



THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

READINGS FOR THE 33RD SUNDAY

1ST READING: MALACHI 3:19-20

As we near the end of the Church's liturgical year the readings direct our thoughts to the end of all to the end of all time and the day of Judgement. For some it will be a disaster, for others, their moment of glory.

2ND READING: THESSALONIANS 3:7-12

The common good is one of the main elements in our social and political lives. St Paul reminds us that those who are capable should work to maintain themselves and contribute to the general good of society.

GOSPEL READING: LUKE 21:5-19

Despite the certainty of the end, the Lord teaches us not to speculate too much about it, or believe those who say they know the day and the hour. Everything is accomplished in God's own time and not ours. In the meanwhile, we have plenty to do bearing witness to Christ. We might spare a thought here for our fellow Christians in the Middle East, who bear such moving witness to their faith in Christ.

DOMINICAN RITE MASS: 6TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

EPISTLE: THESSALONIANS 1:2-10

Once again St Paul mentions one of his favorite themes: The Theological Virtues. Here Paul rejoices that the Thessalonians have embraced the Gospel so wholeheartedly, and they themselves now bear witness to it.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 13:31-35

"Nothing great has great beginnings", is an old saying that resonates with today's Gospel. Even the pagan poets noted this general rule, *crescit occult velut arbor aevo* (Horace Odes 1:12). One of the signs of the Church's holiness is her small beginnings and eventual flourishing throughout the world. As a one-time Prior, of Holy Cross, Fr Vincent McNabb, used to say: "The best proof of the acorn is the oak."

NEXT SUNDAY –

THIRTY-FOURTH SUNDAY *PER ANNUM*; TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (EF)

*'To begin and end well, devotion to our Blessed Lady, the Mother of God,
is nothing less than indispensable.'*

St. Philip Neri

Amoris Laetitia: The Joy of Love

Pope Francis writes:

"I thank God that many families, which are far from considering themselves perfect, live in love, fulfil their calling and keep moving forward, even if they fall many times along the way. The Synod's reflections show us that there is no stereotype of the ideal family, but rather a challenging mosaic made up of many different realities, with all their joys, hopes and problems." [57]

THE WORD AT WORK: OUR WEEKLY REFLECTION

7TH SPIRITUAL WORK OF MERCY - PRAYING FOR THE LIVING AND THE DEAD

Our Twin Clarke Team return for their series on the Spiritual Works of Mercy as the Jubilee Year draws to a close.

In the last of the Corporal and Spiritual works of Mercy we pray for the Living and the Dead. Prayer transforms humanitarian concern for the Family of Man to concern for God's Family – our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Because both the living and the dead belong to the one Body of Christ -the Church -we believe death does not break the bond between the living and those who have died in Christ.

Our prayers, and especially the celebration of Christ's death and resurrection in the holy Mass, can help the dead to complete their journey to eternal happiness in heaven. They still need to be purified of the remaining effects of sins, which have already been forgiven. Only then will they be fit to enter the very presence of the All-Holy God. Our prayers for their eternal salvation directly involves us and our deceased loved ones in God's greatest expression of loving compassion. This is the climax of the Works of Mercy!

The Catechism of the Catholic Church proclaims an exciting development in our understanding of the importance of praying for the dead -"Our prayer for them is capable not only of helping them, **BUT ALSO OF MAKING THEIR INTERCESSION FOR US EFFECTIVE,**" (958). In other words, our prayers for the dead enable them to pray for us. There's a wonderful dialogue of us praying for each other. This idea is further developed, (1689), Through the Mass we "learn to live in communion with the one who "has fallen asleep in the Lord," by communicating in the Body of Christ of which he is a living member and, then, **BY PRAYING FOR HIM AND WITH HIM."** We can not only pray for the dead, but also with them, and they can pray for us. To share such comforting teaching with those who mourn is a wonderful work of mercy, which the Church should proclaim.

Praying for the dead is a great comfort for the living. Through prayer we can tie up the loose ends of regrets, which we all have when someone dear to us dies. Through prayer we can still put things right and express our continued love in a practical way. That removes the sense of helplessness and guilt, which often accompanies grief.

Perhaps, surprisingly, praying for our deceased loved ones transforms and enriches our love for them. Instead of praying for their temporal needs we now focus solely on their eternal salvation.

To place the needs of both the living and dead into God's loving care is the greatest expression of our loving concern for the needy and provides a fitting climax to our reflections on the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

Peter and Isidore Clarke O.P.

