



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 8TH JANUARY 2017

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, YEAR A

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

FROM THE PRIOR'S DESK

A warm welcome back for 2017! We managed to achieve a great deal here at Holy Cross during 2016, so please God we will build on all that good work in the year ahead. Following from the new life of the Christmas season, we look forward to the coming of springtime and all the wonderful celebrations that the Church provides for us during the year. A new term has started in our schools, and many of the students at our two universities in the city return to sit examinations. An important opportunity to celebrate the new knowledge and skills acquired!

As we move into the new term, many things will be starting to happen. In January, there will be the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity, and we are invited to share a joint service in that special week. We also look forward to welcoming +Patrick our Bishop to Holy Cross, to celebrate the conclusion of our 800 Jubilee Year. This is an occasion for us to look back with pride and thanksgiving, but also to look forward in hope, that the Spirit of the Risen Christ will be renewed in each of us, and we will faithfully and joyfully walk with St Dominic as pilgrims and preachers of grace, as we have so often prayed this year. Our sacramental programmes will also soon be under way, to celebrate the Sacraments of Easter, and for our families in the summer term.

As we look forward in hope to all we can achieve together, I wish to offer a profound word of thanks to you all for your magnanimous generosity during Christmastide, and for all your support over the years.

Fr David

800TH JUBILEE – A CELEBRATION OF THANKSGIVING

The final day of our Jubilee Year is 21 January, when the Holy Father will celebrate Mass at the Lateran Basilica in Rome. We are delighted that **+Patrick our Bishop** will join us for a **Mass of Thanksgiving for Dominican Life in our Diocese** on **Saturday 28 January 2017 at 12:30pm**. This will be an opportunity to give thanks for everything we have celebrated during this special year.

CHRISTMAS 2016 – A WORD OF THANKS.

We wish to offer our sincere thanks to all who contributed so generously to our Christmas offering. The final total for our collection was £4,133 – a significant rise from last year. We thank also those who use Gift Aid on their donations where possible. In addition, grateful thanks for the many cards, gifts, good wishes, that were offered to the Dominican Community. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass has been offered for all your intentions.



NOTICE BOARD

BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you wish to have your child baptised, please attend one of our baptism preparation sessions. The next is Sunday 5 February, 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

MISSION APPEAL – MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA, NEXT WEEK

*The Missionaries of Africa (the White Fathers), will make the annual Mission Appeal in our Parish next weekend. We look forward to welcoming Fr Joseph Cummins M.Afr. to deliver the appeal. Each year, every diocese is allocated a missionary society which will make the Annual Appeal in each parish. **The Dominican Fathers are one such missionary organisation, and we are welcomed into many parishes in England and Wales to promote and develop our missionary work abroad.** Please give generously to the Appeal, and we look forward to learning about the work of the White Fathers in Africa today.*

OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS

We offer our sincere sympathy and prayers to the families of two long-standing parishioners who have died during the Christmas Season:

- Helen Ethel Pope, who died on Christmas Day aged 92. Her Funeral will be celebrated on Monday 14 January at 11:30am here at Holy Cross.
- Michael Johnson KSG, who died last week, a former Lord Mayor of Leicester. Michael's funeral will be celebrated on Friday 20 January at 11am at Holy Cross.

To both families we offer our condolences and support at this sad time, but also our grateful thanks for their service and devotion to our community over so many years. Many they rest in peace.

BECOMING A CATHOLIC

An information evening for any adult who is interested in becoming a Catholic, or any adult Catholics who require the Sacrament of Confirmation, will be held on 26 January at 7pm in the Hall. Please spread the word!

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Our Sunday Holy Hour, 6-7pm – Rosary, Compline, Benediction.
- In the New Year – there will be a new Thursday evening course starting in late January for six weeks. More details coming soon.
- Shared Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – 7pm at Leicester Cathedral, 25 January 2017. Organised by Churches Together.

THE DOMINICAN COMMUNITY

Fr David Rocks OP PP *Prior*; Fr Isidore Clarke OP; Fr Fabian Radcliffe OP;
Fr Neil Ferguson 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 252 1501

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:

£ 1471.35

(Gift aided: £ 836.04)

Woodhouse Collection

£ 141.20

(Gift aided: £ 101.00)

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*



THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

READINGS FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE NATIVITY, THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

1ST READING: ISAIAH 60:1-6

The main image in today's feast is light and revelation, and the beautiful passage from Isaiah sees Jerusalem glowing with holy light as God shines upon her. We are reminded of the beginning of John's Gospel: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it." Isaiah also prophesies the bringing in of the Gentiles into God's kingdom of light.

