

The Ascension of the Lord

“It is good for you that I should go away.” That’s what Jesus said to his closest followers – the apostles – just before His Passion. That’s very strange, because He knew they would miss the familiarity of hearing His voice, seeing Him, simply being physically with Him, enjoying His company. Even though the wonders of modern technology, such as Skype, can draw us closer than ever, they’re not as good as being physically together with someone dear to us.

So, why wasn’t that true for Jesus and the apostles – and the rest of us? There are several reasons. First of all, it was good for Jesus Himself that He should depart from this world and no longer be physically present among us. His Ascension meant that He had accomplished His work here on earth. Now He has ascended to glory and is enthroned with His heavenly Father, as Lord of heaven and earth. That’s what has happened to one of us, a fellow human being.

And it’s good for us that Jesus should have ascended to heaven. Now that He’s no longer physically with us our relationship with Him can mature from focusing on Him as being human, to realising that at the same He is truly God. That was obscured during His ministry, when His followers naturally concentrated on His being a fellow human being, like them. That was especially brought home to them as His crucifixion manifested His human vulnerability. True, the transfiguration did give them a passing glimpse of the divine glory radiating in Jesus the man. That was confirmed and became manifest in the risen Lord. But now He’s ascended to heaven it’s easier for us to keep in balance Jesus as being both God and man. That’s why the risen Christ said to Thomas, **“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe”** – that’s you and me!

And He has gone ahead to prepare a place for us in His heavenly kingdom. Where He has gone we hope to follow – if we do His will. He promised, **“When I am lifted up – on the cross and in the ascension – I will draw all people with me.”** In other words, we will share in the glory of His ascension. That should fill us with hope and make us rejoice.

That should change our whole attitude to life and death, as St. Paul urges us, **“So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory”** (Col. 3. 1-5).

So, as we express our faith in Christ’s ascension let us rejoice with the psalmist’s prophetic vision, **“God has gone up with shouts of joy, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises”** (Ps. 47. 5-6).

Isidore O.P.

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Year B

17 May 2015

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

www.holycrossleicester.org



Entrance Antiphon:	<i>Vigil:</i> You kingdoms of the earth, sing to God; praise the Lord, who ascends above the highest heavens; his majesty and might are in the skies, alleluia. <i>Day:</i> Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.
1st Reading:	Acts 1:1-11
Psalm R:	God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet. (Ps 47)
2nd Reading:	Ephesians 1:17-23
Alleluia:	Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord; I am with you always, to the close of the age.
Gospel:	Mark 16:15-20
Communion Antiphon:	<i>Vigil:</i> Christ, offering a single sacrifice for sins, is seated for ever at God’s right hand, alleluia. <i>Day:</i> Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

Baptism Preparation: the next session is **Sunday 7 June**; 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.

Pope Francis has appointed Mgr Patrick McKinney, a priest of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, as tenth Bishop of Nottingham. He was brought up in Birmingham, and ordained for the archdiocese in 1978. He has served in a number of parishes, has studied in Rome, and was a lecturer, and later the Rector, of St Mary’s College, Oscott. He comes to us from Our Lady and All saints, Stourbridge. Archbishop Malcolm welcomed the appointment of Mgr McKinney saying, “The Diocese of Nottingham is a big Diocese with a big heart, and I hope that Mgr McKinney will be as happy as Bishop of Nottingham as I was for almost fourteen years”. Mgr McKinney will be ordained to the episcopate by Cardinal Vincent Nichols in St Barnabas’ Cathedral, Nottingham, on 3 July.

Blackfriars’ Market will take place on Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 June

Our aim is to raise £10 000 towards improvements in the church and maintenance of the priory. Please show your support in three ways:

1. Please buy and sell raffle tickets – available from the tables after Mass from today – cash prizes up to £150;
2. Keep the date free in your diary and come along with friends and family;
3. Bring in donations of cakes, bottled goods, gifts, toiletries, toys, chocolates, sweets and prizes. You may also donate cash to help cover the costs of the event so that more of the proceeds go to church and priory improvements – there are gift aid envelopes available for this.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £1306.99 (of which £307.50 was Gift Aided and £999.49 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; Solidarity Fund £0.41; Friends of Holy Cross £42.59; Holy Souls £22.91; Grenada Church Restoration £ - .

The Nepal Emergency Appeal has raised a further £216.42 bringing the total so far to £1360.39. Gift Aid forms are now available.

200 Club. March's winners were: 9, N Andrade £150; 181, W Andrade £100; and 94, A DaSouza £50. April's winners were: 133, J Walker £150; 95, M Pidcock £100; and 52, W Spendilow £50. Congratulations!

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.

Blackfriars Market Picture Raffle: "Abbey Park" by Isidore Clarke O.P. Tickets: £1.00 each.

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.

A Novena to St Rita, Patroness of Impossible Cases, started on Thursday, 14 May.

Fatima Devotions in May: During the month of May we are holding Devotions in Honour of Our Lady of Fatima each Saturday morning at 10am Mass. Please make a special effort to attend these devotions which will mark this special month of devotion to Our Blessed Lady.

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

Our Children's Liturgy has been going for almost a year, and 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.

Meister Eckhart and Divine Justice. The annual conference of the Eckhart Society will take place in Leeds from 4 to 6 September, including talks by three Dominicans, including Fr Greg. For details see www.eckhartsociety.org.

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.



Ascendit Deus in jubilatione!

Year I	This week's calendar & Mass Intentions	Psalter Week 3
Sunday	THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD. <i>Today is World Communications Day</i>	
	Vigil 18.10 <i>Pro populo</i>	
	8.00 ✕ Holy Souls	
	Sung 10.30 Maureen Fernandes	
	OP Rite 12.30 ✕ Holy Souls	
	19.00 ✕ Michael Furey (anniversary)	
Monday	Easter feria	
	OP Rite 8.00 ✕ Holy Souls	
	12.30 ✕ Holy Souls	
	18.10	
Tuesday	Easter feria	
	OP Rite 8.00 ✕ Dead of the Order of Preachers	
	12.30	
	18.10 ✕ Tertulieno Lopes	
Wednesday	Easter feria	
	OP Rite 8.00 ✕ Holy Souls	
	12.30 ✕ Mr Diego Roduriges	
	18.10	
Thursday	Easter feria	
	OP Rite 8.00 ✕ Barbara Fowell	
	12.30 Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Vailankanni	
	18.10	
Friday	Easter feria (St Rita of Cascia, Religious)	
	OP Rite 8.00 ✕ Barbara Fowell	
	12.30	
	18.10 ✕ Holy Souls	
Saturday	Easter feria	
	OP Rite 8.00	
	10.00 ✕ Mr & Mrs Nicholas Mary Fernandes	
	12.30 ✕ Gregory & Rosada D'Silva	
Next Sunday – PENTECOST SUNDAY. Readings:		
Vigil:	Genesis 11:1-9	Romans 8:22-27
Day:	Acts 2:1-11	1 Corinthians 12:3b-7. 12-13
		John 7:37-39
		John 20:19-23

News from the Parish Shop:

- ◆ We now have a new stock of a whole variety of cards, as well as statues, including Our Lady of Fatima, and other devotional items.
- ◆ We have cards for those who are receiving their First Holy Communion.
- ◆ 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.

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.
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