



# HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

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

## FR ISIDORE'S REFLECTION

BEHOLD I WILL BE WITH YOU ALWAYS' (MATT. 28. 20)

Those were the risen Lord's final words as He commissioned His followers to proclaim the Good News to the whole world, just before He ascended into heaven. As He gave them a seemingly impossible task, He set out to reassure them that they would not be alone in tackling it. Jesus, the Son of God, would be helping them, helping us. He was echoing the reassurance God gave through Isaiah, (Is. 43. 3), 'Do not be afraid I am with you. I am holding you by the hand. Do not be afraid.'

Today I want to apply Christ's commitment to be with us always to the whole of our lives. We meet Him not just in serious, religious matters, what used to be called the 'God slot' in broadcasting. He is with us in the mundane routine of our daily lives. Not only there. He is to be found in the trivial, in the ridiculous. If we take this approach, what seems to be profane and worldly becomes sacred. That includes relaxing, as Jesus did with His disciples. So, out with the God slot of part time religion; in with full time religion. Everything we do or do not do must be in the name of the Lord. That should not take the fun out of life, but add to its richness, giving an eternal value to what seems transient.

Jesus is with us, supporting us in many ways, each of them real. We meet Him in prayer and the sacraments, in the people we meet. In reacting to them we react to Jesus who identifies with them. Our eternal salvation will depend on that, (Matt, 25). So, it is vital we should be able to recognise God's hand, His presence, in all that He does, all that He asks of us. When life is rough, I need to pray for the docility to accept God's will.

There is this problem of recognising God when He is present in so many ways and expresses Himself in so many guises. We meet Him in prayer and the sacraments, in the people we meet. Some are very demanding, whom we would prefer to avoid. When we hear Jesus knocking at the door of our lives we may refuse to open, because He would be an intrusive embarrassment. Or there's so much clamour in our lives we are completely unaware of His presence.

We do not realise whom we have missed. So, the psalmist urges us to 'taste and see that the Lord is good!' (Ps. 34, 8). And how do we do that? Again, the psalmist, 'Be still and know that I am God,' (Ps. 46. 10). We get to know and love someone by making time for him or her, by talking and listening, by silently enjoying each other's company. That is precisely how our love for God develops. We gain a taste for God and the things of God. If we do not allow our palate to develop a taste for the ungodly the Lord will always be welcome in our lives.

And wonder of wonders, at the moment of our deaths. We will not be strangers but have come to know and love each other throughout our daily lives. When we have sinned and repented, we have experienced the wonder of God's love and mercy. That is the message of the parable of the Prodigal Son. We can look upon death as the joyful home coming for which we've longed and for which we striven.'

– Fr Isidore Clarke O.P.

**Holy Cross Priory, 45 Wellington Street, LE1 6HW. Tel: 0116 255 3856 For more details, visit: [www.holycrossleicester.org](http://www.holycrossleicester.org)**

## MEMBERS OF THE DOMINICAN COMMUNITY

John-Patrick Kenrick OP *Prior*; Anthony Rattigan OP *Subprior*; Luke Doherty OP *Bursar*; John Farrell OP; Richard Ounsworth OP  
**Sacristan:** Mr Nicholas Hoff; **Office Administrator:** Mr Kelechi Ebirim – [leicester.admin@english.op.org](mailto:leicester.admin@english.op.org);  
**Music Director & Organist:** Mr Thomas Keogh – [keogh.thomas@hotmail.com](mailto:keogh.thomas@hotmail.com)

*The daily 12.30pm (10.30am Sunday) & 6.10pm Vigil Mass are livestreamed on YouTube @ [HolyCrossTV Leicester](https://www.youtube.com/HolyCrossTVLeicester).*

## MASS TIMES

### Sundays:

**6:10pm** (*Vigil Mass on Saturday*)  
Open 5.30pm – 7pm (livestreamed)

**8am** – Open 7.30am – 8.30am

**10:30am** (livestreamed)  
Open 10am – 11.30am

**7pm** – Open 6pm – 7.30pm

### Tuesday to Saturday opening:

**10:00am** (Saturday only)

**12:30pm** (livestreamed)

(Open approx. 30mins before & after Mass)

Closed all day on Mondays.

## CONFESSION

Currently Suspended

## 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?

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 or chat in groups outside the church.
- Toilets are not available at present.
- **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.

## SACRAMENTS

**The Wednesday Word (For Children):** <http://www.wednesdayword.org/school/index.htm>

**First Holy Communion Preparation:** If there is no programme in your child's school, then please see Fr JP.

**Baptisms:** Currently suspended.

**Funerals:** These can be held subject to regulations & can be discussed with the Parish Priest.

**Becoming Catholic:** Any adult who wishes to become a Catholic or receive Confirmation should email the office.

**Visiting the Sick:** If you are not 'extremely vulnerable', let us know your name, tel. no. & address.

**Confessions:** Currently suspended.

*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. If you or a relative are in hospital, please let the hospital Chaplain know through the duty Nurse on the ward.*

## PARISH NEWS!

**Scripture study:** Fr Richard continues to lead the weekly scripture study online, every Tuesday from 7.45pm–8.45pm, currently exploring the book of Isaiah. Please come and tell all your friends. For more details, please visit <https://www.holycrossleicester.org/scripture-study/>.

**Repository:** Closed.

## “MOTHER TERESA OF MANCHESTER” ELIZABETH PROUT CLOSER TO SAINTHOOD

Pope Francis has declared the British 19<sup>th</sup> century nun Elizabeth Prout to be Venerable. She was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1820 in Shrewsbury and died in Sutton, St Helens on 11<sup>th</sup> January 1864. Popularly known as Mother Teresa of Manchester, Prout is known for her work among poor and vulnerable communities in the city and is the foundress of Sisters of the Holy Cross and Passion. She is among the many Catholic Sisters who provided education and healthcare to the poor in the age of industrialisation who suffered from outbreaks of cholera and typhoid.

## ORGAN CONCERTS

Our parish organist, Mr Tom Keogh will be giving a livestream organ concert on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February at 1.15pm. There will be a further concert on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March at the same time. Contributions for Tom's expenses can be sent to him in a cheque made out to him c/o HC priory.

## MONEY MATTERS

**Parish Hall Repairs:** Many have donated online or 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:** 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: **Email:** [luke.doherty@english.op.org](mailto:luke.doherty@english.op.org) or send to the above address.

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