



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

EASTER 2021 NEWSLETTER

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

FR ISIDORE'S REFLECTION

THE RESURRECTION – FOUNDATION OF OUR FAITH

If Jesus had not risen from the dead after His brutal crucifixion, we millions of believers would be the victims of a massive, wicked con trick. We would have been promised that if we believed in the risen Lord and followed Him, we, too, would share in His victory over death and rise with Him to a new and glorious life.

How wonderful that would be if it were true! What a cruel deception if we had been given hope where there was no hope -if we'd simply been promised 'pie in the sky, bye and bye.' If that were so, we would be the most wretched of people. That's what most people think of us Christians today – we are deluded, clinging onto false hopes. But with St. Paul we triumphantly proclaim that not only has Jesus risen from the dead; He is also the first born of those who believe in Him and follow Him, (cf, I Cor, 15 for the above teaching).

For Jesus and for us the resurrection certainly doesn't mean our being restored to our present mode of existence, in which we are vulnerable to sickness, death, temptation and sin. No, with Jesus we will be 'glorified,' without losing our present identities. We will enter the very presence of God and share His happiness. To most people all this is fanciful nonsense. They believe that death put an end to Christ, removing a troublesome nuisance. They're convinced death closes the book on our life-story. All that remains are memories which soon fade. But our Christian faith tells us the best is yet to come, after we have died.

Easter proclaims that death does not have the last word in anyone's life-story. We believe that Jesus rose from the grave. Far from being destroyed by death, He rose triumphantly from the grave to enjoy the fullness of life. Certainly this was a personal victory for Jesus. But not only for Him. Like Jesus, each one of us will certainly die. But we believe that we can share in Christ's victory over death. If we believe in Him and follow Him, we will share in the power of His resurrection and rise bodily to a new and glorious life beyond the grave. That will be far more wonderful than anything we could experience in our present lives.

The resurrection is the corner stone of our faith. Our crucified and risen Lord has given us hope, where there was no hope. Instead of expecting the emptiness of death we can look forward to the fullness of life. That hope is a great comfort as we mourn the death of our loved ones and prepare for our own deaths. The resurrection gives a new sense of purpose and direction to our present lives. Everything we do should help us to follow Christ in passing through death to the fullness of eternal life beyond the grave. We should allow nothing to hold us back or deflect us. Our conviction is based on the witness of hard-headed sceptics who needed to see the wounds of the crucified and risen Lord. Only then were they prepared to believe in Him and die for their faith in Him. Amidst all the sorrows and fears of our plague-stricken world let us rejoice and be filled with hope.

The Lord has truly risen! And so will we, if we follow Him.

Happy Easter!

– 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

LS = Livestreamed

Sunday: 8am, 10.30am (LS), 7pm

Saturday: 10am, 12.30pm (LS) & 6.10pm (Vigil, LS)

Tues – Friday: 12.30 (LS) & 6.10pm

NB: No evening mass from 6th to 9th April

Church opens 30 mins before Mass.

Closed all day on Mondays.

No Confessions on Saturday at present.

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.

POPE FRANCIS ON THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL

The heart of the gospel message will always be the same: the God who revealed his immense love in the crucified and risen Christ. God constantly renews his faithful ones, whatever their age: "They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not be faint" (Is.40.31). Christ is the "eternal gospel" (Rev 14.6): he "is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Heb. 13.8), yet his riches and beauty are inexhaustible. He is for ever young and a constant source of newness... Or as St Irenaeus writes; "by his coming, Christ brought with him all newness." With this newness he is always able to renew our lives and our communities, and even if the Christian message has known periods of darkness and ecclesial weakness, it will never grow old. Jesus can also break through the dull categories with which we enclose him and he constantly amazes us by his divine creativity. Whenever we make the effort to return to the source and to recover the original freshness of the Gospel, new avenues arise, new paths of creativity open up, with different forms of expression, more eloquent signs and words with new meaning for today's world. (*Evangelium Gaudium* a.11)

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 & Confessions: 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.

*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.*

FROM THE DIOCESE

Complete the survey: How has Covid-19 Affected You and Your Faith? - Bishop Patrick would like to hear from you! Please fill out the short questionnaire: <https://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/whats-on/news/share-your-story-how-has-covid-19-affected-you-and-your-faith>. **The deadline for submissions is July 4th, 2021.**

Vacancy: Full time Roman Catholic Chaplain for HMP Stocken. See details: <https://justicejobs.tal.net/vx/mobile-0/appcentre-1/brand-13/candidate/so/pm/1/pl/3/opp/42456-42456-Roman-Catholic-Chaplain-Full-Time-Roman-Catholic-Ordained-Priest-Ordained-Deacon-Religious-Brother-Sister-Lay-Person/en-GB>

PARISH NEWS!

Scripture study: Continues every Tuesday 7.45pm – 8.45pm. <https://www.holycrossleicester.org/scripture-study/>

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.