

HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH



SUNDAY 17 JULY 2016

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C

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

FROM THE PRIOR'S DESK

It is always wonderful to take part in graduation ceremonies at our two Universities. These are opportunities for families to take pride in the achievement of their young generation, and for these two fine institutions of learning to celebrate their achievements publicly. We have much reason to be proud of our universities in this city, and the graduates they produce.

Our schools also this week have marked the end of another academic year of achievement. We are blessed indeed in Leicester to have such good Catholic schools that are growing and developing. As term concludes, we can take some time to appreciate these institutes of education, and recognise the achievements of the past academic year.

The events in Nice on Friday remind us that not everyone seeks to build up and achieve great things, but that some hearts are bent on destruction. It is necessary for us to pray much, so that we can be converted ourselves, and be more devoted to building up a peaceful and just society.

As we remember the people of Nice, let's also remember those places of fear and conflict further afield. Let's pray for peace in our homes, especially where members of our own community live in pain and uncertainty. And let's ask God's healing on the fearful and bruised parts of our own hearts.

Fr David

TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS OUTSIDE THE CHURCH AND PRIORY

There is some confusion at present regarding how parking arrangements are working, with temporary arrangements in place, and conflicting messages sometimes coming through. We hope that clarification will be forthcoming soon. In the meantime, **please abide by whatever restrictions are in place.** The traffic officers who patrol the streets outside the Priory are friends and supporters of our Holy Cross community. Please understand that it is not their fault, and treat them kindly. It is inconvenient, but so is a hefty fine!

THEFT AND VANDALISM

Once again, we are having some issues with theft and vandalism in our Church. Please be vigilant, and pray for the perpetrators. Please report anything you see to Mrs Powell in the Priory Office.



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 7 August, 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

You will be aware from previous announcements that 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 parish 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 parish - 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 is currently being piloted in the Woodhouse community and will be issued to all those who attend Holy Cross following the summer break and in readiness for the Assembly. 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.**

UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY IN LEICESTER

One of the great apostolates we are privileged to exercise here at Holy Cross is **chaplaincy to our two universities, DMU and the University of Leicester**. As part of our **development programme, On Firm Foundations**, we are looking towards development of this important ministry over the summer months and in the academic year ahead. Over the next few weeks, we'll be **asking for volunteers** to help us welcome the next crop of students during freshers' weeks. We would also like to hear ideas about how we can **get more involved** in the life of our universities as a parish community. Please email our **Lay Chaplain** to the Universities, **George Ralph**, at the email address: george.ralph@english.op.org

SECOND COLLECTION

This week for Apostleship of the Sea, for the Church's work with seafarers.

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 3856

For more details, visit: www.holycrossleicester.org

Holy Cross is part of the English Province of the Order of Preachers.
Registered Charity No 231192 in England and Wales. SC039062 in Scotland

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:

Holy Cross Parish

£ 1,183.02
(Gift aided: £ 514.56)

Second collection for Priory Fabric

£ 68.50

Woodhouse Community

£ 157.50
(Gift aided: £ 95)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!



THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

READINGS FOR THE 16TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

1ST READING GENESIS 18:01-10

This important incident in Genesis is often referred to as "the Hospitality of Abraham." Here Abraham is mysteriously visited by three figures out of nowhere. Abraham then addresses them as if they were one person. This is beautifully interpreted as a mysterious prefiguring of the doctrine of the Trinity. It is depicted in a famous icon by Ivan Rublev.

2ND READING COLOSSIANS 1:24-28

St Paul refers to the mysteries of God which are now made available to all. In the Old Testament, some people were granted a vision of the full reality of God and the plan for Salvation (John 8:56). Now that God himself has come in the flesh, these saving truths are preached openly; the hope of our glory.

