

HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH



SUNDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2016 THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS – YEAR C

· A ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH · THE DOMINICAN PRESENCE IN LEICESTER SINCE 1247 ·

FROM THE PRIOR'S DESK

Holy Cross Day is always a very special occasion. It is a time for us to reflect especially on all the wonderful things that make our community here in Leicester into a living witness of the Gospel we proclaim. It is a particular joy to welcome our new Prior Provincial, Fr Martin Ganeri OP, to be with us on this day for his first visit to us as Provincial. We are pleased to welcome him, and we are grateful that he has made a special effort to join our celebration.

It is just a very small piece of the Holy Cross, our precious Relic, that is enshrined here for the people of Leicester and gives us our dedication. It has always been a symbol in Leicester of the courage and dedication of previous generations, who had the foresight and the vision to develop our Church and Priory as a place for ministry and witness. We know the profound faith, hope and charity that went into their work.

It is 199 years since all of this began, and this day marks the beginning of our preparations to mark the 200th Anniversary of Holy Cross in the years between 2017 and 2019. This is an opportunity for us to prepare for the third century of ministry on this site and in these buildings, so that we can pass on to future generations what has been entrusted to us.

Each person in our Holy Cross Family can contribute a small piece of themselves to our future development. As a community in the last number of years we have achieved a great deal together. As we approach the Holy Cross Assembly in October, let's use today as a time of prayer and encouragement as we continue to build On Firm Foundations.

Fr David

DEVOTION TO THE MOST HOLY ROSARY

The Holy Rosary has always been a powerful preaching device for the Dominican Order, and today we launch our **Living Rosary** Initiative, to make the Rosary a greater part of our personal prayer, our family life, and our prayer as a community. *Please see the documents that explain how the Living Rosary works.* We also hope that many of you will join us on our **Rosary Pilgrimage to St Dominic's Priory in London, on Saturday 22 October.** The coach will leave the Priory here at 8am and the cost will be £15. On this occasion, **Cardinal Nichols** will institute our Priory there as a **Shrine to Our Lady of the Rosary.** Please place your names in the shop if you wish to attend this wonderful and historic pilgrimage.



IUBILÆUM 800 1216-2016
ORDO PRÆDICATORUM

NOTICE BOARD

BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you wish to have your child baptised, please attend one of our baptism preparation sessions. The next is Sunday 2 October, after the 10:30am Mass in St Clement's Hall.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CONFIRMATION

Forms for children and young people who wish to receive these sacraments in the new academic year (2016-17) are now in the Church. Please fill in and return.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Couples who are preparing for the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony should make an appointment with the Parish Priest in the first instance.

BECOMING CATHOLIC

Any adult who wishes to become a Catholic or receive Confirmation should join our RCIA programme, which begins in the Autumn Term.

VISITING THE SICK

The Faithful who are sick and housebound can arrange a visit from a priest or special minister by calling 0116 252 1501.

FAMILY VISITS

Families who would like a house blessing or a pastoral visit at home, can make arrangements by calling 0116 252 1501

HOLY CROSS ASSEMBLY AND QUESTIONNAIRE

The Holy Cross Assembly will take place **on Saturday 15th October 2016**. Everyone is **warmly invited** to attend this important event. The Assembly is an opportunity to gather together as a community to discuss the life of our community and to think together about **how we can build on the good** we already do in order to make things even better. We strongly encourage you and your families to attend this important event in the life of our community - we would very much like to hear your views and ideas.

To begin the process of gathering people's views the **Pastoral Core Group** has produced a **questionnaire** which will be distributed this weekend. Please make every effort to **complete the questionnaire** as fully as possible when it comes out and to **attend the Assembly** on 15th October. **Lunch will be provided.**

SOME EVENTS COMING UP ...

- Gospel Choir – **Tuesday 13 September** at 7:00pm, St Clement's.
- Mass for St Teresa of Calcutta – 12:30pm on Saturday 24 September
- Brahms' German Requiem – 7:30pm on Saturday 24 September

BREAKFAST CLUB AND MEET FOR A TREAT

Breakfast Club after **8am Mass** and **Meet for a Treat** after **10:30am Mass** will start again on **Sunday 2nd October** and take place on the first Sunday of each month. **Come along and join us**, and lend a hand if you can!

MASS FOR ST TERESA OF CALCUTTA

On Saturday 24 September at 12:30pm, we will celebrate a special Mass of Thanksgiving for the Canonisation of St Teresa of Calcutta.

ST CLEMENT'S HALL RENOVATIONS

Many of you will remember that St Clement's Hall was vandalised earlier in the year. It has now been repaired, with the projector replaced, and a new sound system has been installed, at a cost of £5,000. We are hoping that we can raise some money to cover the cost of this outlay. There will be collections after Mass next Sunday for this purpose. Thank you for your continued generosity.

THE DOMINICAN COMMUNITY

Fr David Rocks OP PP *Prior*; Fr Isidore Clarke OP; Fr Fabian Radcliffe OP;
Fr Neil Ferguson OP; Fr Thomas Crean OP; Fr Gregory Murphy OP;
Fr Robert Gay OP CC *Subprior, Bursar*.

