

EXALTATION of the CROSS

What a crazy thing to do – to glorify the brutal instrument the Romans used to execute thousands of criminals! Such a horrific sight was meant to deter other would be troublemakers.

So, why do we Christians glory in the cross, wear it round our necks and hang it in our homes? St Paul tells us that the folly of the cross defies the wisdom of human reason. Not that the pain of Christ's crucifixion was good in itself. It was brutal and unjust. And He was no masochist, who delighted in suffering.

But Christ used His death on the cross as the means to saving the world from the power of sin and death. Far from being defeated as a tragic, misguided failure Christ was triumphantly enthroned as king of heaven and earth, on the very instrument, which was meant to humiliate and destroy him – the cross. Pilate condemned him as king; the Roman soldiers crowned him with thorns and mocked him. The crowds taunted this crucified king. Even in mockery they were all so right in calling Jesus 'king,' but none of them understood the nature of his sovereignty.

That's the triumph of the goodness of love over the evil of hatred. By dying He has destroyed the power of death, and opened the way for us to share His divine life. As Jesus hung upon the cross it was as though, as man, He stretched out one hand to His heavenly Father, and as God, He stretched the other hand to us sinners. In His crucified person Jesus drew God and us sinners together in love. Paul speaks of Christ reconciling us to God through the blood of the cross.

In St John's Gospel Jesus expresses the Exaltation of the Cross by using the phrase 'Lifted up.' This harks back to Isaiah's Suffering Servant of the Lord who would be exalted as the triumphant saviour of the world. The phrase 'Lifted up' also harks back to the brazen serpent, which Moses raised up in the desert, as a sign of God's healing mercy for those who looked upon it and repented for their sins. Now Christ, lifted up on the cross, is the source and sign of God's mercy for all who believe in Him. When He is raised on high, triumphantly on the cross, He will draw us up, with Him, to share in His victory over evil. Then, indeed, we will know that He is the God of infinite love, mercy and power – our saviour.

Many churches have been dedicated to the Holy Cross. But there's a special reason for ours. The Dominicans who brought the faith back to Leicester in the 18th century came from Holy Cross Priory in Bornhem, Flanders. And we have a relic of the true cross, which is said to have belonged to Mary Queen of Scots. But on this feast every Christian celebrates Christ's victory over the power of sin and a death – a triumph he achieved through His death on the cross.

Isidore O.P.

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Year B

13 September 2015

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

www.holycrossleicester.org



Entrance Antiphon:	We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered.
1st Reading:	Numbers 21:4b-9
Psalm R:	<i>At 10.30: Never forget the deeds of the Lord. Otherwise: Do not forget the works of the Lord! (Ps 78)</i>
2nd Reading:	Philippians 2:6-11
Alleluia:	We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you because by your Cross you have redeemed the world.
Gospel:	John 3:13-17
Communion Antiphon:	When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself, says the Lord.

Baptism Preparation: the next session is on Sunday 4 October; 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 repose of the soul of **William Spendilow** who died last weekend. Over the years he was a server, a member of the Choir, and latterly a member of the Gospel Choir. He was ever cheerful, no matter what, and invariably impeccably dressed whatever the occasion. His funeral Mass will be here at Holy Cross on Thursday at 10.00am. *Requiescat in pace.*

Holy Cross Gospel Choir always welcomes newcomers and beginners and no experience or audition is needed to join us. So, if you would like to have some fun and meet new people, please come to St. Clement's Hall – entrance next to the priory car park – on Tuesdays from 7.00 to 8.45pm. Contact Jeff for more details (0116) 243 1289.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED. More volunteers are needed to serve tea/coffee/refreshments after the 10.30am Sunday 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.

The **Leicester Theological Society's** next talk will be given on **Wednesday 16 September** by The Very Revd David Monteith, the Dean of Leicester, and entitled "Richard III: theological issues". Meetings are held **here at Holy Cross, in St Clement's Hall** at 7:30pm (normally on Fridays, but this one is an exception). Visitors are welcome (£5; students no charge). The Theological Society is an ecumenical organisation, founded in 1959. Its aim is to provide a platform for serious theological debate which is both challenging to those with theological training and intelligible to the thinking lay person. The Society welcomes both new members and others who may find it more convenient to attend occasional meetings.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £1180.03 (of which £347.50 was Gift Aided and £832.53 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 £3.68; Friends of Holy Cross £13.80; Holy Souls £2.26; Grenada Church Restoration £ - .

