



THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

READINGS FOR THE 29TH SUNDAY

1ST READING: EXODUS 17:8-13

Here Moses prays for such a long time, that he needs to be physically supported to carry on. If we picture the pose he adopts we see that it is in the form of the cross, with another man on either side; a preview of the Crucifixion. As Moses prays, the Amalekites, symbolizing the forces of darkness and sin, are destroyed.

2ND READING: TIMOTHY 3:14-4:2

St Paul continues his advice to Bishop Timothy, reminding him that all of the Scriptures, meaning here the Old Testament, still have value, as they speak of the coming of Christ.

GOSPEL READING: LUKE 18:1-8

One of the conditions for genuine prayer of petition is that it should be persistent. If we give up praying for something very quickly then it indicates that we didn't really want it in the first place. Our Lord illustrates this through this parable.

DOMINICAN RITE MASS: XXIX SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

EPISTLE: PHILIPPIANS: 1:6-11

St Paul prays that the theological virtue of Charity increases in the church of Philippi. This is matched by his own strong personal affection for his hearers.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 22:15-21

Our Lord, far from being a political revolutionary, came to bless, convert and save human society, not to tear it all down. Civil governments, if they are just and respect the laws of God, are legitimate, and have their own proper sphere. As always, however, we must seek first the kingdom of God.

NEXT SUNDAY –

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY *PER ANNUM*; TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (EF)

*Prayer is an act of love; words are not needed.
Even if sickness distracts from thoughts, all that is needed is the will to love.*

St Teresa of Avila

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

4TH SPIRITUAL WORK OF MERCY – BEARING WRONGS WITH PATIENCE

Our Twin Clarke Team return for their series on the Spiritual Works of Mercy as the Jubilee Year draws to a close. This series will be interspersed with reflections from Fr Greg on some of the Dominican Mystics.

If we're being harmed how should we react? Hit back? Run away? Report the offender? Suffer patiently in silence? Since the situation can vary so much there's no single correct answer.

But the 4th Spiritual Work of Mercy -Bearing Wrongs Patiently –urges a very Christ-like positive approach. Surprisingly, this can not only be the best way for the sufferer to cope, but may well be the most compassionate way to assist the wrong doer. That's the theme of the 4th Spiritual Work of Mercy.

Out of mercy we, as Church, must try to heal the victim's justifiable anger, hatred, bitterness and even lust for revenge. If deeply wounded people are ever going to be able 'Bear Wrongs Patiently' our love and compassion will need to restore their damaged self-esteem; they will need God's healing grace.

St. Paul's often painful pastoral experience led him to urge, 'Do not be mastered by evil, but master evil with good,' (Rom. 12.20).

Jesus carried this approach even further. For Him 'Bearing Wrongs Patiently' meant sacrificial love; healing mankind through patiently welcoming the very wounds mankind so unjustly inflicted upon Him. According to the prophet Isaiah that was His Heavenly Father's plan for our salvation, "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, **and with his stripes we are healed,**" (Is. 53).

As a member of the Body of Christ, it was not fanciful for St. Paul to see himself bonded with Jesus in His suffering and in His mission. And so he could write, "I have been crucified with Christ and yet I am alive; yet it is no longer I, but Christ living in me," (Gal. 2.19).

Sharing in the vulnerability of Jesus, the Suffering Servant, St. Paul believed he would be contributing to the Salvation of Mankind, "It makes me happy to be suffering for you now, and in my own body to make up all the hardships that still have to be undergone by Christ for the sake of His body, the Church," (Col. 1.24).

I've found it very humbling when people have united their suffering with Christ's. With the words, 'He suffered from me. Now I'm suffering for Him' they carried their crosses in union with Jesus; they offered their suffering for the healing of some sick person, for uniting a family that was falling apart, or for world peace.... In bearing patiently wrongs done to them and misfortunes that befell them they are not surrendering to the unavoidable. They are grasping the opportunity to take up their crosses alongside Jesus.

They are the unsung heroes of the Church – living in our midst. We have so much to learn from them!

Peter and Isidore Clarke O.P.



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 16 OCTOBER 2016

29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C

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

FROM THE PRIOR'S DESK

We have just finished the Holy Cross Assembly, as I sit down to write. It was a very special occasion. Much work went into the preparation of the day and there were many good discussions that began during the Assembly. I would like to thank everyone who was involved – we worked hard to hear every voice, and our mutual support of one another bodes well for the future.

The success of the Assembly takes our collaboration to a new level. Fr Chris Thomas, who so kindly facilitated our work, has challenged us to build on our firm foundations, and to move one initiative forward in each of our key areas, within the next month. There is a great deal of work to be done to realise this, so we need to realise that slow and steady progress is the way to achieve great goals.

As we enter the last weeks of the Year of Mercy, and conclude our 800 Year celebrations, we have an opportunity to consider the ways in which we celebrate the gifts of grace that have marked this special year. Hopefully, during our St Martin Novena, we can be inspired by the life of St Martin to consider how we can put mercy into action, and look at all the things we do already!

One particular instance of this has been your generosity to us here at Holy Cross, which has really moved our problems on in the last year. Our prisoners at HMP Leicester have in a particular way asked us to thank you for your generosity to them last week. Our collection will really make a difference to their spiritual lives, and is a great source of encouragement to them. Thank you!

I hope everyone has a safe and happy half-term break! God bless!

Fr David

DEVOTION TO THE MOST HOLY ROSARY

Our **Living Rosary** Initiative is planned 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 next **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 join us for this wonderful and historic pilgrimage. We hope to establish the first decades in October.

NOTICE BOARD

BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you wish to have your child baptised, please attend one of our baptism preparation sessions. The next is Sunday 6 November, 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



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ORDO PRÆDICATORUM

HOLY CROSS ASSEMBLY AND QUESTIONNAIRE

Many thanks to all who have made the Assembly this weekend such a success. It was great that we were able to gather together and reflect on how our community can move forward as we approach 200 years. Over the next weeks and months, we will be working together to develop and build upon the themes that came out of the Assembly. A huge thanks also to everyone who filled in the questionnaires. This has been a very useful exercise in planning our future.

CATHOLICISM 101 – EVERY THURSDAY AT 7PM

Using Bishop Barron's stunning series Catholicism, exploring our Catholic Faith, he journeys through many countries using art and the living Faith of Catholics, to help us discover the full meaning of our Faith. We will be using our beautifully refurbished St Clement's Hall to watch these films **each Thursday at 7pm**. Please take and share the flyers. Food is provided

THINGS TO NOTE

- Every Sunday evening, 6pm. Holy Hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Rosary, Compline, and Benediction
- Italian Mass, once a month – the next is 11 November. Please see Fr Robert.
- Each week, children up to age 12 gather for the children's liturgy in the Hall during Mass.
- Our St Martin Novena will take place on 3-11 November.

SUPPORTING OUR PRISONERS

Thank you for your generosity in last week's collection for our work in HMP Leicester. Fr. Robert is still keen to recruit volunteers for the prison work and to develop the prisoners pen friend scheme. Please see the separate flyers.

DOMINICANS IN HAITI

This weekend we are taking a second collection to support the work of our Dominican brethren in Haiti, as they seek to support the people they serve in the aftermath of the great Hurricane Matthew. Please give generously. If you wish to gift-aid your donation, please use one of our Holy Cross envelopes. We will make the payment from our solidarity fund.

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:

£ 967.29

(Gift aided: £ 313.41)

Woodhouse

£ 131.76

(Gift aided: £ 71.00)

Last week's second collection for the work of the Prison Chaplaincy came to £478.05

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!