

## We must press on towards Bethlehem

“**L**umen requirunt lumine”. These evocative words from a liturgical hymn for the Epiphany speak of the experience of the Magi: following a light, they were searching for *the* Light. The star appearing in the sky kindled in their minds and in their hearts a light that moved them to seek the great Light of Christ. The Magi followed faithfully that light which filled their hearts, and they encountered the Lord.

The destiny of every person is symbolized in this journey of the Magi of the East: our life is a journey, illuminated by the lights which brighten our way, to find the fullness of truth and love which we Christians recognize in Jesus, the Light of the World. Like the Magi, every person has two great “books” which provide the signs to guide this pilgrimage: the book of creation and the book of sacred Scripture. What is important is that we be attentive, alert, and listen to God who speaks to us, who always speaks to us. As the Psalm says in referring to the Law of the Lord: “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Ps 119:105). Listening to the Gospel, reading it, meditating on it and making it our spiritual nourishment especially allows us to encounter the living Jesus, to experience him and his love.

The Magi were able to overcome the dangerous moment of darkness before Herod, because they believed the Scriptures, the words of the prophets which indicated that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. And so they fled the darkness and dreariness of the night of the world. They resumed their journey towards Bethlehem and there they once more saw the star, and the gospel tells us that they experienced “a great joy” (Mt 2:10). The very star which could not be seen in that dark, worldly palace.

On the feast of the Epiphany, as we recall Jesus’ manifestation to humanity in the face of a Child, may we sense the Magi at our side, as wise companions on the way. Their example helps us to lift our gaze towards the star and to follow the great desires of our heart. They teach us not to be content with a life of mediocrity, of “playing it safe”, but to let ourselves be attracted always by what is good, true and beautiful... by God, who is all of this, and so much more! And they teach us not to be deceived by appearances, by what the world considers great, wise and powerful. We must not stop at that. It is necessary to guard the faith. Today this is of vital importance: to keep the faith. We must press on further, beyond the darkness, beyond the voices that raise alarm, beyond worldliness, beyond so many forms of modernity that exist today. We must press on towards Bethlehem, where, in the simplicity of a dwelling on the outskirts, beside a mother and father full of love and of faith, there shines forth the Sun from on high, the King of the universe. By the example of the Magi, with our little lights, may we seek the Light and keep the faith. May it be so.

*From a sermon of Pope Francis given on the Epiphany, 2014*

Epiphany

Year C

3 January 2016

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

[www.holycrossleicester.org](http://www.holycrossleicester.org)



<b>Entrance Antiphon:</b>	<i>Vigil:</i> Arise, Jerusalem, and look to the East and see your children gathered from the rising to the setting of the sun. <i>Day:</i> Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b>	Isaiah 60:1-6
<b>Psalm <math>\text{R}</math>:</b>	<i>At 10.30:</i> All nations shall fall prostrate before you O Lord. <i>Otherwise:</i> Lord, all nations on earth will adore you. (Ps 72)
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b>	Ephesians 3:2-3a.5-6
<b>Alleluia:</b>	We have seen his star in the east, and have come to worship the Lord.
<b>Gospel:</b>	Matthew 2:1-12
<b>Communion Antiphon:</b>	<i>Vigil:</i> The brightness of God illumined the holy city Jerusalem, and the nations will walk by its light. <i>Day:</i> We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

**Baptism Preparation:** the next session is **TODAY, Sunday 3 January**; please come to the sacristy at the end of the 10.30am Mass. If you wish to have your child baptised here, you need to attend one of these sessions, usually held on the first Sunday of each month.

#### News from the Parish Shop:

Having the Holy Door, we expect an increase in the number of visitors, and the shop has a range of souvenirs, many of which will be of interest to parishioners:

- ◆ *A Short History of the Dominicans in Leicester* by Fr Isidore for £2;
- ◆ Copies of the drawing of the nave and sanctuary by Brian Hollingshead for £1 (large) and 25p (postcard);
- ◆ Notelet with a colour photograph of the stained glass window in the south transept, £1;
- ◆ *Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour*, a full colour booklet, £4;
- ◆ *Novena to Our Lady of the Meadows*, another full colour booklet, £2 (Our Lady of the Meadows was the dedication of Leicester Abbey, the remains of which are next to Abbey Park).

#### In addition:

- ◆ A few diaries are still available;
- ◆ The Diocesan Yearbook for 2016 is available, still at £3;
- ◆ The January edition of *Catholic News*, the diocesan newspaper, is available for 20p.

*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.*



The Dominican Community wish all our parishioners and visitors a  
happy and holy Christmastide and New Year



**MONEY MATTERS:** Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £824.21 (of which £213.00 was Gift Aided and £611.21 was not) (previous week £1346.50 of which £387.40 was Gift Aided and £959.10 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. For two weeks: Solidarity Fund £7.32; Friends of Holy Cross £11.83; Holy Souls £7.38; Grenada Church Restoration £20.00. The retiring collection for Christmas flowers for the church came to £170.59 (of which £23.00 was Gift Aided and £147.59 was not).

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

Follow us on 'Facebook Holy Cross Priory Leicester (Dominicans)' for the latest news and updates on events here at Holy Cross.

Interested in becoming a Catholic? The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) course takes place each Monday at 7pm. This programme is aimed at those who are interested in becoming Catholics, whether they have not been baptised or baptised in a different Christian tradition, and it is geared to the reception of sacraments at Easter. It also caters for adult Catholics who have not been confirmed, or those who simply feel it is time for a refresher course. Please see Fr David.