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.



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2016

33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C

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

FROM THE PRIOR'S DESK

It has been almost a whole year since we opened our Holy Door, and this week we gather to close it. The theme of "closure" is one that might seem new to us having celebrated this great Jubilee of Mercy. It has most certainly been a year of openness and opportunity, but it has been a Year of Mercy. Mercy is sometimes about closure – shutting out the forces that play on our vulnerability, and therefore being open to God's mercy as it comes to each of us.

During the past year, the Holy Door has been always simply open. And many different people have passed through it often. Children have been brought through it to be presented for Baptism; newlyweds have exited through it; families have carried the remains of their loved ones in for Requiem Mass. Many of the sick have come seeking healing and strength. Many, so very many, of us sinners have come for Confession.

When we close our Holy Door this weekend, we are bearing witness to a kind of closure we know not yet. We're hoping for a time when that closure will be secure – because then we will not fear openness! Across the Year of Mercy we have seen how our reflections on mercy have changed lives.

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

Fr David

THE HOLY CROSS REQUIEM MASS – 23 NOVEMBER AT 7:30PM

This Annual Mass is when we remember all the deceased members of the Holy Cross Family and their loved ones. Please make a special effort to attend. Each day in November, Mass is offered for those remembered on our ***November Dear List***, and the Perpetual Candle burns in their memory. Please make a special effort to attend this Mass on 23rd, and pray for all the Faithful Departed. ***It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead.***

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

Last Sunday some of our young people met and began to form a ***Young People's Pastoral Council***, one of the earliest fruits of our Assembly. They will now work with the Pastoral Team and the Dominican Community to develop the interests of our younger parishioners. Their first project is to organise the ***Nativity Play for our Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve***. We will be hearing from them soon.



IUBILAEUM 800 1216-2016
ORDO PRAEDICATORUM

NOTICE BOARD

BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you wish to have your child baptised, please attend one of our baptism preparation sessions. The next is today, **Sunday 13th 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 current 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 will begin during Advent.

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

THE ADVENT MARKET – SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER

It's that time of year again, when we get ourselves ready for the Advent Market. This year, **we hope to raise £5,000** which helps to maintain and improve our Church and Priory buildings, parts of which are in very poor repair. Please put the date in your diary and begin bringing in goods, buying tickets, inviting friends, and working together to ensure the event is a success. **Holy Cross Christmas puddings and raffle tickets** can be bought at the Advent Market on **Sunday November 27**. They can be obtained in advance from the church shop so buy yours early to avoid disappointment!

THE HOLY CROSS ASSEMBLY – ITS LEGACY

Fr David writes: *We hope you have read the Report on our Assembly, and we continue to pray for development of our lives. Earlier this week, the PCG concluded its work, and I thank them for the hard work they put into guiding our path in the early days of working for renewal. I now intend to appoint a Holy Cross Pastoral Council to take up office on the First Sunday of Advent, to oversee the implementation of an Action Plan and to work towards an important event – a Mission Week next year. There will be more details as this plan is developed. Please keep our efforts in your prayers*

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Each Thursday at 7pm – Catholicism 101 with Fr Robert. This week we will enjoy baked potatoes, please bring your own fillings! Video presentation followed by discussion.
- Our Sunday Holy Hour, 6-7pm – Rosary, Compline, Benediction.
- Organ Recital – **Weds 7th Dec 1930hrs** – Chris Ouvry-Johns (Director of Music at Leicester Cathedral) Drinks reception in hall afterwards.
- Informal Choir for the Advent/Christmas Period – Every Tuesday 1900-1930hrs, (before the Gospel Choir rehearsals). Sunday 20th November from 11.30-14.30pm in St Clements Hall (Light Lunch provided). Sunday 4th December, at 'Meet for a Treat' event after 10.30am Mass.

DEVOTION TO ST MARTIN DE PORRES AND ADVENT

Thank you for sharing our Novena Leaflets in honour of St Martin. During Advent, we hope that devotion to St Martin will become a regular feature of our lives here at Holy Cross. Our Advent Retreat this year will be given by Fr Oliver Keenan OP, on 17-18 December. Details will be available soon.

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

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:

£ 1,596.46

(Gift aided: £ 921.80)

Woodhouse Collection

£ 189.00

(Gift aided: £ 112.00)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!**