



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

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

FR ISIDORE'S REFLECTION

LIKE THE DEER THAT YEARN FOR RUNNING WATERS,
SO MY SOUL LONGS FOR YOU, O GOD. (PS.42.1)

What a beautiful and powerful image, deriving from the absence or presence of water in the semi-desert Middle East, making the difference between life and death. The deer's longing for life-giving water expresses our longing for the gift of God Himself. Without this gift we would be spiritually dead.

A pilgrimage to the Holy Land in the 70's taught my brother Peter and me a powerful lesson: no water, no life. But where there's water life can flourish.

In John's Gospel Jesus developed this theme of water being a traditional image of a share in God's own life, for which we should long. In ch.3, in His conversation with the Pharisee Nicodemus, Jesus told him that if he wanted to enter the Kingdom he must be born again/from above of water and the Spirit. Again, in ch.4 He told the Samaritan woman, that while she could only give Him a bucket of static, stale well water, the **'water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.'** He added, **'if only you appreciated that gift and who was offering it' –God Himself. If only we appreciated that He was sharing His life with us!**

Certainly, the gift of God Himself, represented by spring water is absolutely clean. But sadly, our sinning can and does contaminate God's life within us. We must keep the God-given water of life pure by avoiding sin, removing contaminants and by frequent confession. Mortal sin results from our choosing spiritual death. We have made ourselves like a badly polluted river, which destroys the life it used to support. This can be remedied by our repentance and God's forgiveness.

– Fr Isidore Clarke O.P.

MASS TIMES

Sundays:

6:10pm (*Vigil Mass on Saturday*)

Open 5.30pm – 7pm

8am – Open 7.30am – 9am

10:30am (sung, livestreamed)

Open 10am – 12pm

7pm – Open 6.30pm – 8pm

Monday to Saturday:

12:30pm (livestreamed)

Open for 12.30 Mass from

Wednesdays to Saturdays: 12pm – 1.15pm

CONFESSION

Saturdays: 11am – 12pm

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love You above all things and passionately desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul, so that I may unite myself wholly to You, now and forever, Amen

CORONAVIRUS – WHAT ARE WE DOING AT HOLY CROSS?

Our church is now open Wednesdays to Sundays at given times (see MASS TIMES above). You should wear a mask in church unless exempt or a child and maintain a safe distance. Please note the following:

- Entrance is through the Wellington Street door and exit is through the New Walk door.
- Please do not hold conversations in church, and if you chat outside, maintain social distance.
- Toilets are not available at present.

We will continue to livestream a daily Mass on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/holycrossleicester/>).

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

- *The Dominican Fathers continue to offer pastoral care to the Prison, and to the LRI, in collaboration with the University Hospitals of Leicester (UHL) NHS Trust. **Please contact the on-call Catholic Chaplain through the ward staff if you require assistance.***

THE DOMINICAN COMMUNITY

Fr John-Patrick Kenrick OP PP Prior; Fr Anthony Rattigan OP Subprior; Fr Luke Doherty OP Bursar; Fr John Farrell OP

Interim Office Administrator: Mr Kelechi Ebirim – leicester.admin@english.op.org

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

Holy Cross Priory, 45 Wellington Street, LE1 6HW. Tel: 0116 255 3856

For more details, visit: www.holycrossleicester.org

NOTICE BOARD

Baptism Preparation: Baptisms can now be held subject to regulations and can be discussed with the Parish Priest.

First Holy Communion Preparation: Please await announcement. Please let us know if your child was prepared.

Marriages: Couples who are hoping to marry in 2021 should write to the Parish Priest stating when they hope to marry, providing an address and phone number.

Becoming Catholic: Any adult who wishes to become a Catholic or receive Confirmation should email the office about joining our Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) programme.

Visiting the Sick: The sick and housebound can now receive Holy Communion if not *extremely* vulnerable. Please let us know your name, telephone number and address for when the lockdown ends. We're not allowed to publish the names of people who are sick without their permission (Data protection rules).

Funerals: These can now be held subject to regulations.

Confessions: We are now allowed to hear confessions subject to certain rules. You must wear a face mask and the confession has to be very brief. So, for now we have to limit the time for each confession to just 3 minutes which is plenty of time if you have prepared.

PARISH NEWS!

Congratulations to Natalia & Dritan on their marriage and to Mr & Mrs Mesias on their 50th wedding anniversary!

Covid-19 NHS Test and Trace form: Please note that this is voluntary, and you only have to fill it in once – the first time you come to Mass. For consequent visits, on entering the church, just sign the register, sanitising hands first.

Repository Summer Sale: All items reduced by 50% and all cards reduced to 50p! The repository is now in the back porch. If there is something you need not on display, please ask - it may be in our store cupboard.

Scripture study continues: Fr Richard Ounsworth OP is leading the weekly scripture study online, every Tuesday from 7.45pm–8.45pm. Visit <https://www.holycrossleicester.org/scripture-study/> for more details.

Organ Recital resumes: The next Lunchtime Organ Recital comes up on Wednesday 16th September 2020 at 1.15pm in the church, given by Thomas Keogh. Admission is free and there will be a retiring collection.

A moment with Mary: The Leicestershire active Catholic youth will be having 'a moment with Mary' on Saturday 4th October 2020 at 4pm via zoom. Please email paulinepayne@hotmail.com for Zoom ID and password to join.

November Mass list: November is not far away! Please remember to fill in the November dead list envelopes in the church repository if you would like a Mass said or you can send a donation with details of Mass to be said via post.

CATHOLIC STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER AND DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY

Welcome back to Leicester and the new academic year. A special welcome to our first year and international students. Please send your contacts to Fr JP at leicester.admin@english.op.org. Students usually attend the 7pm Sunday Mass; weekday Mass on campus will depend on Covid-19 regulations.

MONEY MATTERS

Many thanks for your generosity towards livestreaming and audio system upgrade fundraising through which we raised £4,600 (including Gift Aid). The parish accounts from 1st Oct to end of June 2020 show an annual surplus of £6,847.28 in our financial year which ends on Sep 30th. The weekly collection for the parish for September 6th was £1,150 (£497 Gift Aided) which is close to normal levels.

Many of you have donated online or have set up standing orders – thank you for your continued support!

We rely on donations for our ministry and upkeep of the church. To donate, visit:

- <https://www.holycrossleicester.org/200-campaign/200th-anniversary-campaign-donate-now/>

Mass Intentions: If you would like to book a Mass, please put an envelope with your intention, donation and telephone number through our letter box or visit this page:

- <https://www.holycrossleicester.org/donate/request-a-mass/>

Sanctuary Lamps: If you would like a sanctuary lamp to be lit for your intention, visit:

- <https://www.holycrossleicester.org/donate/sponsor-a-sanctuary-lamp/>

Candle Stands: Please visit <https://www.holycrossleicester.org/sponsor-a-candle-stand/> for details.

Replacement Gift Aid Envelopes: If unable to come to church and would like to request Gift Aid envelopes or to donate by cheque, contact Fr Luke Doherty:

Postal address: 45 Wellington Street, Leicester, LE1 6HW; **Email:** luke.doherty@english.op.org

Cheque donations to the 'Parish' or 'Priory' should be made to 'Holy Cross Parish' or 'Holy Cross Priory' respectively.