

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus says: 'This is what the Kingdom of God is like'. And then he tells two parables. Parables are intended to provoke us to think and respond. What thoughts do these two parables about the Kingdom of God provoke in us?

When Jesus began to proclaim the Kingdom, he said: 'The time is fulfilled and the Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe the good news'. So the announcement of the Kingdom is a 'fulfilment'; it is God keeping his promise to save us from our sins, by himself coming to be with us, so that we could be with him, fully. Moreover, the Kingdom involves 'repentance' and 'believing the good news'.

Being in God's Kingdom means to accept what God offers us. It is to do with living under God's rule. Normally the word 'kingdom' refers to one particular way in which countries are governed – by 'king', rather than by a 'president' or a 'dictator'. But when we talk about the 'Kingdom of God,' we mean God's rule over us, and the way that brings us together as his one family. God is indeed our King, but not like any other kind of king. And his way of ruling is not like the kingly rule of any other earthly king. Jesus said: 'My Kingdom is not from this world'.

So when we pray: 'Thy Kingdom come', we mean: 'May God rule over us, over us all'. It means that we are praying that we will accept God's governance, so that his loving purposes for us all will more readily be achieved.

Often we cannot see why God allows certain things to happen, and we are inclined to question his wisdom and purposes. Perhaps this is partly why Jesus tells these two parables, which speak of different aspects of the Kingdom. God's rule over us is like a man planting seed. We don't understand how God is working in us, any more than the sower understands how a seed germinates, takes root and grows into the full grain. It is all God's doing, in a quiet and hidden way. And the aim of it all is that we respond to God's rule and grow to fulfilment. The harvest time will certainly come. And the implication seems to be that though there will be a good crop, some seeds will have failed. Our lives will come to their harvest, with varied outcomes, depending on how we have responded to God's rule.

And what of the second parable? The mustard seed is tiny, but the full-grown tree is huge. And it offers hospitality to creatures that might seem to be quite alien. But God's Kingdom is offered to all people, without ironing out their differences. God's rule in salvation may seem hidden and ineffective. But by it all, He is surely and certainly working out His purposes. Trust Him.

Fr Fabian OP

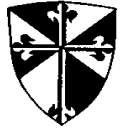
Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

14 June 2015

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

www.holycrossleicester.org



Entrance Antiphon:	O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help. Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour!
1st Reading:	Ezekiel 17:22-24
Psalm R:	<i>At 10.30: It is good to give you thanks O Lord. Otherwise: It is good to give thanks to you, O Lord. (Ps 92)</i>
2nd Reading:	2 Corinthians 5:6-10
Alleluia:	The seed is the word of God, the sower is Christ; all who come to him will live for ever.
Gospel:	Mark 4:26-34 22-26
Communion Antiphon:	<i>Either: There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life. Or: Holy Father, keep in your name those you have given me, that they may be one as we are one, says the Lord.</i>

Baptism Preparation: the next session is **TODAY, 14 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.

Please pray for the candidates who will receive their First Holy Communion or be Confirmed next Sunday, 21 June, at 10.30am.

Blackfriars' Market takes place THIS WEEKEND, on Saturday 13 June (11.30am to 2pm) and Sunday 14 June (8.45am to 1pm)

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

- ◆ **Please buy and sell raffle tickets**, £1 each (£5 a book) – available from the tables after Mass – cash prizes up to £100.
- ◆ **Buy a chance to win the Picture Raffle: "Abbey Park" by Isidore Clarke O.P. Tickets: £1.00 each.**
- ◆ **If there is still time, please bring last-minute donations** of cakes, good quality paperbacks, DVDs, bric-a-brac, pickles and jams, bottled goods, gifts, toiletries, toys, games, chocolates, sweets and prizes (but NOT please video cassettes, clothes or electrical items).
- ◆ **You may also donate cash** so that more of the proceeds go to church and priory improvements – there are white gift aid envelopes available for this.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – Figures not available at time of going to press. More news next week.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

'End of year showcase' featuring various local gospel choirs, including Holy Cross gospel choir (as seen at the CAFOD concert), Thursday 25th June, 6pm-8pm. At Hansom Hall (old Library), Wellington St. Tickets are £5 adult, child £4 or family £15, from info@kainemanagement.org.uk or from choir, or tel 0116 261 6840.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Adoration is a very important way of preparing for Mass and of deepening our understanding of the Mass. It takes place at Holy Cross on Sundays from 6.00-7.00 pm, on Wednesdays from 11.00am and on Saturdays from 10.30am.

