	St Blaise, Bishop and Martyr	
	OP Rite 8.00 ✠ Dead of the Order of Preachers	
	12.30 ✠ Maria Lubek	
	18.10 ✠ Roy Jones	
Wednesday	St Gilbert of Sempringham	
	OP Rite 8.00 Tiernan family	
	12.30 Thanks to St Anthony	
	18.10 Private intention	
Thursday	St Agatha, Virgin and Martyr	
	OP Rite 8.00 Bernice Litchfield's intentions (spiritual & temporal welfare)	
	12.30 ✠ Dora Frances Hoff	
	18.10 ✠ For the dead	
Friday	St Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs	
	OP Rite 8.00 Bernice Litchfield's intentions (in honour of the Holy Guardian Angels)	
	12.30 Helen Furey	
	18.10 Private intention	
Saturday	ANNIVERSARY OF DECEASED PARENTS	
	OP Rite 8.00 Bernice Litchfield's intentions (Holy Souls)	
	10.00 Marjery Francis	
	12.30 Thanksgiving	
Next Sunday – Fifth Sunday per annum. Today is the Day for Victims of Trafficking. Readings:		
Job 7:1-4.6-7	1 Corinthians 9:16-19.22-23	Mark 1:29-39

Last Thursday parishioners from Holy Cross, St Joseph's, St Patrick's, St Thomas More and Blessed Sacrament met to discuss the 2015 March for Life, which is taking place on Saturday 16th May, starting at St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham, led by Archbishop Bernard Longley, from 12 noon onwards. We hope that many more from these churches and others will join us on the march. The march is across Birmingham city centre and less than a mile long. We aim to arrange a coach from Leicester (aiming for fare of £8-£13 per person depending on numbers) and now we need you to tell us that you would like to come! Can you spare a few hours in prayerful, peaceful defence of unborn babies in danger of abortion? Call now to reserve your place on the coach. Families welcome! Contact: Stephen on 07850 441093 or steviecarneil@hotmail.com or Francisca on 07943 711549 or francisca@sicamartinez.plus.com.

REGULAR SERVICE TIMES
SUNDAYS
8.00 Mass
9.00 Lauds
9.30 Mass - UNTIL 8 FEBRUARY
10.30 Mass - FROM 15 FEBRUARY
11.00 Mass - UNTIL 8 FEBRUARY
12.30 Mass (Dominican Rite)
18.00 Exposition, Rosary, Compline & Benediction
19.00 Mass
MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS
7.30 Lauds
8.00 Mass (Dominican Rite)
11.00*Devotions & Exposition
12.15*Benediction
12.30 Mass (Rosary at 12.00)
18.10 Mass followed by Vespers
*WEDNESDAYS ONLY
SATURDAYS
8.00 Mass (Dominican Rite)
9.00 Lauds
10.00 Mass
10.30 Devotions & Exposition
10.30 Confessions until 11.30
12.30 Mass (Rosary at 12.00)
17.00 Confessions until 18.00
17.45 Vespers
18.10 Vigil Mass for Sunday
HOLIDAYS OF OBLIGATION
18.10 (previous day) Vigil Mass followed by Vespers
7.30 Lauds
8.00 Mass (Dominican Rite)
12.30 Mass
18.10 Mass followed by Vespers
BANK HOLIDAYS
7.30 Lauds
8.00 Mass (Dominican Rite)
12.30 Mass, after which the church is closed
Royal Infirmary Chaplaincy: For urgent visits, ask ward staff to bleep the Roman Catholic Chaplain. For non-urgent visits, leave a message at the Priory or at the LRI Chaplains' Office. Messages may not be picked up until the end of the day.
Universities' Chaplain: Fr David Rocks: 0116 252 1512
Baptism Preparation: 1st Sunday of month after the 9.30 Mass.
Baptisms: Saturday afternoons.
Parish Website: www.holycrossleicester.org
Website & Newsletter Editors: web@holycrossleicester.org holycrossnewsletter@gmail.com
CONTACT DETAILS
Holy Cross Priory 45 Wellington Street, LE1 6HW
Priory phone: 0116 255 3856 For home visits/recorded times of services: 0116 255 3856 Fax: 0116 255 5552
Parish Priest Fr David Rocks 0116 252 1512 leicester@english.op.org