



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

CHRISTMAS 2020/NEW YEAR 2021 NEWSLETTER

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

FR RICHARD'S REFLECTION

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

For many of us, this Christmas is going to be rather less happy than usual, for obvious reasons. But we should nevertheless find ways of making merry.

I say 'merry' deliberately, because it is a word we especially associate with Christmas. No-one says 'merry birthday', do they? Making merry is about celebrating, but it's about more than that: it's about relaxing, letting our hair down; when the work is over and the day is done, when the children are finally asleep, when the war is over, when the virus has been conquered, when the journey is ended, we can finally, at last, make merry.

It may not feel like it, but at Christmas we celebrate the fact that the journey is over. That journey is the great journey of humanity which is our movement from darkness into light. Adam and Eve were cast out – cast themselves out, really – from the light of paradise into the darkness of exile; and that experience of walking in the valley of darkness has been typical of human lives from that day to this. We see it even in the Christmas story: Mary and Joseph driven from their home in Nazareth, driven out into the night, to bed down among the cattle.

Yet, in a strange and astonishing way, in the midst of this darkness, this exile, this homelessness, our true home appears. Because when Jesus is born, God makes his home among us. And this really means that he made us at home with him. As Christ comes among us from on high, it is we who have truly come home. Home to God, for our exile is over. Whatever may be going on in the world, we Christians know that we are no longer walking in the valley of the shadow of death, because God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness, into his own marvelous light.

So it is time to make merry indeed. This is not a non-too-subtle excuse for drunkenness: we get drunk to forget, but we make merry to remember. We drink because we are afraid, we make merry because we have been set free from fear. We have been set free to remember that we are loved, that God is at home with us and we are at home with God. So eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we live.

– Fr Richard Ounsworth O.P.

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.

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

24/12/20: 12.30pm Mass

Christmas Eve 24/12/20 Masses:
6.10pm; 10pm

Christmas Day Masses:
8am; 10.30am

26/12/20 Masses: 10am; 12.30pm

Sunday 27/12/20 Masses:
6.10pm (Vigil Mass on Saturday)
8am; 10.30am; 7pm

29/12/20 till 01/01/21:
12.30pm Mass only

Normal Mass times resume afterwards.

(Open approx. 30mins before & after Mass)
Closed all day on Mondays.

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

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.

Baptism Preparation & 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: Please wear a mask & keep the confession to 3 minutes; and please prepare in advance.

Christmas Masses: Booked tickets are available. Please collect your tickets in advance & bring them in the envelope to Mass.

*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!

Grand Draw: Raffle tickets are still available. Remember to bring to church the ticket stubs and the money by January 6th 2021. The date of the draw has been extended because of the recent lockdown. Tickets are 20p each.

Repository: The repository is now in the back porch. If there is something you need not on display, please ask.

Act now & ask your MP to oppose introducing assisted suicide: Visit <https://righttolife.org.uk/StopAssistedSuicide>

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/>.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (SVP)

The St Vincent de Paul (SVP) society is engaged in a variety of activities to help those who are in material need or care for those who are isolated. Amongst other things, they visit hospitals, prisons, care homes and schools. It is voluntary work that could also suit a student who has some spare time. If you would like to be part of the local SVP group, please get in touch.

MONEY MATTERS

Christmas appeal: Many thanks to those who contributed to our Christmas appeal to help children in need with food vouchers - altogether £1,450 was raised.

The **Home Mission** collection came to £289 - thank you very much for your generous response!

Parish Hall Repairs: Many 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: 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 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.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The Prior and Community of Holy Cross Priory wish to thank you for all your Christmas cards and gifts. We wish you all a very MERRY CHRISTMAS! God bless you in this season and throughout the year ahead!