

“I accept the Cross”

The liturgy brings us to meditate on the text of John’s Gospel while the days of the Lord’s Passion draw near in which we will immerse ourselves spiritually from next Sunday which is called, precisely, Palm Sunday and the Sunday of the Lord’s Passion. It is as if the Church were encouraging us to share Jesus’ state of mind, desiring to prepare us to relive the mystery of his Crucifixion, death and Resurrection not as foreign spectators but on the contrary as protagonists, involved together with him in his mystery of the Cross and the Resurrection. Indeed, where Christ is, his disciples called to follow him, to be in solidarity with him at the moment of the combat.

What our association with his mission consists of is explained by the Lord himself. In speaking of his forthcoming glorious death, he uses a simple and at the same time evocative image: “unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit” (Jn 12: 24). He compares himself to a “grain of wheat which has split open, to bring much fruit to others”, according to an effective statement of St Athanasius; it is only through death, through the Cross, that Christ bears much fruit for all the centuries. Indeed, it was not enough for the Son of God to become incarnate. To bring the divine plan of universal salvation to completion he had to be killed and buried: only in this way was human reality to be accepted, and, through his death and Resurrection, the triumph of Life, the triumph of Love to be made manifest; it was to be proven that love is stronger than death.

Yet the man Jesus, who was a true man with the same sentiments as ours, felt the burden of the trial and bitter sorrow at the tragic end that awaited him. Precisely since he was God-Man he felt terror even more acutely as he faced the abyss of human sin and all that is unclean in humanity which he had to carry with him and consume in the fire of his love. He had to carry all this with him and transform it in his love. “Now is my soul troubled”, he confessed. “And what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour?” (Jn 12: 27). The temptation to ask: “Save me, do not permit the Cross, give me life!” surfaces. In the distress of his invocation we may grasp in anticipation the anguished prayer of Gethsemane, when, experiencing the drama of loneliness and fear, he implored the Father to take from him the cup of the Passion. At the same time, however, his filial adherence to the divine plan did not fail, because it is precisely this that enables him to know that his hour has come, and with trust he prays: “Father, glorify your name” (Jn 12: 28). By this he means “I accept the Cross” in which the name of God is glorified, that is, the greatness of his love. Here too Jesus anticipates the words of the Mount of Olives, the process that must be fundamentally brought about in all our prayers: to transform, to allow grace to transform our selfish will and open it to comply with the divine will.

From a sermon of Pope Benedict XVI given on the Fifth Sunday of Lent 2009

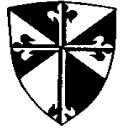
Fifth Sunday of Lent

Year B

22 March 2015

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

www.holycrossleicester.org



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| 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. |
| 1st Reading: | Ezekiel 37:12-14 |
| Psalm R: | <i>At 10.30am: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption. Otherwise: With the Lord there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption. (Ps 130)</i> |
| 2nd Reading: | Romans 8:8-11 |
| Gospel R: | Glory and praise to you, O Christ. V I am the resurrection and life, says the Lord; he who believes in me shall never die. |
| Gospel: | John 11:1-45 |
| Communion Antiphon: | <i>At 10.30am: Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood, will live in me and I in them. Otherwise: Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.</i> |

Baptism Preparation: the next session is on **12 April**; 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.

KING RICHARD III

- ◆ All seats for the Mass tomorrow, Monday 23 March, have now been allocated, and only ticket-holders can be admitted.
- ◆ On Tuesday 24 March there will be a **special Parish Mass for Richard III** at 4pm, welcoming visitors to our city. Following that, the Dominican brethren will process to the Cathedral to sing Vespers for Richard III at 5.30pm, and you are invited to join the procession and attend Vespers.
- ◆ **Concert for a King - Music from the Time of Richard III.** There will be a concert of music and readings from the time of Richard III here in the church on Tuesday 24 March at 8.30pm. See overleaf.
- ◆ **There will be no evening Mass at 6.10pm** on either Monday or Tuesday this week, 23 and 24 March.

HOLY WEEK. A **Retreat** will be given by Fr Simon Gaine OP. More news soon. The evening Masses on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week will be at 7.15pm. Cards, giving details of all Holy Week services, will be available.

Help needed please: The Student Cross pilgrimage leaves Holy Cross on the morning of Saturday March 28. If you can offer Student Cross pilgrims a lift at 8.15am, from Holy Cross to Keyham (near-ish Houghton on the Hill), where their walk begins, please let me know and state how many pilgrims you can fit in. Thank you. Jeff 0116 243 1289.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £1133.48 (of which £270.00 was Gift Aided and £863.48 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 £4.50; Friends of Holy Cross £5.11; Holy Souls £23.74; Grenada Church Restoration £ - .

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

News from the Parish Shop:

- ◆ Many thanks to everyone who supported the shop last Sunday giving us bumper sales for Mothering Sunday and St Patrick's Day.
- ◆ We have cards for Easter from 20p.
- ◆ We have a stock of "A Short History of the Dominicans in Leicester: Commemorating the 750th Anniversary of the Foundation of St Clement's Priory in 1247", written by Fr Isidore. Available at its 1996 price of £2.

