

# HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH



SUNDAY 14 AUGUST 2016 THE ASSUMPTION – YEAR C

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

## FROM THE PRIOR'S DESK

*The Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Blessed Lady is always a great feast. But it comes as a bit of a warning – term time looms! I always remember it from my childhood days as a time of great festivity, but also a time for the buying of new school uniforms, and the preparation of things turning to routine once again.*

*Celebrating this great feast here at Holy Cross, we experience something of the same feeling. Soon we will celebrate our Patronal Feast, Sunday 11 September, and our regular programme of events will resume. We look forward to the Holy Cross Assembly a few weeks afterwards, and the important discussions we need to have together, so that we can build together on what has already been achieved by the hard work and dedication of so many of our Holy Cross Family.*

*In celebrating the Assumption, we are proclaiming that the great work of God's salvation has already been experienced by humanity. We know that, for us, there is still some work to be done before its completion, but we are right to rejoice in the knowledge that we will share in what we can already see as God's beautiful work achieved in Our Lady.*

*So as we prepare for the Assembly and for Holy Cross Day, we can be glad that so much has been achieved through our community and our lives together. This helps us to reflect with hope on what we can build on these firm foundations.*

*Fr David*

## 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](mailto:george.ralph@english.op.org)

## 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 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



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ORDO PRÆDICATORUM

## 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.**

## YEAR OF MERCY – PRAYING TO OUR LADY

You will have noticed that during the Prayer of the Faithful each Sunday we have been using the Salve Regina in place of the Hail Mary. There have been some requests to publish the text: *Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy. Hail, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To Thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To Thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, Thine eyes of mercy towards us, and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of Thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.*

## BEEN TO MASS WHILE ON HOLIDAY?

If you're on holiday, do **make an effort to get to Mass** somewhere. Please pick up a newsletter, and **bring it back for Fr David**. Let's see how many different places we can cover.

## PRAYING FOR LIFE

A new prayer initiative for the preservation and sanctity of life is beginning in Thurmaston. Please contact [pmurphy28@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pmurphy28@hotmail.co.uk) for further details.

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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 Thomas Crean OP; Fr Gregory 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 255 385**

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:

**£ 808.87**

(Gift aided: £ 281.50)

**Woodhouse  
Community**

**£ 139.76**

(Gift aided: £81.00)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
CONTINUED SUPPORT!**



# THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

## READINGS FOR THE ASSUMPTION

### 1<sup>ST</sup> READING

The book of the Apocalypse, or the Book of Revelation, is vivid in its content. It begins with John, on the island of Patmos in the Aegean, addressing a letter to the "Seven Churches of Asia". He then describes a series of prophetic visions. In today's reading, we hear of the 'woman adorned with the sun, standing on the moon, with the twelve stars on her head as a crown'. Since the early Church, this passage has been taken to be speaking of Our Lady, emphasizing her key role in the history of salvation.

### 2<sup>ND</sup> READING

St Paul speaks of the contrast between Adam and Our Lord. Though Adam, death and sin enter into the human story, but through Christ, there is the victory over death and sin. Death, which is the ultimate destruction of the human person, is destroyed by the death and resurrection of Christ. And we can share in the power of his victory over sin and death even here and now.

### GOSPEL READING

Today's Gospel presents to us the Magnificat, Mary's great hymn of praise for the great things that the Lord has worked in her life; that she, a 'lowly handmaid', has been exulted by God's grace to be the mother of Our Lord. It is through humble beginnings and simple trust and faithfulness to God and his promises that great things can happen in our lives.

### NEXT SUNDAY –

#### **TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY *PER ANNUM*; TWELTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (EF)**

*'In order to make good use of time we must love ardently and constantly;*

*we must surrender ourselves entirely to love, leaving it to act for us.*

*Be satisfied to adhere to it in everything, but always with profound humility.*

### ***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 – AN ORDER OF MERCY

*Fr David continues his series of reflections on the Dominican way of life, inspired by the 800<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of our Order and the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy.*

Three times in my life I have been publicly interrogated in exactly the same way: “What do you seek?” Three times the same answer: “God’s Mercy, and yours.” These three times have not been the only moments of interrogation I have encountered, but they are the most significant, and they define my whole Dominican life and ministry. Everything I have been called to do by God’s grace comes from these moments.

It is wonderfully providential that the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Order has coincided with the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy in the Church. Our Order was founded as an extraordinary expression of mercy, and so these 800 years are a celebration of the living out of mercy in the midst of the Church by the sacred preaching of Dominican life and its apostolic mission. The Order of Preachers desires by its every action to touch the souls it finds in need with the balm of God’s mercy. It begins with a request of obedience from its newest members – that they should ask for mercy.

I asked publicly for mercy from the Order three times. I was told to ask for this – our Order sets this as the answer to the question for admittance. The Order only accepts those who will firstly ask for mercy. I asked for this, as an act of obedience, firstly when I was clothed in the Habit, then when I was professed for the first time, and finally when I made by solemn profession. Each time, in so doing, I was caused to recognise my need of experiencing God’s love for me in this way as an intimate challenge to me, to live my life in a radically different way, and to find my joy exclusively in the new life of the Gospel.

When we ask for mercy from God and from the Order, we are brought into a more spiritual kind of union, both with God and with one another. We are asking to participate in God’s saving action in the lives of his chosen ones, and that is what grounds our call to preaching. In seeking to be preachers of the Word, we are invited as our first act of obedience to bear witness to our own need to listen to the Word, and be constantly transformed by it.

But what do we mean when we ask for mercy? It is firstly a recognition that we could live better lives, and encourage and assist better Christian living in others through a consecrated form of life. Our request for mercy is never one that seeks permission to live according to old ways. What we are seeking is to be brought before God’s justice and love, to recognise the things that challenge us and, rather than being condemned by them, to be truly liberated by mercy towards a greater expression of holiness – a richer, fuller kind of living.

The way of the Preacher is to be an instrument of God’s mercy, and this involves the sanctification of the whole of the Preacher’s life. Having requested and received God’s mercy, and exercising it among his brethren in the Order, he is constantly called to conversion. In so being, he is called to share that with others through his ministerial service. It is a calling that involves a whole lifetime, and demands constant attention and devotion to our Order’s purpose: to preach the truth.

*Fr David Rocks O.P.*