GOSPEL READING LUKE 10:38-42

Echoing the Abraham reading, God in the flesh is given hospitality by Martha and Mary. Our Lord teaches that while it is good to be busily active in God's service, it is also necessary to be quietly attentive to the lord. "Be still, and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)

DOMINICAN RITE MASS, IX SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

EPISTLE ROMAN 10:06-13

St Paul gives two great teachings in the Epistle. Firstly, the things that happened to the Israelites were "tupos" (type/figure): an image of a reality to be fulfilled in the time of the incarnation. Secondly, temptation is sure to come in our lives, but God always gives us the necessary grace to overcome it, if we are willing.

GOSPEL LUKE 16:41-47

Our Lord foretells the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 AD. In the meantime, he emphasizes the holiness of the Temple, until his mission is accomplished, and the general principle that it is important to keep holy places holy. Our Lord also reveals the fullness of his humanity, he weeps and he is angry, real human emotions, but with no hint of the fallen-ness of our human nature.

NEXT SUNDAY –

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY *PER ANNUM*; TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (EF)

"THAT HEART IS FREE WHICH IS HELD BY NO LOVE OTHER THAN THE LOVE OF GOD."

SAINT BONAVENTURE

THE WORD AT WORK: OUR WEEKLY REFLECTION

THE SIXTH CORPORAL WORK OF MERCY: VISITING PRISONERS

If we all tried to visit those in prison, the service would be overwhelmed by our numbers. But that doesn't mean that this work of mercy has nothing to do with the majority of Christ's followers. We can all visit and help the criminal through our prayers, concern and compassion. Compassion for the justly convicted and imprisoned criminals certainly doesn't mean denying their guilt, which may be serious. But there's more to them than that. They are fellow human beings, with basic inalienable rights. More than that, God has made them in His own image and likeness. Their offences may well have damaged and distorted that image, so that we can hardly recognise it.

But God can. He loves each of His children with an everlasting love and compassion. His mercy has the resilience to stand by us, to want to restore the distorted image of Himself. God never gives up on anybody, however badly he has behaved. Instead, Jesus is the expert scavenger. What others would dismiss as worthless He wants to rescue and repair. His loving mercy can transform what had become ugly and distorted into something worthwhile and even beautiful.

That is the 'mind of Christ' –His approach; that must be the mind of His followers. That is the message we have been called to embrace and spread. We can strive to influence the way criminals are considered and treated. No one must be trapped in guilt. God calls even the greatest of sinners to repentance and forgiveness. That should restore his lost dignity and self-respect. God's mercy enables the repentant criminal to make a fresh start, even though he may spend the rest of his life behind bars. God's mercy gives hope of eternal happiness and fulfilment to someone who had been written off as a complete and wicked failure.

Prison chaplains play a vital role in the exercise of this corporal work of mercy. They represent and communicate the Church's concern and compassion. Through them the whole Christian community reaches out to the imprisoned and visits them. The whole Church can and must support prison chaplains, especially with our prayers both for them and for the prisoners they visit. Our prayers can also help the prisoner's families and friends not to give up on those who are dear to them, not to stop visiting them. Their faith in him will help him to believe in himself and have hope. This must be carried through once he's discharged from prison. He's done his time and deserves a chance to make a fresh start. He needs the whole community to support his rehabilitation. Otherwise he will be trapped in guilt, driven to despair and forced into further crime.

Jesus never gave up on anyone; for Him no one was beyond hope. In fact sinners, including criminals, were the very people He came to save. Jesus could identify with the crook. He knew what it was like to be arrested, tried, convicted and punished. He carried the guilty burden of all our sins. He was executed between two criminals and gave the repentant thief hope of forgiveness and eternal happiness. And that we must do, as we help the criminal, those close to him and the whole of society not to write off the imprisoned crook as a worthless loser, a no-hoper. God, who knows us better than we could possibly know ourselves, has given even the worst of us hope of restoration and renewal. Sharing that conviction, praying for all involved in the penal system, can be our way of reaching out to the prisoner when we can't make a face to face visit. He needs our support.

Peter and Isidore Clarke O.P.