2ND READING: EPHESIANS 3:2-3, 5-6

St Paul takes up this theme of the pagans, or gentiles, being drawn into the Mystical Body of Christ, which grows out of the Jewish people. St Paul famously received a special revelation of this part of God's plan.

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 2:1-12

It was a common thing in the Ancient World for men of the leisured and scholarly classes to gaze at the stars and try to foretell the future, or analyse a certain event. The story of the wise men is an entirely plausible one. The fear and cruelty of Herod also match everything else we know about him. The birth of Christ immediately has enormous repercussions, and the bringing in of the Gentiles begins.

DOMINICAN RITE MASS – FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Collect: O Lord Jesus Christ, who, by becoming subject to Mary and Joseph, sanctified home life by wondrous virtues: grant that by their help we may profit by the example of the Holy Family and attain unto everlasting fellowship with them: who live and reign, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever; Amen.

NEXT SUNDAY –

II SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

Prayer is a surge of the heart, it is a simple look towards Heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy.

St Therese of Lisieux

Pope Francis:

Amoris Laetitia:

Apostolic Exhortation on the Family

"God's indulgent love always accompanies our human journey; through grace, it heals and transforms hardened hearts, leading them back to the beginning through the way of the cross."

THE WORD AT WORK: OUR WEEKLY REFLECTION

GRUMPY THE EPIPHANY CAMEL

For Epiphany, Fr Piers Linley OP imagines that he is a camel. Our much loved Fr Piers died in August. Requiescat in pace.

My name is Grumpy and I am a camel. Camels are proverbially evil tempered. I must admit I used to deserve to be called Grumpy because I was the worst-tempered camel of them all. But I'm not now, I've changed and I am going to tell you how and when I changed. I live a very long distance away to the East. My master's name is Melchior and he is the Prime Minister of the kingdom where we live. He had two friends, Balthazar and Caspar. He and his friends are very interested in astronomy. One day - I was listening in to their conversation - Melchior told his friends that a very, very bright star had arisen in the sky and that must mean that a very, very great king had been born. 'Lets go and pay him homage' said Balthazar and Caspar.

I started to grumble loudly because I could see that a journey was going to mean more work for me! And so it proved. My master, Balthazar and Caspar talked about what gifts to take to the new king. Gold obviously. Frankincense - an incense with a lovely smell when it is burnt. And the third gift was myrrh which is very precious - curious this choice because it is used to anoint the dead. Melcher said, 'Grumpy, you're the biggest and worst tempered of all the camels, so you must carry the heaviest load - the gold.' So off we went.

But that star went before us all the way. And we came to a small village called Bethlehem. And there was the star standing over the entrance to a cave, a stable. So we knew we had arrived. Melchior, my master, always looks after his camels very well - so he took us into the cave and fed us and gave us water. So I was able to see and hear what happened. We camels had to kneel to be unloaded. For some reason we didn't get up again but remained kneeling.

My master and his friends presented their gifts to Joseph and to Mary. There was the flutter of angels' wings and the sound of their sweet voices. Some shepherds had come also and were playing a lullaby on their pipes and cuddling their lambs. Everyone was rejoicing at the birth of so great a king. But I couldn't see the king - not at first. Then in the middle of all this - in the manger from which the ox and the ass were snatching a little hay I saw a baby, *the* baby. And he wasn't taking any notice of what was going on.

And I realised that what was so great about the new king - *that he was just a baby who had come to share our life*. He wasn't going to be a great proud tyrant with a splendid court but was to dwell amongst us. So we all worshipped as did the ox and the ass and the shepherds. We didn't stay long. But we all stepped out with a light heart. OK, part of it was me getting the gold off my back. But I felt so different. They still call me Grumpy. But I'm not. I'm now the most mild-tempered camel anyone has ever known. So that baby king did something for me - he saved me from my evil temper. Strange isn't it? I wonder if I will ever travel that way again - perhaps not. But I pray daily - oh yes, we camels pray - you'd pray if you had to walk so many miles across the desert. I pray that one day I might see that baby - grown up now, of course - again.

All this was a long time ago, I remember. But I would do it again.

Fr Piers Linley OP

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.