

Our Holy Father St Augustine

This Friday, 28th August, will be the feast of St Augustine, both in the 'ordinary form' Mass and for the Dominican rite. Although Dominicans naturally speak of St Dominic as 'our holy father', the same phrase is occasionally used of St Augustine too. This is because when St Dominic was founding the Order in the 13th century, the pope told him to adopt one of the existing 'rules of life' in the Church, as there were already enough of them! So he chose the 'rule of St Augustine', as best suited to his purpose.

St Augustine was born in the middle of the 4th century, in what is now Algeria (he is not to be confused with the St Augustine who helped re-evangelise England, two centuries later). According to a misguided, but widespread, custom of the 4th century, he was not baptised as a baby, although he was given the blessed salt traditionally imparted to catechumens. His family was middle-class, but rather poor, and they had to scrape together money for an education suited to his obvious gifts. He became a 'rhetorician': a combination of university teacher and government spokesman. In his twenties he lived with a woman who was not his wife, and got involved with a non-Christian religion popular at the time. Grace broke upon him in Milan: he had started going to the cathedral to listen to the chant, which he found beautiful, but ended by being converted through the preaching of St Ambrose, the bishop. He gave up his career to serve God. He gathered a small community of like-minded friends; like St Thomas More, he had a gift for friendship. He wanted to live secluded, but was dragged back into public life, first as a priest and then as bishop of Hippo.

His most famous work is probably the *Confessions*, in which he describes the first 43 years of his life. It is the one to read if you want to know St Augustine the man. After that is *The City of God*, where he surveys all human history in the light of faith: "Two loves have built two cities: the love of self even to the despising of God, the city of the earth; the love of God even to the despising of self, the city of God." History is the meeting of these two cities. Against the 'Church of North Africa', a group that had separated from the Catholic Church, he maintained the truth that bad and good people will be mingled in the Church until the Last Judgement (this is not to be confused, as is sometimes done today, with the idea that you can believe what you want and still call yourself a Catholic!). Against the people called 'Pelagians', he defended the truth that we cannot do anything of ourselves to draw nearer to God, unless He first draws us by His grace.

He loved to preach to his people, especially about the psalms, and they loved to hear him; though he told other preachers that the tears of the people, not their applause, would indicate that they were doing their job well. In his last illness he had 4 penitential psalms hung round his bed and recited them constantly. The Roman world also was in its agony: he could not know that a more Christian world would rise again, thanks to his own life and work. Pray to St Augustine! Ask him to pray for his spiritual sons! Fr Thomas

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

23 August 2015

The Newsletter of HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER

www.holycrossleicester.org



Entrance Antiphon:	Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.
1st Reading:	Joshua 24:1-2a. 15-17. 18b
Psalm R:	O taste and see that the Lord is good! (Ps 34)
2nd Reading:	Ephesians 5:21-32
Alleluia:	Your words, Lord, are spirit and life; you have the words of eternal life.
Gospel:	John 6:60-69
Communion Antiphon:	<i>Either:</i> The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart. <i>Or:</i> Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, says the Lord, and I will raise him up on the last day.

Baptism Preparation: the next session is on **6 September**; 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.

Ordination to the priesthood here at Holy Cross. You may recall that Bishop Patrick, in his pastoral letter last month, mentioned forthcoming ordinations in the diocese. One of the ordinands is Kevin Athaide, and many people may well recall that he was a server here some years ago (as was, incidentally, his brother Keith). His ordination will be on **Saturday 12 September at 11.30am**, and we do hope as many people as possible will be able to attend this very special occasion.

Assist us to live, not die. The Bishops of England and Wales have produced a postcard for constituents to send to their MPs asking them to vote against the Assisted Dying Bill on 11 September. Most doctors do not want to be licensed to prescribe legal drugs. The BMA and the Royal Colleges of GPs and Physicians oppose a change in the law. Please take a postcard from the tables by the doors and send it to your MP.

The Influences of the Dominican Order in the Middle Ages. This three-day conference in Oxford will have as its keynote paper 'The Vital Impact of the Dominicans on Books at the University of Paris, 1217-1350'. The programme will feature papers on the Dominican influence in England, Northern Europe, Italy, Eastern Europe, and the Byzantine world; the influence of Friars on other movements and communities; Dominican influence on architecture, art, books, music and liturgy; and influential Dominican philosophers and theologians. In addition, the conference will include a walking tour of medieval Oxford, and a concert of music that can be associated with the Dominican Order. **Thursday 10 September (all day) to Saturday 12 September (all day).** See english.op.org/latest-news.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £1839.47 (of which £974.50 was Gift Aided and £864.97 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 £1.56; Friends of Holy Cross £6.23; Holy Souls £42.64; Grenada Church Restoration £ - .

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

Lost Property. If you have left anything in the church, please reclaim it from the sacristy – just see any friar or server. We have a selection of hats, spectacles, etc...

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.

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.



From today's Gospel:
"We know that you are the Holy One of God."

VOLUNTEERS WANTED. More volunteers are needed to serve tea/coffee/refreshments after the 10.30 am Mass. If you can support the current team of servers please contact Tony on 0116 270 7953 or tonyscarb@outlook.com. This is an enjoyable opportunity to get to know other parishioners in an informal setting. Any offers of help on an occasional basis would be most welcome.

World Youth Day July 2016 – Kraków. Celebrate your faith with Pope Francis and 2 million young people from all over the world! You are invited to join a small local group (minimum age 18 years by next July). Cost: approx £400 including travel, meals, accommodation, all events and insurance. Limited places. Contact: Angela Bailey tel: 07758 270044.

Ride & Stride. We have been invited to join the Leicester Cathedral Walking Group on a walk around the City Centre churches, starting at St James the Greater at 9.45am on Saturday 12 September. Please get sponsorship beforehand, and there is nothing to stop you breaking off the walk at 11.30am to come to the Ordination here.

VACANCY: Justice and Peace Fieldworker, Diocese of Nottingham. If interested, please contact Liz Doona on 01773 785196 or at liz.doona@ntlworld.com for further information. Closing date for applications: 12 noon on **Monday 24 August**.

Please join us in the Parish Hall after the 10.30 am 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.

Year 1	This week's calendar & Mass Intentions	Psalter Week 1
Sunday	Twenty-first Sunday per annum	
Vigil	18.10	
	8.00 St Dominic - thanksgiving	
Sung	10.30 ☩ Gregory & Rosada D'Silva	
OP Rite	12.30	
	19.00 <i>Pro populo</i>	
Monday	ST BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE	
OP Rite	8.00	
	12.30	
	18.10 ☩ Holy Souls	
Tuesday	Feria	
OP Rite	8.00 ☩ Dead of the Order of Preachers	
	12.30 ☩ Eric Collier	
	18.10	
Wednesday	Bl Dominic Barberi	
OP Rite	8.00	
	12.30 Maureen Fernandes	
	18.10	
Thursday	St Monica	
OP Rite	8.00	
	12.30 Hazel Fernandes & family	
	18.10	
Friday	ST AUGUSTINE, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH	
OP Rite	8.00 ☩ Holy Souls	
	12.30	
	18.10	
Saturday	The Passion of St John the Baptist	
OP Rite	8.00	
	10.00 ☩ Holy Souls	
	12.30	
Next Sunday – Twenty-second Sunday per annum. Readings:		
Deuteronomy 4:1-2.6-8	James 1:17-18.21-22.27	Mark 7:1-8.14-15.21-23

VACANCY: 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.

News from the Parish Shop:

- ◆ The August edition of the Diocesan newspaper, *Catholic News*, is 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.

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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