GIFT AID DONATIONS. We now have separate envelopes for one-off donations to either the Parish or the Priory. Please check the wording at the top of the envelope. Gifts to the Parish go in yellow envelopes, and to the Priory in blue envelopes. There are also white envelopes for donations to Blackfriars Market, and Sanctuary Lamp donations.



Today's Gospel: The kingdom of God is like the mustard seed, the smallest on earth, yet once sown grows into the biggest shrub.

A Millennium of Christian Biblical Exegesis: Augustine to Aquinas. Day conference at the Aquinas Institute at Blackfriars, Oxford. Aquinas launches his *Summa Theologiae* by quoting II Tim. 3:16: "Every divinely inspired Scripture is useful for teaching..." Focusing on significant exegetes, this conference will examine how great theologians of East & West drew on the Scriptures, and so illustrate continuities and contrasts within the tradition they represent. **Saturday 27 June**, 9am to 5.30pm. £10, including lunch, students free. For further information, and to request a place, contact Cyril Chilson, c/o Blackfriars, St. Giles', Oxford, OX1 3LY; 07954 633 103; cyril.chilson@keble.ox.ac.uk.

News from the Parish Shop:

- ♦ The June edition of the Diocesan newspaper, *Catholic Voice*, is now available, price 20p. The front page is largely devoted to information about our new bishop, Mgr Patrick McKinney.

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.

Fr Bruno Clifton OP, is looking for sponsors for his Ultimate Trail Challenge in the Lake District on 27 June. Fr Bruno's 68-mile run (110 km) will be completed in one single summer's day. Apart from having the physical strength to complete it, Fr Bruno will need great mental discipline, endurance and self-belief in overcoming this monumental challenge. He is volunteering his time and effort in the hope of raising money for the training of Dominicans to preach the Gospel, making his contribution towards the £1 million target of The Dominican Friars Training Fund Campaign. Please sponsor Fr Bruno by going to <https://www.justgiving.com/BrunoCliftonOP> or sending a cheque payable to the Dominican Council to Fr Bruno's Challenge, Development Office, 17 Beaumont Street, Oxford OX1 2NA.

VACANCY: Holy Cross Primary Catholic Voluntary Academy, Hucknall, Notts, are seeking to appoint a headteacher, salary range L15-L21. Further details are available on the school website www.holycrossschoolhucknall.com. Closing date 22nd June.

Year 1	This week's calendar & Mass Intentions	Psalter Week 3
Sunday	Eleventh Sunday per annum	
Vigil	18.10 ☩ Holy Souls	
	8.00 ☩ Deceased members of the Andrade family	
Sung	10.30 ☩ James Holland	
OP Rite	12.30	
	19.00 <i>Pro populo</i>	
Monday	Feria	
OP Rite	8.00 ☩ Angela Homegold Strickland	
	12.30 ☩ Holy Souls	
	18.10	
Tuesday	St Richard of Chichester, Bishop	
OP Rite	8.00 ☩ Dead of the Order of Preachers	
	12.30 Steven & Felia (good health) (Int St Anthony)	
	18.10 ☩ Holy Souls	
Wednesday	Feria	
OP Rite	8.00 ☩ Holy Souls	
	12.30 Martin Delia Freaney	
	18.10	
Thursday	Feria	
OP Rite	8.00	
	12.30 ☩ Ian Michael Moore	
	18.10 ☩ Holy Souls	
Friday	Feria	
OP Rite	8.00	
	12.30 ☩ Holy Souls	
	18.10	
Saturday	St Alban, Martyr	
OP Rite	8.00 ☩ Holy Souls	
	10.00	
	12.30	
Next Sunday – Twelfth Sunday per annum. Readings:		
	Job 38:1-8-11	2 Corinthians 5:14-17
		Mark 4:35-41

The LeicesterShire Historic Churches Trust was formed in 1964, and is an independent charity. Its trustees (which include Fr Fabian) and helpers are volunteers. The majority of the Trust's income comes from legacies and the annual Ride+Stride which, since 1989, has raised more than £800,000 for historic churches in the City and County (and Holy Cross has been a beneficiary). This year's Ride and Stride day is **Saturday 12 September** and, nearer the time, there will be information on how you can participate.

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 each week 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.

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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