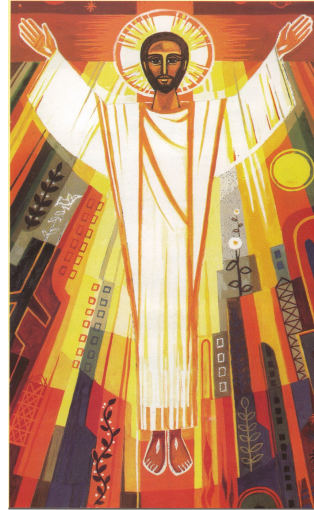
200 Club. Last month's winners were: 79, M Ryan £150; 96, B Brooker £100; and 14, A Devereux-Lacey £50. Congratulations!

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

David and Christina Mottram managed to complete their 100 mile tandem cycle ride around Leicestershire last Sunday. Thanks to all who sponsored them – they have made over £500 so far, 25% for Masaya Link group and 75% for Salt of the Earth charity supporting the SCAD NGO in Tamil Nadu, South India, working with excluded groups in local villages, which they visited in January 2015. Any further contributions will be very welcome! See www.virginmoneygiving.com/DavidMottram. Thank you.

Ride & Stride. If you have sponsorship money from yesterday's event, please contact Bernard Marriott on 0116 285 6158 to make arrangements for passing the money to the Historic Churches Trust. Many thanks, especially to those who sponsored riders or were themselves sponsored.

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.



From today's Gospel:
"God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but that through him the world might be saved."

DIVINE: A Confrontation in Photography. There is an exhibition in the abbey church at Mount St Bernard from 14 September to 3 October, 10am to 12 noon, and 2.30 to 5.30pm. In September 2013 the photographer Andreas Reiner visited some Vincentian sisters in Bavaria. He was struck to see how their faith-filled lives, dedicated to the relief of human suffering, were so radiant with joy. His photographs convey deeply pondered responses to the human condition. They are set to challenge as well as delight. See handbills on tables by the doors.

The Rose without a Thorn: the Story of Katheryn Howard. The Kirby Muxloe Players present this play from Wednesday 7 October to Saturday 10 October at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Tickets £8. Contact 07804 435 235 or visit www.kirbyplayers.co.uk.

This week we have seen the arrival of Fr Robert Gay OP among us, and he will shortly be assigned to us from Oxford, to be permanently resident in Leicester. Fr Robert has previously been University Chaplain in Edinburgh and Hall Bursar at Blackfriars Oxford. Please give him a warm welcome.

Year 1	This week's calendar & Mass Intentions	Psalter Week 4
Sunday	THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS, TITULAR FEAST OF OUR PRIORY CHURCH	
Vigil	18.10 Mary Lee 8.00 <i>Pro populo</i>	
Sung	10.30 <i>Fr Kevin Athaid's first Mass</i>	
OP Rite	12.30 Violet Emerson 19.00 ✠ Susan McNally (anniversary)	
Monday	Feria	
OP Rite	8.00 Bernice - thanks for graces received 12.30 For world peace 18.10 Steven & Felia Goodhealt (int of Mary our Mother)	
Tuesday	Our Lady of Sorrows	
OP Rite	8.00 ✠ Dead of the Order of Preachers 12.30 ✠ Roy Jones 18.10 Paddy Turner (sick)	
Wednesday	Sts Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs	
OP Rite	8.00 ✠ William Spendilow 12.30 ✠ William Spendilow 18.10 ✠ William Spendilow	
Thursday	St Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	
OP Rite	8.00 ✠ Holy Souls 10.00 <i>Funeral of William Spendilow</i> 12.30 ✠ Pauline McKeavor 18.10 ✠ Eileen Quinn	
Friday	St John Macias, Religious	
OP Rite	8.00 ✠ Eileen Quinn 12.30 Private intention 18.10 ✠ Holy Souls	
Saturday	Feria	
OP Rite	8.00 ✠ Holy Souls 10.00 ✠ Cruz & Henriqueta Andrade 12.30 ✠ Eileen Quinn	
Next Sunday – Twenty-fifth Sunday per annum. Today is Home Mission Day. Readings:		
Wisdom 2:12.17-20	James 3:16-4:3	Mark 9:30-37

News from the Parish Shop:

- ◆ The September edition of the Diocesan newspaper, *Catholic News*, is available, price 20p.
- ◆ We have a selection of Ordination cards.

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.

Donations for Refugees and Asylum Seekers. We are really grateful for the parish's continuing magnificent response to the appeal, but do please note that the only acceptable gifts of food are non perishables. These people also need toiletries, baby items, kitchen utensils, shopping and mobile phone top-up vouchers, and stationery. The amounts you give are most generous and really welcome, and we hope you can keep it up.

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
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