

The Good Shepherd

From the earliest times, the image of the shepherd has been one of the most popular representations of Christ, and for those through whom he ministers. There are few things more placid than the image of peacefully grazing sheep across rolling emerald pastures, and the kindly shepherd who gently cares for them in this idyllic setting.

The imagery is certainly very pretty, the reality of the shepherd's role is far from idyllic. The good shepherd must be prepared for death – he must care for his sheep to such an extent that he values them more than he values his own life and will defend them in this way. The sheep, in their innocence and fragility, recognise their need to depend on the shepherd, and so they follow him so they can graze in safety. The good shepherd has no need of a sheepdog, because he would not wish his sheep to be fearful; he earns their trust, and his sheep follow him freely, and not because of any fear. The Lord identifies his ministry with the image of the good shepherd – one who loves enough to spend his life for the sheep that follow him, and he leads a flock that are not driven by fear but rather desirous of freedom.

The good shepherd is contrasted with the hired hand. A hired hand shoulders the same awesome responsibility and authority as the good shepherd. The hired hand must lead the sheep to safety and security. The sheep will heed his commands and they will need to trust him. But ultimately he is there for what he will receive for himself. As soon as the task ceases to become 'worth it', he will be off to something better. The sheep have no eternal value for the hired man, and the authority entrusted to him. Jesus is giving us an important reminder about the authority entrusted to all of us, in different ways. He points to those in positions of responsibility who place their own needs before the needs of the people entrusted to their care. They will be fine when things are safe and idyllic, but what happens when it is no longer 'worth it'? When they are confronted with the weak, the sick, the wounded, the strayed, the lost, are they willing to remain strong for them and lead them to safety? Or are these weak ones condemned and cast out? The Lord, the Good Shepherd, seeks these out and leads them from danger. He challenges the authority of those who abuse what has been entrusted to them with his own authority, which extends to the laying down of his life so that the sheep may safely graze in the idyllic pastures.

Grazing in idyllic pastures is indeed a wonderful image. But make no mistake about its reality! It is there only because there is one who is willing to lay down his life for his sheep. Keeping them there is not easy. Their weakness, daftness, gormlessness, means they will go astray and find themselves in real peril. The Good Shepherd will call them back from peril, but with the gentle authority of his voice. Listen to the Good Shepherd, for he knows where you have strayed and he calls you with his gentle and loving voice.

Fr David, OP

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Year B

26 April 2015

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

www.holycrossleicester.org



Entrance Antiphon:	The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.
At 10.30am – page nos in Missale:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mass Ordinary, p 13; Mass Proper, p 92• Sung setting: English Mass; Credo III, p 216• Motet: If ye love me - <i>Tallis</i>• Marian antiphon: 5 Regina caeli, p 221
1st Reading:	Acts 4:8-12
Psalm LXX:	The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. (Ps 118)
2nd Reading:	1 John 3:1-2
Alleluia:	I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my own and my own know me.
Gospel:	John 10:11-18
Communion Antiphon:	The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

Baptism Preparation: the next session is on **3 May**; 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.

It has been a hectic few months at Holy Cross, but the Richard III events were wonderful, and Holy Week was celebrated in prayerfulness and beauty. Once again, a huge thanks to all who helped in any way with the Richard III events. The church has benefitted from the works that were done in preparation for the events, and many have commented on how well it is looking.

In recent months, we have begun to celebrate Mass at 10:30am on Sunday mornings, and lots of people have been working together to establish this new pattern. In the weeks ahead, we must build on this excellent start. Thank you to all who are helping with this.

Our Children's Liturgy has been going for almost a year, but it has had a bumpy ride as we went through the process of changing our Mass arrangements. It is time now to develop and consolidate this important part of our parish apostolate. The Children's Liturgy takes place during the Liturgy of the Word at the 10:30am Mass. **On Sunday 24 May, there will be a meeting for all those interested in developing and assisting with the liturgy and for developing other areas of catechesis for our children, of all ages.** Hopefully this will enable us to put in place a plan and a structure for the Autumn Term that will help our children to cherish the Faith and grow in grace.

Blackfriars Market will be held in late June this year, and we will begin to get a steering group together to organise this important annual event.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £1130.61 (of which £362.00 was Gift Aided and £768.61 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 £10.71; Friends of Holy Cross £10.55; Holy Souls £24.70; Grenada Church Restoration £ - .

