

40 days and 40 nights

Once again, Lent seems to have come round rather quickly. It is a time to reflect on our priorities and the way we try to live our lives of faith. The number forty is a deeply biblical one which resonates with the forty days Moses spent on the mountain, learning from God, the forty years the Israelites wandered before reaching the promised land, the forty days our Lord fasted and prayed in the Judean desert. Coincidentally, it is also the number of days every year, that medieval knights were obliged to turn out for military service for their monarch. With the events surrounding the burial of the remains of Richard III, this has a strange relevance. St Bernard of Clairvaux (who came from a very combative, knightly family from Burgundy) used to enjoy using this imagery to explain what Lent was about. He said that if it is your duty to serve an earthly king for forty days a year, how much more is it your duty to give special service to the High King of Heaven for forty days a year. In one sermon, he said to his monastic brothers:

“Today, dear brethren, we enter the holy season of Lent, our Christian period of military service. In keeping it, we do not stand alone. We are united with all who hold the faith. Should not all Christians share the fast of Christ? Where the head leads, should not all the members follow?”

So, as we prepare for spiritual combat, we can ask for the powerful intercession of Our Lady, and St Bernard, and all the saints and angels. We should ask for their prayers that our Lent is fruitful and holy, so we can grow in grace and enjoy the beautiful feast of the resurrection at Easter.

Fr Neil OP

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

15 February 2015

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

www.holycrossleicester.org



Entrance Antiphon:	Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.
1st Reading:	Leviticus 13:1-2. 44-46
Psalm LXX:	You are a hiding place for me; you surround me with deliverance. (Ps 32)
2nd Reading:	1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1
Alleluia:	A great prophet has arisen among us, and God has visited his people.
Gospel:	Mark 1:40-45
Communion Antiphon:	<i>Either:</i> They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved. <i>Or:</i> God so loved the world that he gave his Only Begotten Son, so that all who believe in him may not perish, but may have eternal life.

Baptism Preparation: the next session is on **1 March**; please come to the sacristy at the end of the 10.30am 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.

The new 10.30 Mass starts TODAY, 15 February

Today we 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. We will have a “bring and share” lunch after this Mass, 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.

The demolition of New Walk Centre is scheduled for **NEXT SUNDAY, 22 February**. We are outside the exclusion zone, so it will be business as usual at Holy Cross. Billy Young, the Demolition Project Manager, has met with Fr David and is working on a strategy to manage car parking. He will visit this morning, 15 February, to answer questions. We will also have a number of police and sentries allied to us and our concerns on the day. Fr David would be grateful if some parishioners would volunteer to help manage things at Holy Cross on the day. Please do come to Mass on this Sunday at Holy Cross!

Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of Richard III – Please note that the closing date for the ballot has been brought forward to Ash Wednesday, 18 February. See overleaf.

Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting and abstinence. There will be an extra Mass, at 7.15pm, sung and in the Dominican Rite.

SAFEGUARDING. The safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is a top priority at Holy Cross, and it is the responsibility of all of us to ensure that we are a safe and nurturing community. Please do not allow children to visit the toilet unaccompanied by an adult relative. The building is vulnerable to hide-and-seek or keen explorers, so please – straight there and straight back with an adult relative. **Thank you all for your co-operation on this most important matter.**

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £1264.23 (of which £350.50 was Gift Aided and £913.73 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 £22.83; Friends of Holy Cross £4.71; Holy Souls £27.92; Grenada Church Restoration £20.00. The retiring collection for the upkeep of the Priory came to £452.45 (of which £120.00 was Gift Aided and £332.45 was not).

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

The sacrifice of the Mass. There will be a St Thomas Aquinas Study Weekend at St Dominic's Convent, Stone, Staffordshire ST15 8EN, with Fr Richard Ounsworth OP and Sr Valery Walker OP from **20 to 22 February**. Contact Sr Valery Walker on valerywalker@yahoo.co.uk or 01785 812091. Suggested donation £150 residential (students and unwaged £50); daily £5 per talk, lunch £5.

Rosmini Centre, Saturday 28th February, Afternoon Retreat 3.00-7.00pm; reflection theme "Praying with the Psalms". Saturday 21st March, RETREAT DAY 'Blessed Antoinio Rosmini: a Spiritual Guide for today' given by Fr Pierluigi Giroli I.C., 10.30am to 4.00pm; lunch included. Please telephone 01509 813078 if you wish to attend on any occasion.

On-Street Car Parking. Charges did not apply last Sunday, and will not apply until the notices on the machines and roadside signs are altered. So, check the signs if parking in Wellington Street.

King Richard III. The refurbishment work to the walls and floor has begun. Areas of the church are being closed off, but normal service times are retained.

There is a Ballot process 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 has been brought forward to 18 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.

The 2015 March for Life 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 people from churches all around 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 steviecarnell@hotmail.com or Francisca on 07943 711549 or francisca@sicamartinez.plus.com.



Today's Gospel: He said to the man with leprosy, "Be cured!" And the leprosy left him at once.

Year I	This week's calendar & Mass Intentions	Psalter Week 2/4
Sunday	Sixth Sunday per annum. Today is the Day for unemployed people.	
	Vigil 18.10 ✕ Peter Gallagher	
	8.00 ✕ Holy Souls	
	Sung 10.30 Pro populo	
	OP Rite 12.30 ✕ Alick Friocr	
	19.00 ✕ Jimmy O'Rourke	
Monday	Feria	
	OP Rite 8.00 ✕ Holy Souls	
	12.30 ✕ Bridie Furey (anniversary)	
	18.10 Robert family	
Tuesday	Feria	
	OP Rite 8.00 ✕ Dead of the Order of Preachers	
	12.30 ✕ Reginald Eyre	
	18.10 In thanksgiving for a 60th birthday (M Carey)	
Wednesday	ASH WEDNESDAY. Day of fasting and abstinence. There will be an extra Mass today, at 7.15pm, sung and in the Dominican Rite.	
	OP Rite 8.00 Michael Dunn, OP	
	12.30 ✕ Joe Broderick	
	18.10 ✕ Holy Souls	
Thursday	Feria	
	OP Rite 8.00	
	12.30 ✕ Joseph Vathalloo	
	18.10 ✕ Holy Souls	
Friday	Feria	
	OP Rite 8.00	
	12.30 Peace in the world	
	18.10	
Saturday	Feria	
	OP Rite 8.00	
	10.00	
	12.30 Edmunds Hozloushis & family's intentions	
Next Sunday – FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT. Prayers are asked for candidates for the sacraments. Readings:		
Genesis 9:8-15	1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:12-15

News from the Parish Shop. We celebrate St Patrick's Day in just over four weeks. We now stock cards, rosettes, lapel pins, rosary bracelets, key rings, etc for the occasion. Hurry while stocks last!
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.

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.

REGULAR SERVICE TIMES
SUNDAYS
8.00 Mass
9.00 Lauds
10.30 Sung Mass
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 10.30 Mass.
Baptisms: Saturday afternoons.
Parish Website: www.holycrossleicester.org
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