



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER

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

FR ISIDORE'S REFLECTION

LENT WITH CHRIST

Recently I read a lesson in the Breviary which really excited me. This was by the 17th century mystic, St. John Eudes. He integrated what we believe – the mysteries of faith – with our daily lives as Christians. His central idea was that the Church and each of its members – you and me – found perfection in living each of the mysteries of Christ's life. At Christmas we stress Jesus sharing our human life, our sharing His divine life. During Advent we prepare to welcome Him. During Lent (from Old English meaning, 'spring' festival) we prepare to celebrate the Paschal Mystery of Christ death and resurrection, through which He freed us from the power of sin and death. The Hebrews had to make a 40-year long journey out of slavery in Egypt (meaning of 'Exodus') across the wilderness and into freedom in the Promised Land. The original Passover sacrificial meal with which that journey began would find its fulfilment in the Last Supper and Paschal Mystery of Christ's death and resurrection – the theme of this month's meditation. But now I want to show how the 40 years in the desert is reflected in Christ spending 40 days in the wilderness and our identifying with Him in a special way during the 40 days of Lent + Holy/Passion Week. The Bible sees the desert as a place full of temptations. Our loyalty to God is tested and frequently we fail, have to repent and renew our commitment to Him. But St. Paul reassures us. "God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it." (1 Cor. 10.13). That was the situation of the Hebrews wandering in the desert for 40 years and Jesus during the 40 days in the wilderness. During Lent we are called to identify with Jesus, to enter the silence of the desert and take a hard look at our lives and ask ourselves how far we have gone astray, pushed God to the fringe of our lives; do we refuse to let go of the 'sin that clings?' (Hebrews 12. 1). While He always overcame temptation, we frequently fail and need to repent. Lent is not a time to escape reality but to enter the reality of Christ's 40 days in the desert. That means making time and space for us to be honest with ourselves and with God and sort out our priorities. That is what Jesus did when He was tempted. Those tests gave Him and us the opportunity to renew our commitment to Our Heavenly Father, the main difference being that while we fail and need to repent, Jesus did not. Certainly, the desert was an austere place, and it is good for us to cut back on non-essentials, even better to give what we save to the needy. It's far more important for us to concentrate on putting right what is wrong, rather than giving up what doesn't matter. A bit of self-discipline does help to strengthen us in choosing what is right but unpleasant. In the wilderness Jesus resisted and overcame temptations and reaffirmed His commitment to His Father's will. As we repent for our sins let us renew our commitment to live more godly lives. During Lent we will be preparing with Jesus to celebrate the Last Supper and the Paschal Mystery of His death resurrection. That will be the topic of my next posting. I began this reflection by referring to the spirituality of St. John Eudes. Now I will conclude by quoting him. 'We must strive to follow and fulfil in ourselves the various stages of Christ's plan as well as his mysteries, and frequently beg him to bring them to completion in us and in the whole Church. For the mysteries of Jesus are not yet completely perfected and fulfilled. They are complete, indeed, in the person of Jesus, but not in us, who are his members, nor in the Church, which is his mystical body.'

From a treatise "On the Kingdom of Jesus" by Saint John Eudes, Priest (Pars 3, 4: Opera omnia 1, 310-312)
The mystery of Christ in us and in the Church – **Fr Isidore Clarke O.P.**

Holy Cross Priory, 45 Wellington Street, LE1 6HW. Tel: 0116 255 3856 For more details, visit: 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;
Music Director & Organist: Mr Thomas Keogh – 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.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

The liturgies on Maundy Thursday **7.30pm**, Good Friday **3pm** and Easter Vigil **7.30pm** are all fully booked. Tickets are not needed for the 3 Masses on Easter Sunday – 8am, 10.30am & 12.30pm (in English). Please arrive early to be sure of a place.

CORONAVIRUS – WHAT ARE WE DOING AT HOLY CROSS?

You should wear a mask in church unless exempt 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 sign the register when you come into the church.
- Toilets are currently unavailable.
- Please do not hold conversations in church or chat in groups outside the church.

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: To resume on Tuesday 6th April 2021. <https://www.holycrossleicester.org/scripture-study/>.

DIY ABORTIONS AT HOME

The government is currently deciding whether to make permanent the temporary measure allowing 'DIY' home abortions. Please ask your MP to oppose this and to attend this event (www.righttolife.org.uk/DIYabortionMeeting)

On Wednesday 24th March, the Vigil of The Annunciation, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia. Please join in and invite others to join as well. <https://www.facebook.com/events/725021905067267>

ORGAN CONCERTS

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

MONEY MATTERS

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: Masses are usually booked at least a month ahead. To book Masses online, please visit the website 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 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.