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.

Stations of the Cross during Lent: Wednesdays and Fridays after the 12.30pm Mass.

Lunchtime Organ Recitals at Leicester Cathedral. On Monday 30 March, Simon Headley will play at a meditation in words and music for the start of Holy Week. On Monday 4 May, Carl Bahoshy will give a recital in aid of the UK registered charity 'Iraqi Christians in Need'. Recitals are at 1pm.

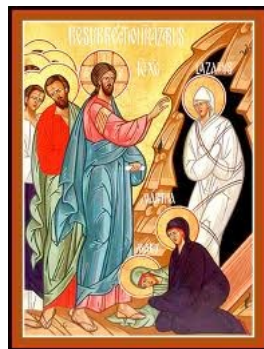
Concert for a King - Music from the Time of Richard III. The Ricardian Music Guild will present a concert by Aitone of early music which will be held here in the church on Tuesday 24 March at 8.30pm. The concert will pay homage to the life of King Richard III through the music of his time. The programme will include music that he might have heard when he lived, and will present this music in honour of his memory. The musical pieces will be interspersed with readings from contemporary accounts of King Richard III.

The occasion will be a bringing together of two important elements in the character of King Richard III: his deep and sincere religious devotion and his love of music. There will be no charge for the concert but donations will be accepted, the proceeds of which will be directed to the Leicester Cathedral King Richard III Appeal. **Reservations absolutely must be made** so that there will be a fair and equitable distribution of available seats on a first-come basis. Go to www.Aitone.org.uk, follow the link to the concert, and from there follow the link to the Eventbrite website.

To donate to the appeal please visit <http://don8.to/leic003>. Further information is available at: www.Aitone.org.uk or by contacting: Sonia Tower at stower@ovationtv.com or Rob Durk at rob@aitone.org.uk. See noticeboard. If you do not have access to the internet, please see Fr David.

Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes: Please note that the dates have changed to 8-12 June. From Stansted, staying at the Agena Hotel. £425 per person sharing. Please contact Fr David.

The General Election 2015. Please pick up a copy of a letter on this subject addressed to Catholics in England and Wales by our Bishops.



Today's Gospel: "Take the stone away. Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?"

| Year I | This week's calendar & Mass Intentions | Psalter Week 1 |
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| Sunday | FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT, 'LAETARE SUNDAY'. Prayers are asked for candidates for the sacraments. | |
| | Vigil 18.10 ✠ John Eamon Keyes 8.00 ✠ Mary Duggan | |
| | Sung 10.30 ✠ Paddy Reill | |
| | OP Rite 12.30 Olaf Anita & Edmund's intentions 19.00 ✠ Annie Bowen | |
| Monday | Feria | |
| | OP Rite 8.00 Priests of the FSSP 12.30 ✠ Roberto Mazuera Arango 17.00 Private intention. <i>This Mass is open only to ticket-holders. There is no Mass at 18.10.</i> | |
| Tuesday | Feria Please note that there is no Mass at 18.10. | |
| | OP Rite 8.00 ✠ Dead of the Order of Preachers 12.30 Bernice's intentions 16.00 Olaf Anita & Edmund's intentions | |
| Wednesday | THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD, solemnity | |
| | OP Rite 8.00 ✠ Jim Lynch 12.30 ✠ John Tierney 18.10 ✠ James Terence McGowan | |
| Thursday | Feria | |
| | OP Rite 8.00 ✠ Bridget McCole 12.30 ✠ John Tierney | |
| | OP Rite 18.10 ✠ Sam & Collette Walker | |
| Friday | Feria | |
| | OP Rite 8.00 ✠ Roseanne Toal 12.30 ✠ Bridget McCole 18.10 Sean Tahaney | |
| Saturday | Feria | |
| | OP Rite 8.00 ✠ John Tierney 10.00 ✠ Terry Orton 12.30 ✠ Holy Souls | |
| Next Sunday – PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD. Prayers are asked for candidates for the sacraments. Readings: | | |
| Mark 11:1-10 | Isaiah 50:4-7 | Philippians 2:6-11 |
| Mark 14:1-15:47 | | |

Friars Preachers. The Lent issue of this, the Newsletter of the Dominicans in England and Scotland, is available on the tables by the doors. Please help yourself to a copy. Topics in this issue include a look back at the Dominican School, originally at Hinckley and eventually at Laxton, Northamptonshire; and the restoration of the reliquary on St Helena's altar. And there are details of how you may help support the general work of the friars and the Dominicans' Training Fund.

VACANCIES: St George's Catholic Voluntary Academy, Littleover, Derby are looking for a Key Stages 1 & 2 class teacher for September (NQT/MPS/UPS). Please apply via jobs.derby.gov.uk/ or ring the school on 01332 766815. Closing date: Thursday 26th March. St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy, Derby are looking to appoint a full-time Key Stage 2 Teacher from September. For more information and an application pack please call the school office and speak to Mrs Harlow 01332 572154 or email admin@stjohnfisher.derby.sch.uk.

| REGULAR SERVICE TIMES |
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| 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 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 |