Some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. "Where is the king of the Jews?" they asked. "We have come to do him homage."

**The Announcement of Easter and the Moveable Feasts.** On the Epiphany of the Lord, in keeping with an ancient practice, Holy Church announces the moveable feasts of the current year according to this formula: Know, dear brethren, brothers and sisters, that, as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, by leave of God's mercy we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection, who is our Saviour. On the tenth day of February will fall Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season. On the twenty-seventh day of March you will celebrate with joy Easter Day, the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ. On the eighth day of May will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. On the fifteenth day of May, the feast of Pentecost. On the twenty-ninth day of May, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. On the twenty-seventh day of November, the First Sunday of the Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

**The Year of Mercy Parish Pilgrimage** to Florence, Bologna and Siena will take place from 1 to 7 July. The cost will be £869, and Fr David has all the details.

**Events at the Aquinas Institute, Oxford:** ● the annual Aquinas Lecture on Wednesday 27 January at 5pm, by Prof. Herwi Rikhof of the Thomas Instituut te Utrecht on 'The Treasure of St Thomas' Theology of the Trinity'; ● the annual Aquinas Seminar series on "Aspects of Aquinas' Anthropology" begins on 28th January, Thursdays at 4.30pm, until 10th March, except for 3rd March when there will be an afternoon conference on "mourning" jointly sponsored by the Humane Philosophy Project; ● Dr. William Carroll will give a special lecture at 8pm on 1st March, on "Time and Creation in Albert, Bonaventure, and Thomas". Contact: Director of the Aquinas Institute at [richard.conrad@bfriars.ox.ac.uk](mailto:richard.conrad@bfriars.ox.ac.uk).

Year II	This week's calendar & Mass Intentions	Psalter Week 2
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b>	
Vigil	18.10 <i>Pro populo</i> 8.00 Hazel Fernandes	
Sung	10.30 ✠ Betty Gorman	
OP Rite	12.30 Intentions of Nancy 19.00 ✠ Joseph Vathallor	
<b>Monday</b>	<b>St Zdislava of Lemberk, Mother, Lay Dominican</b>	
OP Rite	8.00 Mass for peace 12.30 Bridie Furey (sick) 18.10 ✠ Jim & Mary Morton	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Feria</b>	
OP Rite	8.00 ✠ Dead of the Order of Preachers 12.30 Mass for peace 18.10 For persecuted Christians	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Feria</b>	
OP Rite	8.00 ✠ Holy Souls 12.30 Paul Murphy 18.10 Mass for peace	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>St Raymond of Penyafort, Priest</b>	
OP Rite	8.00 Bernice - spiritual and temporal welfare 12.30 Mrs V Murphy 18.10 Pat Archer (sick)	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Feria</b>	
OP Rite	8.00 Bernice - for Holy Souls in Purgatory 12.30 In honour of St Michael the Archangel 18.10 ✠ Holy Souls	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Feria</b>	
OP Rite	8.00 Bernice - for our Holy Guardian Angels 10.00 Baby Eve Willson 12.30 ✠ Holy Souls	
<b>Next Sunday – THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD. Readings:</b>		
	Isaiah 42:1-4.6-7	Acts 10:34-38 Luke 3:15-16.21-22

**Collection of goods for Refugees and Asylum Seekers.** Very many thanks to all of you who have donated to our collection of goods for asylum seekers and refugees. The need remains great. We have regularly taken very large amounts of goods to them, sometimes filling not just the boot but the whole passenger compartment of a car!

**However it is only worth giving goods that are going to be of immediate practical assistance to a person:** mainly food (non perishable of course), toiletries, baby clothes and requirements. Adult clothing is not so important and if given should be nearly new and in excellent condition; otherwise it will have to be thrown away – you would be better to give it to a charity shop run by one of the well known agencies. Domestic equipment such as crockery, pots and pans is acceptable if new or nearly new. **Electrical equipment should not be given.**

It is tempting to think that because you have no need for something it should be donated, but we ask you to consider carefully whether asylum seekers and refugees will be able to use it.

REGULAR SERVICE TIMES
<b>SUNDAYS</b> 8.00 Mass 9.00 Lauds 10.30 Sung Mass 12.30 Mass (Dominican Rite) - sung on 1st Sundays 18.00 Exposition, Rosary, Compline & Benediction 19.00 Mass
<b>MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS</b> 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
<b>SATURDAYS</b> 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
<b>HOLIDAYS OF OBLIGATION</b> 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
<b>BANK HOLIDAYS</b> 7.30 Lauds 8.00 Mass (Dominican Rite) 12.30 Mass, after which the church is closed
<b>Royal Infirmary Chaplaincy:</b> 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. <b>Universities' Chaplain:</b> Fr David Rocks: 0116 252 1512
<b>Baptism Preparation:</b> 1st Sunday of month after the 10.30 Mass. <b>Baptisms:</b> Saturday afternoons.
<b>Parish Website:</b> <a href="http://www.holycrossleicester.org">www.holycrossleicester.org</a> <b>Website &amp; Newsletter Editors:</b> <a href="mailto:web@holycrossleicester.org">web@holycrossleicester.org</a> <a href="mailto:holycrossnewsletter@gmail.com">holycrossnewsletter@gmail.com</a>
<b>CONTACT DETAILS</b> 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 <b>Parish Priest</b> Fr David Rocks 0116 252 1512 <a href="mailto:leicester@english.op.org">leicester@english.op.org</a>