

Call and Response

Today's 1st Reading and Gospel have a common theme – God's call and man's response. First, there's Isaiah – a court of officials; then, in the Gospel, there's the apostles – a group of fishermen. The circumstances of their call were very different. While Isaiah was praying in the temple he received an overwhelming sense of the awesome, majestic holiness of God in His heavenly court. Instinctively, Isaiah felt a sense of great unworthiness; he was unfit for God's presence. But after God's angel had touched and purified his lips Isaiah felt able to volunteer to be the Lord's messenger. He realised that when God asks us to do a job He owes it to Himself and us to give us the strength to carry out His will.

That was the case in today's Gospel, when Jesus chose the apostles. He'd just shown them a sign of His power and majesty – when He enabled them to make a miraculous catch of fish. But, like Isaiah, they were overcome by a great sense of unworthiness. Peter exclaimed, "*leave me, Lord. I am a sinful man!*" But, instead of going, Jesus, reassured Peter and His companions. "*Do not be afraid,*" He said; "*from now on it will be men you will catch.*" So they left everything and followed Jesus. Like the prophet Isaiah, they realised that the Lord's power and majesty, which at first had terrified them, would give them strength, not destroy them. With God on their side they could do whatever He asked of them.

And that is true for us, as it was for Isaiah and the apostles. To each one of us Jesus says, "*Follow me.*" God needs you and me – all of us; He's got something special for each of us to do. That will usually be within the circumstances we already find ourselves. Though we may not have to leave everything, God will expect total commitment from us, often requiring personal sacrifices of us; we can't just be part time, Sunday Christians.

But unlike Isaiah and the apostles, God usually doesn't reassure us with a demonstration of His power and majesty. Instead, Jesus has promised to be with us always. When, at our baptisms and confirmation, we were commissioned to share the faith we had received, The Spirit of the Lord came upon us, enabling us do the job He has given us. In general we've all been called to witness to our hope in the Good News of salvation, which Jesus has given us. Challenged to sum up that hope, what would you say? Pope Francis has given us the answer – compassionate, loving mercy. Mercy, he tells us, is the 'face of God;' mercy must be the face of us, His children, whom He has made in His own image and likeness. On Wednesday we will begin Lent. During this holy season we will prepare to enter into the spirit of the most profound expression of God's saving love and mercy, through the death and resurrection of His Son. To live the Good News of God's saving mercy we must seek forgiveness and show mercy. During this Year of Mercy let's resolve to make a special Lenten effort to be the human face of God's mercy – to be peacemakers – that was Christ's mission; that's what it must mean for us to answer Christ's call to follow Him.

Isidore O.P.

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year C

7 February 2016

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

www.holycrossleicester.org



Entrance Antiphon:	O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.
1st Reading:	Isaiah 6: 1-2a. 3-8
Psalm R:	<i>At 10.30: Before the angels I will bless you O Lord. Otherwise: Before the angels, I sing your praise, O Lord. (Ps 138)</i>
2nd Reading:	1 Corinthians 15: 1-11
Alleluia:	Follow me, says the Lord, and I will make you fishers of men.
Gospel:	Luke 5: 1-11
Communion Antiphon:	<i>Either: Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things. Or: Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be consoled. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall have their fill.</i>

Baptism Preparation: the next session is **TODAY, 7 February**; 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.

The Leicester Theological Society's next talk will be given on **Friday 12 February** by Dr Ann Conway-Jones, Honorary Research Fellow, Department of Theology and Religion, University of Birmingham, and the talk is entitled "Moses and the life of prayer". Meetings are held here at Holy Cross, in St Clement's Hall on Fridays at 7:30pm. Visitors are welcome (£5; students no charge).

News from the Parish Shop

- ◆ We have a range of Bibles and children's books at a variety of prices.
- ◆ There is a special section devoted to Divine Mercy.
- ◆ We have new rosaries.
- ◆ The latest issue of *Catholic News*, the diocesan newspaper is available for 20p, and includes an article on the work of 'Seeking Sanctuary' in helping migrants in the camp at Calais. See seekingsanctuary.weebly.com.

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.

Deanery Lenten Station Masses

These will be on Wednesdays at 7.30pm:

17 February, St Thomas More, Knighton;

2 March, Holy Cross;

24 February, St Joseph's, Goodwood;

9 March, St Mary's, Wigston.

On Ash Wednesday there will be an additional Mass here, at 7.15pm, sung and in the Dominican Rite.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £1007.74 (of which £320.68 was Gift Aided and £687.06 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 £2.81; Friends of Holy Cross £4.93; Holy Souls £24.43; Grenada Church Restoration £ - .

