



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

OCTOBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

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

FR ISIDORE'S REFLECTION

'MERCY – THE FACE OF GOD'

I'm going to share with you key extracts from Pope Francis' famous writings on how we think about God (from his Papal letter called 'Misericordia - Vultus Dei').

1. Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy. These words might well sum up the mystery of the Christian faith. Mercy has become living and visible in Jesus of Nazareth, reaching its culmination in him. The Father, "rich in mercy" (Eph 2:4), after having revealed his name to Moses as "a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness" (Ex 34:6), has never ceased to show, in various ways throughout history, his divine nature. In the "fullness of time" (Gal 4:4), when everything had been arranged according to his plan of salvation, he sent his only Son into the world, born of the Virgin Mary, to reveal his love for us in a definitive way. Whoever sees Jesus sees the Father (cf. Jn 14:9). Jesus of Nazareth, by his words, his actions, and his entire person (parag. 1) reveals the mercy of God.
2. We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace. Our salvation depends on it. Mercy: the word reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. Mercy: the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life. Mercy: the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness.'

Since how we react to God must be the basis of any sound relationship with Him, Pope Francis here sets out to get that sorted out. Sadly, some people have, from childhood, been taught to obey God out of fear of His eternal punishment. But fear can only scare us into conformity, not encourage us to love. In the 'Face of God' and the Year of Mercy, which this document inaugurated, Pope Francis urges us to become like God, who is 'full of mercy and compassion'. Quite simply, if mercy is the face of God, Jesus is the human embodiment and expression of divine mercy. We people, who have been made in the image and likeness of God must therefore be as 'compassionate as our Heavenly Father is compassionate,' (Lk.6. 36). In other words, compassion/mercy distinguishes us as God's true children.

– 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

Open **10am – 2pm Tues. to Fri., & 30mins** before evening and weekend Masses
Closed all day on Mondays

Confessions: Saturdays 11am – 12pm

Holy Hour: Sunday 6pm (Open 5.30pm)

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 & 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, contact the parish office.
- **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. Those who prefer to receive on the tongue should wait until the end of Mass.

- Hand sanitizers continue to be used when coming into the church.
- And when inside the church:
 - Face coverings should still be used (except by the medically exempt).
 - Continue to keep a safe distance from others.
 - The congregation are now encouraged to sing during the Mass while wearing a mask.

PARISH NEWS!

Students: Please fill in the students form and return it to one of the Priests. Student Mass is on Monday at 6.10pm

Private Prayer: The Church is now open from **10am till 2pm on Tuesdays to Fridays** for private prayer.

Scripture study: Holds every Tuesday at 7.45pm. See more: <https://www.holycrossleicester.org/scripture-study/>

Coming back to Mass: The Bishops are encouraging us to return to church for Mass to pray together and receive the Eucharist. Livestream is still useful if you are confined to your home. Mass attendance at Holy Cross is currently almost at pre-COVID levels.

LGBT+ Community Mass: A Mass for LGBT+ people, family and friends will be celebrated by Bishop Patrick at Corpus Christi Church in Cleethorpes at 1pm on 23rd October.

Alderman Newton's Educational Foundation Grants for Young People: Please see more information about this on the parish website – https://www.holycrossleicester.org/news_and_events/

COVID AND FLU JABS

The Pope is urging us all to get a covid vaccine jab, and it is useful to have a flu jab too to protect others as well as ourselves - so if you still have not had one then do contact your GP. Flu jabs are free for people aged 50 or over.

ROOF REPLACEMENT

Thanks to your generosity towards the Priory roof replacement through cash, cheques and online payments, we have raised **£4,320** which is **43%** of our target sum of **£10,000**. We continue to appeal for your generosity. 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 or visit <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/holycrossroof>
Please post cheques to: **The Bursar, Holy Cross Priory, 45 Wellington Street, (New Walk letterbox), LE1 6HW**

For Mass intentions, sanctuary lamps sponsorship, donations to the Holy Cross 200th anniversary campaign and regular giving by standing order, please visit <https://www.holycrossleicester.org/donate/>

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE DRAW

If you wish to donate bottles of spirits, wine etc or other suitable prizes, they will be gratefully accepted. Please bring them to church and hand them to a priest or the sacristan.

PRAYER AND FASTING FOR LIFE

Wednesday 27th October is the 54th anniversary of the Abortion Act being passed in England and Wales. Since 1967 over nine million babies have lost their lives to abortion. Millions of women and men have also had to deal with the suffering which so often follows an abortion. Please join us in praying and fasting for the end of abortion in this country on Wednesday 27th October. For Post Abortion help and to support Pro-Life counselling see; www.GoodCounselNetwork.com