Office Administrator: *Mrs Rachael Powell* – leicester.admin@english.op.org
Lay University Chaplain: *Mr George Ralph* – george.ralph@english.op.org
Director of Music: *Mr Thomas Keogh* – thomas@thomaskeogh.co.uk

For the Office Administrator, please call **0116 252 1501**

Holy Cross Priory, 45 Wellington Street, LE1 6HW. Tel: 0116 255 385

For more details, visit: www.holycrossleicester.org

MASS TIMES

Sundays:

8am; 10:30am (sung);
12:30pm (old rite);
7pm

Weekdays:

8am (old rite);
12:30pm; 6:10pm

Saturdays:

8am (old rite);
10am; 12.30pm;
6:10pm Vigil Mass for Sunday

CONFESSION

Saturdays:

10:30-11:30am
5:00-6:00pm

MONEY MATTERS

Last week's collections:

£ 1,245.64

(Gift aided: £ 584.80)

**Woodhouse
Community**

£ 123.20

(Gift aided: £86.00)

*This week's second
collection is for the
Catholic Education Service
(CESEW)*

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!**



THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

READINGS FOR THE 24TH SUNDAY

1ST READING: NUMBERS 21:4-9

The reading envisions a cross shaped standard with the bronze serpent wrapped around it; a foreshadowing of the healing power of the Cross. To this day traditional snake removers in Egypt use a cross shaped implement to remove unwanted snakes from people's houses. The brazen serpent is also the emblem of the Royal Society of Medicine.

2ND READING: PHILIPPIANS 2:6-11

St Paul's great hymn to the divinity and humanity of the Lord. It is a compact course in the doctrine of the Incarnation. The death on the Cross is emphasized to show the depth of God's saving love for us.

GOSPEL READING: JOHN 3:13-17

Our Lord refers to the incident in the desert to symbolize his Crucifixion thus showing the continuity of Scripture. Our Lord was "lifted up" at the Crucifixion and continues to be sacramentally "lifted up" at the Elevation during Mass. We can look at the Sacred Species at the moment and say "My Lord and my God."

DOMINICAN RITE MASS, XVII SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

EPISTLE: EPHESIANS 4:1-6

Here St Paul explains the only sure basis for authentic unity: by sharing in the divine life of the Holy and undivided Trinity.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 22:34-46

The Trinitarian theme is taken up by the Gospel reading. Our Lord shows his interlocutors that even the Psalm prophetically speak of the mystery of the Triune God.

NEXT SUNDAY –

TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY *PER ANNUM*; EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (EF)

God does not call you to be successful.

He calls you to be faithful.

St Teresa of Calcutta

The Jubilee Prayer

God, Father of mercy, who called your servant St Dominic 800 years ago to found the Order of Preachers in the service of your Gospel, renew within the Church as we celebrate this Jubilee the Spirit of the Risen Christ, that we might faithfully and joyfully walk with St. Dominic as pilgrims and preachers of grace. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE WORD AT WORK: OUR WEEKLY REFLECTION

A DOMINICAN ROAD MAP – COMMUNITY LIFE

Fr David continues his series of reflections on the Dominican way of life, inspired by the 800th Jubilee of our Order and the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy.

The preaching of the Gospel is a privilege entrusted by the Lord to those he has called and chosen. Dominican Preaching seeks to communicate the fruits of contemplation to others, so it must be rooted in a life rich in charity. The Dominican Preacher is granted this privilege not to display his gifts and expertise, but to channel God's grace. He does this in the context of a community life, in which he shares and celebrates charity with his brethren.

The Dominican Community is the place where the Preacher lives Christ's command to 'Love one another'. In so doing, the Preacher experiences the joy and support of loving his brothers, but is called also to bear with them patiently as they live the Gospel together, and learn God's will in unity and peace. Community life is a humbling experience, but never one that is humiliating. The charity of the Community is an expression of the faith and hope that have drawn it together and unite it. The living of community life is itself a sacred preaching to those without. It is also a constant preaching to the members of the community, who preach to each other in the merciful encounter with God that they experience in wrestling with weakness and growing in grace.

Dominican life is a particular way of becoming the person God is calling us to be. This is achieved in the generous and joyful living of our common life together in the Order, inspired by the example of our Dominican Saints. Those who have gone before us guide and protect us. We can learn much from them, and they offer us the witness of their religious lives, the fruit of their contemplation. Through following the Dominican Way, there are many who have become, through the joys and sorrows of their own religious lives, the people that God called them to be. Our common life does not demand that we become another St Dominic, St Catherine or St Thomas. In following Christ's example and in obedience to his command, we can realise God's intimate love for us as individuals, and we can rejoice in being more fully ourselves, full of confidence that our salvation is at hand.

Our Dominican Community life is rooted on our dedicated following of Jesus Christ, being committed to the preaching of the Gospel. By living together in community, we remain faithful to the traditions of the Order, to pass on our way of life to those who come after us. Following the Rule of St Augustine and guided by the Constitutions of our Order, we seek to live out more fully our baptismal calling, faithful to our vow of Obedience, together with a life of Poverty and Chastity. Our common life is centred on our Lord's command to love God and one another.

We are sent out on our apostolate by the community and return to our communities to be refreshed by the prayers and goodwill of the community. We strive to share our faith and doubts with each other. In wrestling with the truth together we make sense of who we are, and what we are called to be in the light of the Gospel. Our community life together is a prayerful life, which enables a silence to listen to God and to each other. Our Families, our Parishes, our Schools – they can be like this too.

Fr David Rocks O.P.