



LETTER TO THE HOLY CROSS FAMILY

HELP US TO SECURE THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY IN LEICESTER

To our friends, benefactors, parishioners, and supporters:

The last few weeks have seen a great deal of change here at Holy Cross. The needs of the Order and the Church have meant that some of our Community have been assigned to ministry elsewhere. Fr Greg has gone to Scotland, Fr Thomas to work in Ireland on a short-term basis, and now Fr Neil has left us to prepare for the challenges of his new mission in South America. In addition, Fr Isidore's recent illness has meant that a much-loved and long standing member of our Community has been required to take a step back from the very generous service he has given to the Holy Cross Family for the best part of three decades.

This leaves our Community in a very vulnerable position. Currently, there are only four Dominican Fathers who are in permanent residence at Holy Cross. With Fr Isidore being unable to join us, our Community Life is much diminished. This is a very difficult time for us: the challenges we face and the extent of our preaching and pastoral commitments mean that we are struggling to maintain our daily horarium of prayer and community life, which is so very important to our vocation.

Fr David and Fr Robert are the Officials of our Community, with Fr David as Prior and Fr Robert holding two positions as Subprior and Bursar. In terms of our preaching commitments, and the parochial and pastoral responsibilities we hold, Fr David and Fr Robert work closely together as Parish Priest and Parish Curate respectively. Both priests provide chaplaincy and sacramental support to George Ralph, our part-time University Chaplain, in collaboration with ecumenical colleagues at both the University of Leicester and DMU. Fr Robert is building the chaplaincy to HMP Leicester together with multi-faith colleagues and volunteers. The excellent and selfless work of Christina Mottram as Chaplain in our three hospitals is invaluable, and Fr David is working with her to improve provision in the LRI at present, and to recruit a new chaplain. We provide chaplaincy support to our Catholic Schools, and we serve as Governors. Fr Fabian, in his 89th year, astounds everyone with his abilities. Fr Isidore, in his time of illness, continues to be a great preacher of the Word on the Internet together with his twin brother, Fr Peter. He also preaches to our Religious Community in his time of illness.

So we are asking for your help in this time of difficulty for our Community. We are confident of a bright future: we know that our Fr Provincial has indicated that two other priests will be assigned to our Community in the summer months. They will be well placed to fit into our team. In the meantime, we ask for your forbearance as we try to juggle the many demands on our time. Our Mass schedules are very much in need of reflection during this stressful time. We know that we can rely on your support.

Our priority at present is to work as hard as we can to sustain our commitment to the many pastoral responsibilities that are upon us. We are also working to ensure that the priory facilities are prepared to welcome new members to our Community for service, and to upgrade our bathroom and kitchen facilities so that they are adequate for us to ensure continuity of care for our elderly Fathers, who have served this Priory and Church for three decades.

***We appreciate that these matters affect you all in different ways.
We ask for your prayers and support. We know we can count on that.***

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

Very Reverend David Edward Rocks OP
Prior