



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

SUMMER 2021 NEWSLETTER

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

FR ISIDORE'S REFLECTION

HEARING AND DEAFNESS

'THEY HAVE EARS BUT CANNOT HEAR...' (PS.115.6, MK.8.18)

Even if the psalmist's purpose was to condemn the futility of idolatry and lead God's people back to the One who had saved them from slavery in Egypt, I think his words speak to both those who are physically deaf, and, surprisingly, to those whose hearing is not impeded. That's what I'm now going to explore having experienced both conditions. Like many other elderly people, gradually I've lost my ability to hear. I live in a soundless world, no longer able to enjoy the sound of birds and of music or take part in conversations except with hearing aids to magnify the little hearing left.

But life is much harder for those who are born completely deaf. Since they can't hear people talking, they can't imitate the sounds they make, and so learn to speak. They can easily be dismissed as being backward, unless someone spots the problem and a way of getting round it – schools for the totally deaf, sign language, lip reading etc. Having said this, I do value non-verbal communication: smiles, hugs, art, the written word etc. A Dominican sister, a very dear friend, asked me to preach at the Golden Jubilee of her final vows. When I gave her the text of my sermon, I pointed out that, since she was stone deaf, she couldn't have heard a word I said. 'No problem,' she replied. 'When we looked at each other, we both smiled. That was enough!' That simple gesture was more eloquent than my written words.

Perhaps surprisingly, after writing about the problems caused by deafness, I'm now going to sing the praises of silence. Obviously, if we need to concentrate, we don't want to be distracted by noise. The Scriptures have made great use of hearing and deafness, as well as the importance of silence to express our relationship with God. His People were urged to obey His Law, with the words, 'Hear, O Israel...' (Deut. 6. 4). To get to know God they were urged to, 'be still and know that I am God.' (Ps. 46. 10). Jesus needed the quiet solitude of night-time prayer to draw closer to His Heavenly Father and to strengthen His determination to do His will. If Jesus needed stillness and quietness, so do we. He urges us to seek the quiet solitude of our rooms when praying.

But we may not want to hear the voice of the Lord. In the Book of Revelation, the risen Lord speaks of His standing at the door of our lives. (Rev. 3. 20). He knocks; He waits for us to open up to Him. He doesn't make a forced entry where He's not wanted. Sometimes we're preoccupied with the sound of so many things that we simply don't notice the Lord's knock. On other occasions we don't want to open up to Him because His presence would be an embarrassment to our sinning. If so, the psalmist urges us, 'Today, if you hear the voice of the Lord harden not your hearts...' (Ps. 95. 8). To sum up: the true members of Christ's new family in God's Kingdom are, 'those who hear the word of God and act upon it...' (Lk. 8. 21; 11. 28). 'Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of My Father in heaven,' (Lk. 7. 21). – **Fr Isidore Clarke O.P.**

CORONAVIRUS – WHAT ARE WE DOING AT HOLY CROSS?

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>

Please contact the office for any of the following:

- **First Holy Communion:** If there is no programme in your child's school, the parish course begins in autumn.
- **Infant Baptisms, Marriages, Becoming Catholic:** Please apply to the parish office.
- **Funerals:** These can be held in church.
- **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.*

UPDATE REGARDING COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

Receiving Communion: Please place one palm over another. **THEY NEED TO BE FLAT.** A few people are still cupping their hands which makes it difficult to avoid touching them.

- Hand sanitizers continue to be used when coming into the church.
- And when inside the church (**These rules may be changed**):
 - Face coverings should still be used (except by the medically exempt).
 - Continue to keep a safe distance from others.

NEW DOMINICAN SAINT – MARGARET OF CITTA DI CASTELLO

Margaret of Citta di Castello was born in 1287 and died in 1320. She was born blind with a deformed spine, a malformed arm and one leg shorter than the other and was eventually abandoned by her parents. She was adopted by a devout family and joined the Dominican third order. Despite her own physical problems, she nursed the sick, consoled the dying, and visited prisoners. Veneration of Blessed Margaret grew in the 19th century. She was canonized by Pope Francis in April this year.

PARISH NEWS!

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

Scripture study: On a summer break till September! <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.

FRASSATI CENTRE (PARISH HALLS)

Construction works are nearing completion. There are delays due to labour and material shortages.

Income (fundraising and grants received): £365,000; Expenditure (forecast): £385,000.

Net (deficit): -£20,000

The parish currently has a surplus of around £4,000 this financial year. Hall income will go to the parish once the centre is open later this year.

What we have achieved so far:

- New heating system, plumbing and toilets installed, including disabled facilities.
- Platform lift installed in the main foyer.
- Creation of partition walls, replastering of old walls, painting works, and new kitchen.
- Creation of an upper hall chapel area with a multi-purpose breakout space
- An electronic access system with CCTV has been installed to improve site security.

Still to be completed as of mid-July 2021:

- Commissioning of new electrical and heating infrastructure, and fire alarm system
- Installation of remaining flooring, sanding and resealing of main hall floor

ROOF REPLACEMENT

The condition of the roof on New Walk has deteriorated. Our only option to stop the leaks is to replace this section of roof. We have received a quote for £75,000 to do this work. We have a roof fund which will cover most of this cost, but we need to raise £7,000 for the new roof. Please contact Fr Luke if you would like to discuss a Gift Aid donation. To donate to our priory roof fund, you can pay by cheque ('**Holy Cross Priory**') or make a BACS transfer. Please post cheques to: **The Bursar, Holy Cross Priory, 45 Wellington Street, (New Walk letterbox), LE1 6HW**