

HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH



SUNDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2016

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C

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

FROM THE PRIOR'S DESK

Sitting down to organise the Newsletter each week can be rather a humbling experience. It shows the extent of the generosity of so many people, who work hard in different ways, and sometimes with very simple deeds, to make a difference for the better in the lives of others. The Gospel we preach and cherish really does change our lives, and that is a source of rejoicing. Our generosity is vital, though. There is still much work to be done by all of us.

It is exactly this kind of generosity that was recognised on Saturday by +Patrick our Bishop when he celebrated Mass with representatives of the people of our Diocese who serve the Church in a variety of ways. In much the same way, when Pope Francis declares the sanctity of the little saint of Calcutta, Mother Teresa, this Sunday, the Church recognises the power of perseverance in faith, hope, and charity that can change the world.

It was wonderful this past week to see our schools open again with renewed vigour, and to plan with colleagues in our universities to welcome freshers in just a few weeks. With Holy Cross Day just a week away, and the Holy Cross Assembly coming into view, we have every reason to be confident that the fruits of our Jubilee Year will begin to be enjoyed.

The world changed somewhat for me this week when I lost my beloved Grandmother, Rose, on Friday. Currently I am away preparing to celebrate her Funeral Mass on Monday. I know that when I return to Holy Cross later in the week, I will be met with the loving mercy and compassion that defines our community as I mourn her loss. Oremus pro invicem.

Fr David

HOLY CROSS DAY – SUNDAY 11 SEPTEMBER

This year we will celebrate our **Patronal Feast** on **Sunday 11 September**. The Solemn Mass will be celebrated at 10:30am, and we will be joined by our new **Fr Provincial, Fr Martin Ganeri OP**. There will be the *Procession of the Relic of the True Cross* after Mass. Please bring food and drinks to share after the Mass in the Hall. This special Feast Day is an opportunity for us to recognise all the important elements that make up the Holy Cross Family, and the great diversity of work that goes into maintaining and developing the many good things that mark us as a Dominican parish community here in the centre of Leicester. *Please join us at the Solemn Mass and help to make our celebration joyful!*



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 today, 4 September, 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 appear in the next few weeks. 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 THIS WEEK ...

- Gospel Choir resumes – **Tuesday 6 September** at 7:00pm, St Clement's.
- Organ Recital – **Wednesday 7 September** at 7.30pm by Tim Lees.
- Holy League Prayer Meeting – **Friday 9 September** at 7:45pm in Church

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!

DOMINICAN VISITORS

This weekend, **Fr David Goodill OP** is visiting us. Fr David was in Leicester for some years, and has recently become Prior of our Community in Oxford. Also this weekend, **Br Joseph Bailham OP**, one of our student brothers training for the Priesthood in Oxford, joins us for a Pastoral Placement. *Welcome!*

OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BEGIN THEIR NEW YEAR!

Holy Cross Catholic Primary School will celebrate **Holy Cross Day** a bit early on *Thursday 8 September* with Mass here in Church at 10am. On Thursday, **+Patrick our Bishop** will present prizes to students at **St Paul's School**, and will celebrate **Mass at English Martyrs School** on Friday morning. *Please pray for the growth and flourishing of our wonderful Catholic Schools in Leicester.*

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:

£ 803.34

(Gift aided: £ 203.37)

**Woodhouse
Community**

£ 97.20

(Gift aided: £75.00)

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

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!**



THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

READINGS FOR THE 23RD SUNDAY

1ST READING: WISDOM 9:13-18

To our great relief Sacred Scripture admits that things can get very complicated! So we must not be disheartened if we can't work things out. It also tells us the good news that God gives us wisdom, by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, to accept His revelation, and to help our ignorance and perplexity.