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

Service of Reconciliation for the City and County of Leicester. Bishop Patrick will lead this service here at 7pm on Tuesday 1 March. We look forward to welcoming Bishop Patrick on his first visit to Holy Cross, and the pilgrims who will come to visit our Holy Door.

Volunteer Befrienders for former homeless people. If you are interested in volunteering as a befriender for residents living independently in the community, 'One Roof Leicester' at St Martin's House is organising volunteers. If you are interested in being a befriender, training is required. The training will be over three hours and will cover: What is befriending, Roles and Responsibilities, and Ground rules and boundaries. If you have any questions then please email Santok Odedra at santok@oneroof.org.uk or call her on 07882 120 059.



"Do not be afraid; from now on it is men you will catch" - today's Gospel

A new style of Newsletter will be introduced in Lent. We hope that you will enjoy the new design!

Year of Mercy: Prayers for Healing. Special prayers will be said for three days from the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Thursday 11 February. There will be a special Mass on Saturday 13 February at 12.30pm, and prayers for healing will be said at the 10.30am Mass on the Sunday.

Celebration of Married Couples. Bishop Patrick will say a special Mass at St Barnabas' Cathedral, Nottingham, on Sunday 21 February at 3pm.

The Dominican Jubilee 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.

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 **Tuesday** at 7pm. This programme is for adults who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and First Holy Communion. Please see Fr David.

The new Holy League. Cardinal Raymund Burke has encouraged Catholic men to consider joining a new 'Holy League'. The original Holy League was a union of committed Catholic rulers formed in the 16th century to counter the attacks of heresy and paganism. The new one is being formed for the sake of spiritual combat in our troubled times. We plan to hold a holy hour on the 2nd Friday of each month, with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a short spiritual talk and opportunity for confessions. **The first will be on Friday 12th February at 7:45pm.** The Holy League is open to any Catholic man aged 18 or more. For more information speak to Fr Thomas, or see the web-site <http://holyleague.com/>.

Year II	This week's calendar & Mass Intentions	Psalter Wk 1/4
Sunday	Fifth Sunday per annum. Today is the Day for Unemployed People.	
Vigil	18.10 <i>Pro populo</i>	
	8.00 ✠ Sebastian d'Silva	
Sung	10.30 Xavier Fernandes	
OP Rite	12.30 Seter Mosoco	
	19.00 For refugees, especially those in legal difficulty	
Monday	ANNIVERSARY OF DECEASED PARENTS. Today is the Day for Victims of Trafficking	
OP Rite	8.00 ✠ Paul Harrison	
	12.30 ✠ Joanna Lopes	
	18.10 Private intention	
Tuesday	Feria	
OP Rite	8.00 ✠ Dead of the Order of Preachers	
	12.30 ✠ Patrick Gurney	
	18.10 ✠ Holy Souls	
	LENT	
	Lent is ordered to preparing for the celebration of Easter. The Lenten liturgy prepares for celebration of the Paschal Mystery so both catechumens, by the various stages of Christian Initiation, and the faithful, who recall their own Baptism, do penance.	
	Every day of Lent is a day of penance, on which Christ's faithful are in a special manner to devote themselves to prayer, to engage in works of piety and charity, and to deny themselves, by fulfilling their obligations more faithfully.	
	During Lent we are asked to pray for candidates for the sacraments; women; the needy and hungry of the world; and penitents and wanderers.	
Wednesday	ASH WEDNESDAY. There will be an additional Mass, at 7.15pm, sung and in the Dominican Rite.	
OP Rite	8.00 ✠ Holy Souls	
	12.30 ✠ Maria Lubek	
	18.10 ✠ Holy Souls	
Thursday	Our Lady of Lourdes	
OP Rite	8.00 ✠ Holy Souls	
	12.30 ✠ Una Leonard	
	18.10 ✠ Edward Collier	
Friday	Bl Reginald of Orléans	
OP Rite	8.00 ✠ Holy Souls	
	12.30 ✠ Holy Souls	
	18.10 Ray McColgan	
Saturday	Feria	
OP Rite	8.00	
	10.00	
	12.30 <i>Special Mass with Prayers for Healing</i>	
Next Sunday – First Sunday of Lent. Prayers are asked for candidates for the sacraments. Readings:		
Deuteronomy 26:4-10	Romans 10:8-13	Luke 4:1-13

The **Blessing of Throats**, traditionally imparted on the **Memorial of St Blaise**, will also be imparted after Masses today, **Sunday 7 February**.

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) - sung on 1st Sundays
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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