



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER

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

FR ISIDORE'S REFLECTION

DOUBTING THOMAS

It is so convenient to stick indelible labels on people and think we know them. We force them into pigeon-holes. We all do it, since we think it makes relationships much easier to handle - because we have simplified them. But people are not pigeon-shaped and do not fit. We are all complicated, difficult to understand.

Sadly, this is the way the apostle Thomas has been treated; he has been stuck with the indelible label, 'Doubting Thomas!' That is so unfair! Even though he soon proved it was totally unjustified. All he wanted was to see the risen Lord for himself and touch the wounds of His crucifixion. What is forgotten is that the other apostles were equally sceptical. To be convinced that he had truly risen from the dead, they needed to see Jesus do something physical, such as eating. He was the same person who had died on the cross, but His quality of life had radically changed. Through His resurrection Jesus was 'glorified.'

The irony, the injustice in this, is that only Thomas been given the indelible label of 'doubter.' And yet everyone needed to see that the Lord had indeed risen. So, they should all be called 'unbelievers!' Thomas was just much more demanding in wanting not only to see, but also to touch the crucified and risen Lord's wounds. But once Thomas became convinced that Jesus had, indeed, risen from the dead and was the same person, who had been crucified and buried, he made the greatest act of faith, when he fell to his knees and exclaimed, 'My Lord and my God!' In this, Thomas recognized Jesus not only as being the risen Lord but also the Almighty God of glory. Thomas had magnificently completed the journey from doubt and scepticism to the certainty of faith. The journey to faith is one of the main themes of St. John's Gospel.

So, let us stop referring to Thomas as 'doubting,' and call him 'Believing Thomas.' That is simply a matter of justice. And while I am on this subject, let us remove the labels we have stuck on people, races, and classes. If we do, we may well come to like and love them. But back to Thomas and all those who were sceptical about the resurrection. They proved that they needed convincing before they would believe Jesus had risen from the dead. They were hardheaded, not gullible people. They were not prepared to accept empty rumors and put their faith in them. But their initial disbelief provides a solid foundation for our faith. The Church owes them an enormous debt of gratitude.

Jesus acknowledges this when looking ahead to our post apostolic age. He said, 'Thomas, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' (Jn. 20.29). That is you and me!

– Fr Isidore Clarke O.P.

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.

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

Church opens 30 mins before Mass.

Closed all day on Mondays.

Confessions: Saturdays 11am till Noon

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, the parish course begins in autumn (please contact the parish office).

Baptisms: Please contact the parish office.

Funerals: These can be held subject to regulations.

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 ask the Nurse to inform the hospital Chaplain.*

TALKS ABOUT MEDJUGORJE BY FR LEON PEREIRA OP

We all remember Fr Leon with affection. Do see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ogb4FJx4kTQ>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hrazC9k4Fpg>, and a playlist for short videos (<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLyP5jRUvYFpd5YFTluF63iNbnZozC10ML>).

FROM THE DIOCESE

Episode 2: A Father's Heart – A Podcast for Catholic Dads: In this second episode, guests Maziano and Merwyn (from Sacred Heart Parish in Leicester) share their thoughts on St Joseph being 'An Obedient Father' and how we can respond to the will of God in our lives. Do download or listen online at www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/podcasts

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.**

Diocesan Safeguarding Mass: Saturday 15th May, 11.30am from the Cathedral. <http://stbarnabascathedral.org.uk/>

May Rosary Mission 2021: The National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham invites us all to join in saying the rosary at 8pm daily, in preparation for the 3 National days of prayer:

- **Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church (May 24th):** For the Mission and Intentions of all Catholic Schools, Youth Associations/Groups, and projects, and for all families.
- **Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity (May 30th):** For the Rosary Mission intentions and the needs of our diocese. The Diocese of Nottingham has been allocated 10am – 11am on this day for the online rosary rally.
- **Feast of the Visitation (May 31st):** Thanksgiving for the graces received during the May 2021 Rosary Mission. Bishop John Keenan (Scotland) will host a crowning Rosary online at 8pm.

PARISH NEWS!

Students: Please let Fr JP know your contact details so that we can let you know about student events.

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

Coming back to Mass: Now that restrictions are being gradually relaxed, the Bishops are encouraging us to return to church for Mass if possible. Livestream is useful if you are confined to your home but when possible, Catholics should attend Mass in church to receive the Eucharist in an atmosphere conducive to communal praying.

Eastern Christians day: Sunday the 9th of May is a day of prayer for Eastern Christians.

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 2 weeks 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.