2ND READING: PHILEMON 1:9-10, 12-17

In a very personal tone, Paul intercedes for Onesimus, who appears to be a run-away slave, who has also been baptized. Paul is carrying out his own advice to others: "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

GOSPEL READING: LUKE 14:25-33

Primarily, this Gospel passage is directed towards those who are called to the celibate priesthood or the religious life. By extension, it reminds us all that even family ties can legitimately be left behind, if they are genuine *hindrance* to salvation. The word 'hate' here sounds very shocking, but a certain exaggeration was part of the speech world that Jesus lives in.

DOMINICAN RITE MASS, XVI SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

EPISTLE: EPHESIANS 3:13-21

In this very dense passage, St Paul manages to include all the main points of the Faith. The Blessed Trinity, Incarnation, indwelling of the Holy Spirit, Church, faith, works, prayer. It also confirms the concept and language of God as Father, and thus the concept of human fatherhood.

GOSPEL: LUKE 14:1-14

St Francis de Sales always taught that humility was the fourth, but foundational, branch of the spiritual cross, the others being poverty, obedience and chastity. Here our Lord teaches us both the necessity and wisdom of humility. It has a certain spiritual canniness.

NEXT SUNDAY –

TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY *PER ANNUM*; SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (EF)

The many wonders of creation can only fill us with astonishment and admiration. But when we speak of the most holy Eucharist we can say that here is to be found the miracle of divine love for us.... Has there been, or will there ever be, a nobler or more magnanimous love than that which He has shown us in the sacrament of love?

St John Vianney

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 – ASSIDUOUS IN STUDY

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 path marked out by St Dominic invites us to speak only to God or of God. For this reason the Dominican must be constant in prayer, both in his personal routine and in his devotion to the Horarium, the daily timetable of the Community. But prayer can be lonely! How often people reflect on this, and are overburdened by the aridity that we can experience in prayer. When this comes over us, it is easy to abandon our efforts to engage in prayer through discouragement. In so doing, we begin to misunderstand God, and lose sight of the beauty of his Divine Plan for us. A sense of hopelessness, a spiritual and moral listlessness, can become contagious.

St Dominic recognised this in the course of his ministry. It was because there were philosophies and theories about God, his divine life, and the glory of creation, that diminished the sanctity of our humanity, that St Dominic realised the need to embark on his preaching mission. There would need to be some method of processing, reflecting upon, and presenting, what were the fruits of contemplation, in order to treasure them and heal the spiritual malaise that was so dangerous.

St Dominic therefore recast the emphasis of monastic wisdom for his new band of followers. Rather than see the beauty of God's creation through dedicated work on the land, he committed them to assiduous study of God's Word as shown forth in Christ and in the beauty of creation. Dominican study is assiduous – constant, and in-depth – in order to savour the fruits of contemplation, to see God's mercy in action through our lives and the whole of creation, and to sustain both personal and communal prayer and reflection, maintaining that constant communication with God that is found in prayer. Every different facet of God's creation expresses something of his glory. In Dominican study, this is sought out assiduously, cherished in contemplation, and placed at the service of others.

Each Dominican is called to a lifelong devotion to assiduous study, in the privacy of his cell, in the context of his community, and in his participation in the mission. He must build on the gift of the teaching he received in his early years in the Order, a system of education devised and refined by Dominican ways of thinking over eight centuries, to know God more deeply and preach his word more readily. In the course of his life, the Dominican may specialise in one or other particular aspect of study, both to develop a more intimate knowledge of it and to contribute something of value to it. In so doing he plays his own part in the development of the traditions of our Order, sustaining both his own Dominican calling and the lives of the brethren.

In the context of the life of every Christian, the gift of Dominican study may be considered as something of great value. Each of us requires sustenance in the life of prayer, and guidance on our moral path. A deeper understanding of the mystery of God, shared and developed with others and reflecting on what is true, provides a firm foundation on which to rely when things are dark and difficult. Through study, our prayer is enriched, our faith made firm. It no longer relies merely on ideas that occur to us in our minds or feelings that overcome us when we try to reach God. It rests on something that has been firmly established, and can be treasured as beautiful and true.

Fr David Rocks O.P.