

Faith, Hope, and Charity

In the Collect (the first opening prayer) for today's Mass we pray for an increase in the gifts of Faith, Hope and Charity. These are famously mentioned by St Paul in 1 Corinthians 13. Of course, they appear throughout the Sacred Scriptures as they are fundamental to our Christian identity and way of life. This does not mean that they are something that we adopt to *create* our identity, however. It is by receiving them as gifts from God in the first place that *gives us* our Christian identity. We cannot earn them, buy them, or deserve them; they are truly gifts from God. Because they direct us immediately towards God they are called the 'theological virtues'. Again, the word 'virtues' here should not be understood as a rather limp, Victorian mimesis, but as a word meaning 'strength'. These divine gifts help us become strong.

Although Charity is the greatest of the virtues and the only one that will remain in eternity, Faith is always the first in the list. Through Baptism we receive the gift of Faith which strengthens our minds to accept what God teaches us, and even to participate in the truths that God reveals to us. As St Thomas says, "Faith is a foretaste of the knowledge that will make us blessed in the future." When we see God face to face, Faith will no longer be necessary.

Hope helps us to desire the Kingdom of heaven and eternal life. Everybody wants to be happy, and Hope builds upon that desire so that we set our hearts on the supreme good, despite all the many difficulties in our way, rather than settling for a lesser good. When we have received the eternal happiness for which we have hoped, we will no longer have any need for this virtue.

Charity is that supernatural love which is really a sharing in the love of God himself, who is Love. It is being drawn into the eternal love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit: "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love." Again, "Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" (Rom 5:5).

We really can have no more precious gifts than the theological virtues. Like all gifts, we need to nurture them so that they don't get rusty through being underused! Our Lady is the person who most fully embodied these gifts (remembering that Our Lord did not need Faith or Hope!). So let us ask her prayers that we be renewed and persevere in our life of Faith, Hope and Charity.

Fr Neil OP

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

19 July 2015

The Newsletter of HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER

www.holycrossleicester.org



Entrance Antiphon:	See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.
1st Reading:	Jeremiah 23:1-6
Psalm LXX:	The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
2nd Reading:	Ephesians 2:13-18
Alleluia:	My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me.
Gospel:	Mark 6:30-34
Communion Antiphon:	<i>Either:</i> The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him. <i>Or:</i> Behold, I stand at the door and knock, says the Lord. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door to me, I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me.

Baptism Preparation: the next session is on **2 August**; 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 Assisted Dying Bill will be debated in Parliament on 11th September. It is important that MPs attend the debate in order to oppose the proposals. Countries which have already legalised assisted suicide have fully embraced a culture of death. Just days ago the Dutch Paediatric Association said that allowing teenagers to ask for euthanasia discriminates against younger children and is asking that the age limit for doctor-assisted death be removed. To avoid that becoming reality in the UK please write now to your MP and ask him or her to attend the debate on 11th September. Please write before MPs leave for their summer recess on 21st July. For guidance on what to write please visit <http://notoassistedsuicide.org.uk/>. To help distribute leaflets locally about the Bill please contact Francisca Martinez on 07943 711549.

Everyone is invited to join in the Annual Rosary Rally at Grace Dieu Manor, to pray for World Peace and the Young People of our Diocese, on **Sunday 23 August**, beginning with Mass at 3pm. After a break for refreshments, the Rally resumes at 5pm with the crowning of a statue of Our Lady, Rosary procession, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Blessing of the sick, and Benediction. Grace Dieu Manor, LE67 5UG, is on the A512 about 3 miles from Junction 23 of the M1 motorway in the direction of Ashby. You should bring a folding chair or stool. Information from michaellstatham@hotmail.com, 01530 223529.

On Sunday evenings you are very welcome to join us for Holy Hour from 6.00 pm – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, Compline and Benediction. Mass follows at 7.00 pm.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £1199.12 (of which £491.90 was Gift Aided and £707.22 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 £10.70; Friends of Holy Cross £1.05; Holy Souls £5.71; Grenada Church Restoration £ - . The retiring collection for the Apostleship of the Sea came to £241.58.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

200 Club. June's winners were: 1st B Tomlinson No 34; 2nd E Curley No 199; 3rd M O'Connor No 50.

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.



Today's Gospel: Jesus said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while."

Summer Nights. The Kirby Muxloe Players present this musical from Wednesday 29 July to Saturday 1 August, 7.30pm, in the Village Hall. Tickets £8 from 07804 435235 and see www.kirbyplayers.co.uk.

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.

World Youth Day July 2016 - Krakow: Would you like to be part of a local group? Will you be 18 years old by July of next year? Cost: approx £400 including travel, accommodation, all events, meals and insurance. Contact: Angela on angelab1066@yahoo.ie or 07758 270044, or Elvira on elviraveve@yahoo.co.uk.

News from the Parish Shop:

- ◆ The July edition of the Diocesan newspaper, *Catholic News*, is now available, price 20p.
- ◆ The latest issue of *The Vatican, past and Present* is available for £3.50. This glossy magazine has articles on the Pope's encyclical on climate change *Laudato Si'*, the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Migrants and Itinerant Peoples, and on the Apostleship of the Sea.

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.

Friars Preachers. The Summer 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 report on the Walsingham pilgrimage and an article on Exploring Science and Religion by Fr Robert Verrill OP. And there are details of how you may help support the general work of the friars and the Dominicans' Training Fund.

Evangelium Conference. Set in the beautiful grounds of the Oratory School in Reading, the acclaimed Evangelium Conference combines a unique weekend break with the opportunity to learn more about the Catholic faith, assisting participants to live, share, and defend the faith today. Talks and workshops are combined with daily Mass, eucharistic adoration, and social events. The conference is intended especially for young Catholics age 18 - 35. From 31 July to 2 August. See www.evangelium.co.uk/conference-posts-go-here/.

Year I	This week's calendar & Mass Intentions	Psalter Week 4
Sunday	Sixteenth Sunday per annum.	
Vigil	18.10 <i>Pro populo</i> 8.00	
Sung	10.30 Hazel Fernandes and family	
OP Rite	12.30 Carnell family 19.00 Bunten family	
Monday	Feria	
OP Rite	8.00 12.30 † Ann Flynn 18.10 Margaret Leonard and her mother	
Tuesday	Feria	
OP Rite	8.00 † Dead of the Order of Preachers 12.30 Thanksgiving to Our Lady 18.10	
Wednesday	St Mary Magdalene	
OP Rite	8.00 12.30 Thanks to Sacred Heart 18.10 † Holy Souls	
Thursday	ST BRIDGET, RELIGIOUS, PATRON OF EUROPE, feast	
OP Rite	8.00 12.30 † Gregory & Rosada D'Silva 18.10 † Holy Souls	
Friday	Feria	
OP Rite	8.00 12.30 Thanks to St Antony 18.10 † Holy Souls	
Saturday	ST JAMES, APOSTLE, feast	
OP Rite	8.00 10.00 † Holy Souls 12.30 † Emerciana Lobo	
Next Sunday – Seventeenth Sunday per annum. Readings:		
2 Kings 4:42-44	Ephesians 4:1-6	John 6:1-15

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.

Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Education Service (NRCDES) are seeking to appoint a new Director of Education. Further details are available from either Julie Sweeney - julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk - or from the Diocesan Education Service website - www.nottingham-des.org.uk. Closing date 10th September 2015.

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.

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
HOLYDAYS 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