



# THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

## READINGS FOR THE 30<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY

1<sup>ST</sup> READING: ECCLESIASTICUS 35:12-14, 16-19

In our age of a toxic cult of celebrity, it is encouraging to hear that God couldn't care less about how rich or famous someone is, or how many implants or designer shoes they have. God creates all people, and each of us are loved by Him. Humility is a much more attractive trait than pride.

2<sup>ND</sup> READING: TIMOTHY 4:6-8, 16-18

Paul seems to be facing his final trial and possible martyrdom. We can pray that one day we can make his words our own: "I have fought the good fight; I have run the race: I have kept the faith." We should all pray for the gift of final perseverance.

GOSPEL READING: LUKE 18:9-14

Picking up on the first reading, it is the humility of the tax collector which is more realistic, more honest, and more in tune with the way things are, and therefore more attractive. The Pharisee indeed lives a good life, but his self-regarding attitude seems to spoil his genuine attempt at holiness.

## DOMINICAN RITE MASS: XXXI SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

EPISTLE: PHILIPPIANS 3:17-21; 4:1-3

St Paul talks about the second coming of Our Lord and of the resurrection of the body; a fundamental article of faith in Christian Doctrine.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 9:18-26

The physical presence of Christ is so great that even his garments can mediate salvation, if he is approached with faith. This physical availability of the Lord is prolonged not only in the Sacraments of the Church, but also in her Sacramentals, which are like the hem of the clothing of the Body of Christ.

### NEXT SUNDAY –

**THIRTIETH SUNDAY *PER ANNUM*; TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (EF)**

*I have found the paradox, that if you love until it hurts,  
there can be no more hurt, only more love.*

*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

## 5<sup>TH</sup> SPIRITUAL WORK OF MERCY – TO FORGIVE OFFENCES WILLINGLY

*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.*

In the cult film 'Love Story' the heroine rapturously exclaims, "Love means never having to say 'sorry.'" And I reply, "Sentimental rubbish!"

Why? Because experience tells us that we're all sinners and sometimes hurt each other. Real love means being able to apologise when we've harmed someone, and forgive when we've been hurt. Our love for each other must reflect God's steadfast love, which is always eager to forgive the repentant sinner. Without that resilience it will be brittle and break.

To forgive is hard enough; to do so willingly –that's really difficult! Yet that's what the 5<sup>th</sup> Spiritual Work of Mercy expects of us. But forgiving those who hurt us is the most God-like of the Works of Mercy. Mercy is the very Face of God, in whose image we have been made. That means we must be as merciful as our heavenly Father is merciful!

But that goes against our natural instinct to retaliate. If we don't, we fear we will appear weak and the aggressor will continue his violence. But if we retaliate the situation will probably escalate. The innocent person will become as hostile as the one who started the violence. Nothing will be solved, and we may say and do things which we later regret.

So Jesus takes a different, two pronged, approach, aimed at defusing a hostile situation. Firstly, we should correct the offender (3<sup>rd</sup> Spiritual Work of Mercy). Next, we should forgive him or her. That's the present, 5<sup>th</sup> Work of Mercy.

But we do find it very hard to forgive when we've been badly hurt. We really want to forgive, but unwanted anger and resentment can suddenly flare up, sometimes long after the injury. Although our forgiving has been genuine, the wounds we suffered are still raw. We need to pray for inner healing.

To help us, Jesus urges us not only to love our enemies, instead of hating them, but also to pray for them. That's not a pious after-thought, but an essential part in healing a dysfunctional relationship. As we pray for our enemies our attitude towards them changes. We cease to wish them harm and want only their good. That gradually heals our anger and desire for vengeance. As we pray for those who are hostile to us, we ask God to heal their aggression. Only when hatred has been removed from both the aggressor and the victim can there be real peace.

Jesus has given us the supreme example of what forgiving willingly means. He not only preached a Gospel of forgiveness, but lived it, above all, on the cross. As He prayed for the forgiveness of those responsible for His Death He showed us what it means, in practice, to forgive our enemies.

