



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUNDAY 15 MARCH 2020

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

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

A WORD FROM THE PRIOR ...

Coronavirus (COVID-19) has really occupied our minds, our hearts, and our bodies, in the last week in particular. The crisis seems to escalate by the hour, and while we don't want to descend into hysteria, it is right and proper that we take this very seriously. As a community founded on love, we need to ensure that each person's needs are respected and cherished.

Much of what we offer in this week's newsletter is on a cautious note. Some things that draw us together as a community are 'suspended', and there is the possibility that other measures will be put in place. We are working with the nationally advised guidelines, and we are grateful for your patience!

Much of what we are presenting involves thinking about what can be done to keep us all in touch, and particularly looking after each other should things be difficult. To this end, I am also issuing an additional 'pastoral message'. Please take note.

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

Fr David

CORONAVIRUS EPIDEMIC – A DEVELOPING SITUATION

The Conference of Bishops (CBCEW) has prepared comprehensive advice about precautions and procedures in this ever-changing situation. We are following the directives of CBCEW, which follows on the advice from Her Majesty's Government. This advice is subject to constant revision, relying on a national strategy.

CORONAVIRUS – WHAT ARE WE DOING AT HOLY CROSS?

The main thing to note is that we are following the up-to-date statutory advice, and not acting on privately held opinions, professional or otherwise. To that end, the principal **restrictive measures** we have in place are as follows:

- ***Communion is distributed under one kind only and on the palm of the hand; communicants who are uncomfortable with this are asked to make a spiritual communion, formulae for which are provided;***
- ***The Sign of Peace at Mass is suspended indefinitely;***
- ***All "extra-curricular" pastoral gatherings are suspended indefinitely – so this means no social time after Mass and all other such events.***

In the meantime, the following things will remain in place:

- ***The regular schedule of Mass and Confession continues for now;***
- ***Pastoral visiting of the sick who are not self-isolating or suffering from contagious disease;***
- ***Pastoral care of the dying under any circumstance.***
- ***Provision for other ordinary sacramental support that falls within the guidelines, such as baptisms, marriages, funerals etc.***

Please note that we are continuing to receive updates as the circumstances change, and we will do whatever we can to keep you informed of developments.

NOTICE BOARD

BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you wish to have your child baptised, please attend one of our baptism preparation sessions. The next will take place subject to considerations in relation to the coronavirus epidemic. Please await announcement.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CONFIRMATION

Information about Confirmation for young people will be available in due course. First Communion for 2020 is being planned, subject to considerations in relation to the coronavirus epidemic. Please await announcement.

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.

VISITING THE SICK

The Faithful who are sick and housebound can arrange a visit from a priest or special minister by calling 0116 255 3586.

FAMILY VISITS

Families who would like a house blessing or a pastoral visit at home, can make arrangements by calling 0116 255 3856

CORONAVIRUS – KEEPING IN TOUCH – USE FACEBOOK PLEASE!!

It may well be the case in the coming weeks that we are asked to suspend our Masses and services entirely. In this scenario, we would hope to broadcast Masses and our community prayer via our Facebook page. We would encourage everyone to sign up to Facebook (even if you don't usually approve!) and to "like" our page, **Holy Cross Priory Leicester (Dominicans)**. Please ask us if you need assistance with this! But this is how we will keep in touch should we arrive at a 'lockdown' scenario.

MOST IMPORTANTLY!!!

CORONAVIRUS – CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

As cases increase and anxiety rises, it is more likely that the more vulnerable members of our faith community may experience symptoms and have to self-isolate. This is especially the case for the elderly and for students, and also for those who might be outside this category, but living alone for whatever reason. ***Please let us know at the Priory if it becomes necessary for you to self-isolate, so that we can keep in touch and provide assistance as and when appropriate and necessary.*** Please also be ready if possible to offer assistance, in a safe and appropriate way, to anyone who might require our assistance. Keep an eye on our facebook presence and also communicate with us as necessary.

DEVELOPING THE FRASSATI CENTRE

Unfortunately, the apostolate of the Frassati Centre as it is being developed currently falls under the category of "extra-curricular" pastoral gatherings, and as such are suspended. Therefore, we will not have the planned scripture sessions during Lent, nor any Frassati young adult groups. Provision for sacramental catechesis is under consideration in the short term. However, the good news is we have been able to start some low-level works in getting the building project going. So onwards!

ENGLAND – THE DOWRY OF MARY IN 2020

We are preparing as a nation to rededicate England to Our Blessed Lady in March of 2020. This is an excellent opportunity for all of us to reconsider our devotion to Our Blessed Lady. We will be celebrating this in our church on Sunday 29 March, subject to arrangements with coronavirus restrictions

ARRANGEMENTS FOR HOLY WEEK

We are delighted that Fr Bruno Clifton OP will join us to celebrate our Holy Week Retreat. We will have more details in due course, especially after it becomes clearer where the coronavirus restrictions are going

MICHAEL DOWNEY RIP

Michael's funeral will be celebrated on Wednesday 25 March at 11:30am Mass.

PLEASE TAKE THIS NEWSLETTER AWAY WITH YOU AND RECYCLE IT OR DISPOSE OF IT IN SOME OTHER MANNER. DO NOT LEAVE IT IN THE CHURCH!! #CORONAVIRUS #HXFACTOR

THE DOMINICAN COMMUNITY

Fr David Rocks OP PP *Prior*; Fr John Patrick Kenrick OP *Subprior*; Fr Tony Rattigan OP;
Fr Matthew Jarvis OP CC; Fr Luke Doherty OP *Bursar*

Office Administrator: *vacant*

Lay University Chaplain: *vacant*

Director of Music: *Mr Thomas Keogh* – keogh.thomas@hotmail.com

For the Office Administrator, please call **0116 255 3586**

Holy Cross Priory, 45 Wellington Street, LE1 6HW. Tel: 0116 255 3586

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:

10am; 12.30pm;
6:10pm *Vigil Mass for Sunday*

CONFESSION

Saturdays:

10:30-11:30am
5:00-6:00pm

MONEY MATTERS

Holy Cross:

£1,124.63
(£321 GA)

Ash

Wednesday:

£579.95

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!*