The new Gift Aid envelopes are now available on the table by the Wellington St entrance. If you have not already done so, please take the box with your name on it. If you are a UK income tax payer and are not yet enrolled as a Gift Aid donor, please see any of the Dominican friars. Gift Aid increases the value of your contribution to the church by 25%, at no extra cost to you. Many thanks.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

The Pilgrimage to Walsingham will travel on Sunday 17 May, leaving the priory at 8am, costing £15, with £10 concessions. Please put your name down in the sacristy or the shop.

Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes: Monday 8th - Friday 12th June. From Stansted, staying at the Agena Hotel. £425 per person sharing. Please contact Fr David.

Please join us in the Parish Hall after the 10.30am Sunday Mass for tea, coffee, fruit-juice etc. There is the opportunity for a chat with members of the Dominican Community and parishioners. We particularly welcome new students and other visitors.



Today's Gospel: "I am the good shepherd; I know my own, and my own know me."

News from the Parish Shop:

- ◆ We have cards for those who are receiving their First Holy Communion.
- ◆ May's edition of *Catholic News*, the diocesan newspaper, is available for 20p.
- ◆ There is a good supply of the CTS's *Simple Prayer Book*. This has the Order of Mass, numerous prayers and devotions, and a section on Catholic teaching. All this for £1.95.
- ◆ 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.

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 steviearnell@hotmail.com or Francisca on 07943 711549 or francisca@sicamartinez.plus.com.

Rosmini Centre. Saturday 9th May, "The vow of poverty in the world today" presented by Fr. Ted Mullen, 11am to 2pm; shared lunch; Mass at 10am. Please telephone 01509 813078 or email rosminicentreinfo@gmail.com. Donations appreciated to cover costs and stipends. **Saturday 30 May**, Day of Prayer for Intergeneration Healing Mass, 'Healing of Family Tree' – details next week or on web site.

Year 1	This week's calendar & Mass Intentions	Psalter Week 4
Sunday	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER. Today is World Day of Prayer for Vocations.	
	Vigil 18.10 Neglected intentions 8.00 ✕ Brian Keenan	
	Sung 10.30 <i>Pro populo</i>	
	OP Rite 12.30 ✕ Holy Souls 19.00 Intentions of David Cameron	
Monday	Easter Feria	
	OP Rite 8.00 ✕ Fr Kieran O'Shea OP 12.30 ✕ Eamonn Stanton 18.10 ✕ Holy Souls	
Tuesday	Easter Feria	
	OP Rite 8.00 ✕ Dead of the Order of Preachers 12.30 Marcus Anthony 18.10 ✕ Holy Souls	
Wednesday	ST CATHERINE OF SIENA, VIRGIN, LAY DOMINICAN AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH, PATRON OF EUROPE	
	OP Rite 8.00 ✕ Tony Fraser 12.30 Special intention 18.10	
Thursday	St Pius V, Pope	
	OP Rite 8.00 ✕ Marion Forsdyke 12.30 18.10 ✕ Holy Souls	
Friday	St Joseph the Worker	
	OP Rite 8.00 Bernice Litchfield - spiritual & temporal welfare 12.30 ✕ Henry Quinn 18.10	
Saturday	St Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	
	OP Rite 8.00 Bernice Litchfield - in honour of the Holy Guardian Angels 10.00 12.30 Thanksgiving (Susan)	
Next Sunday – FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER. Readings:		
	Acts 9:26-31	1 John 3:18-24
		John 15:1-8

Lunchtime Piano and Organ Recital at Leicester Cathedral. On Bank Holiday Monday 4 May at 1.00 pm Carl Bahoshy will give a recital in aid of the UK-registered charity 'Iraqi Christians In Need' (www.icin.org.uk), which is providing direct financial relief to displaced refugee families under the care of the churches in northern Iraq. The programme will include works by Boëllmann, Chopin, Messiaen, Schubert, Vierne and Widor. Admission free – retiring collection for ICIN. (This would also be a good opportunity to view the tomb of King Richard III if you have not already done so!)

Pilgrimages to Medjugorje. There are two pilgrimages to Medjugorje from East Midlands airport, 3-10 May and 10-17 May 2015. There are only two places available on the week 10-17 May but plenty of places on the first week. The cost is £544 per person for an en suite room (two sharing) or a single room at £674. This includes bed, breakfast and evening meal, flights and transfers to/from Dubrovnik. Hotel has lifts, and taxis are available for those with restricted mobility. Please ring Kath ASAP on 0116 234 0103 for more information and to book.

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 Website & Newsletter Editors: web@holycrossleicester.org holycrossnewsletter@gmail.com
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