*Peter and Isidore Clarke O.P.*

# HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH



SUNDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2016

30<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C

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

## FROM THE PRIOR'S DESK

*This week I have largely been in a good mood! I was so very encouraged by the Holy Cross Assembly, and I have spent much time reflecting on it. How great it was to see our Holy Cross Family, from the oldest to the youngest, taking the time to pray and study together in order to develop our community and enrich our mission. Fr Robert's Catholicism 101 session on Thursday night was also very apt, reminding us of the need to seek out Christ in one another, and to serve him well.*

*The Assembly has given us the makings of an agenda for our development. Together with the questionnaires, we are now developing a comprehensive picture of where we want to go as a community. Already, the work that we have done is bearing much fruit. It is important for us to encourage one another in the knowledge that we have made great progress by working together, and that we have begun to meet some of the challenges that looked so formidable just a few years ago.*

*It is important for us to build on the successes we have had. This will involve a great deal of effort, but it will pay off in the end. It will also involve a degree of sacrifice. Some things that have been important to us in the past may have to be left behind. We need to remember that it is new life that we seek.*

*Now that half-term is over, we look forward to the weeks that lead up to Christmas. Our St Martin Novena, the Advent Market, and our pre-Christmas events are all being planned, so hopefully we can build on these firm foundations as we seek to go forward*

*Be intent on prayer, and whatever may happen will turn to our good.*

*Fr David*

## GOING FORWARD – BUILDING ON FIRM FOUNDATIONS

Thanks to all who made our Assembly and questionnaire such a success. This was a great moment for us, and we can take it forward in hope!

- Next week we will have a report on what has happened at the Assembly and the findings of the Questionnaire.
- The PCG, the *Pastoral Core Group*, meets on 9 November. This meeting will look at bringing our ideas forward and formulating an agenda that will take us forward.



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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 13<sup>th</sup> 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

## THANKS FOR THE VISION OF *ON FIRM FOUNDATIONS*

Fr David writes: Over the last year, I have invited several lay people to be part of what we call the PCG – the *Pastoral Core Group*, to work with me and the Dominican Community for the planning of our shared mission for the future. The PCG, all appointed by me, have been incredibly important in assisting in the first stage of our development at Holy Cross, many miles away from the difficulties that faced us when I first came. I want to sincerely thank the members of this group who have helped us further our discussion, and enabled our questionnaire and assembly. This body, chaired by Gail Neill, is a vital part of our pastoral work. If you would like to find out more about it, please contact Rachael – [leicester.admin@english.op.org](mailto:leicester.admin@english.op.org)

## ST MARTIN NOVENA AND MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

Our Novena to St Martin takes place at all Masses from 3-11 November. Please bring your petitions to the Priory so that we can pray for his intercession. Envelopes are now available for the November List of the Dead. Mass is offered daily in November for those on our list. The Annual Requiem Mass for all our deceased parishioners takes place on Wednesday 23 November at 7:30pm. Please take pictures of loved ones to be remembered on this occasion.

## THINGS TO REMEMBER

- each Thursday at 7pm – Catholicism 101 with Fr Robert. Please bring food to share with others this week. Video presentation followed by discussion.
- Our Children's Liturgy enriches our 10:30am Mass each Sunday. Children up to age 12 are invited with their parents.
- Our Sunday Holy Hour, 6-7pm – Rosary, Compline, Benediction. A precious time to give to the Lord.
- The Advent Market will take place on 27 November. Over the next weeks, we will be looking for support and help.
- Other dates and information are coming forth. We are glad the Assembly has helped us to focus!
- Next Sunday, we will end the 10:30am with a Procession in Honour of Our Lady of the Rosary, in thanksgiving for the Rosary Shrine in London and for our own renewal.

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## THE DOMINICAN COMMUNITY

Fr David Rocks OP PP *Prior*;

Fr Isidore Clarke OP; Fr Fabian Radcliffe OP; Fr Neil Ferguson OP; Fr Greg Murphy OP;  
Fr Robert Gay OP CC *Subprior*, *Bursar*.

Office Administrator: *Mrs Rachael Powell* – [leicester.admin@english.op.org](mailto:leicester.admin@english.op.org)

Lay University Chaplain: *Mr George Ralph* – [george.ralph@english.op.org](mailto:george.ralph@english.op.org)

Director of Music: *Mr Thomas Keogh* – [thomas@thomaskeogh.co.uk](mailto: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](http://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:

**£ 834.34**

(Gift aided: £ 293.70)

### Woodhouse

**£ 110.05**

(Gift aided: £ 71.00)

*Last week's second collection for the Dominicans in Haiti came to £404.38*

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!**