



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

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

POPE FRANCIS SPEAKS TO US

SOLOMON AND SAMSON: *BENESSERE*

Solomon was an immense success, the wisest, richest man of his time. The Queen of Sheba said she had never seen such a well-organized palace: such amazing banquets and splendid clothes! His really was a world-renowned, first-class operation. But she was also struck by Solomon's great wisdom. He had asked God for the gift of discernment and that's what he had. Hence, the famous story of his judgement of the two women who claim to be the mother of the same child. All of Israel was amazed by the wisdom God had given Solomon.

But his heart grew cold as his ego expanded, and he became self-indulgent, as if what he had been given he deserved. He became lax in everything, but especially in the one area you really can't be lax about: worship of God, the source of his gifts. Saint Gregory the Great described this fall from grace in his *Morals on the Book of Job*. When a weak person receives a lot of praise, said Gregory, he "does not so much delight to *become* as to be *called* blessed," and gradually, in seeking after applause, he "is severed from God by the same means by which it appeared to be commendable in God."

Solomon ends badly, surrounded by enemies, his kingdom divided, a pitiful man. And it's essentially the same with Samson: an incredibly strong man with a fatal weakness, who lets himself be seduced, and is captured after he lets slip to Delilah his secret and she betrays him. But in time he recovers his strength and identity, remakes his life of fidelity to God & ends with a heroic act. There is life after a crisis, after Covid.

The Covids of Solomon and Samson are a positive kind of "stoppage," because it rescues us from worldliness, from an egotistic self-satisfaction, from *benessere* as they say in Italy. Self-indulgent living brings sterility. The demographic winter many western countries are now living through is the fruit of that complacent culture of selfish well-being. It's hard for people to understand how *benessere*, which seems like a desirable thing, should be the state we desperately need to be rescued from. But that's one of the main lessons we can take from the fates of Solomon and Samson.

– from Pope Francis 'Let us dream'

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.

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

ADORATION TIMES

Sunday: 6pm – 6.40pm (with Rosary)

Saturday: 10.30am – 12.15pm

Tues – Friday: 11.45am – 12.15pm

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. If someone is dying, ask the duty Nurse to call the Catholic chaplain – do not call yourself.***

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

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.

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.

Advent Talks: On the 4 Wednesdays in Advent Fr John Farrell will give a short Advent talk at the 12.30pm mass.

Advent 'Walk with Me': These booklets are free - please take one.

AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT APPEAL – FRASSATI CENTRE

Our grants application to help pay for audio-visual equipment installation in the Frassati Centre will fall short of the required total. We need to raise another £9,000 to avoid using up parish reserves. When these installations are done, we can better use the halls and rooms in the Frassati Centre for meetings, conferences, and Catechesis.

You can donate on the card machine or online by donating towards the Frassati Centre. Alternatively, cheques can be made to **Holy Cross Parish** and sent to: **The Bursar, Holy Cross Priory, 45 Wellington Street, Leicester 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/>

DIGITAL DISCIPLESHIP COURSE

The Acutis Project is running a course in digital discipleship, to explore the principles, philosophy & practical skills involved in using digital media to share a powerful message of faith. Email events@acutisproject.com for more.

FRASSATI GROUP

This is a parish group where young adults meet and have discussions on topics of faith and morals. If you would like to join in, do give your name and contact details to any of our priests or email them to the parish office.

JOHN BUNTEN RIP

We were saddened to learn of the death of John Bunten, known to many at Holy Cross – his funeral will be on Friday 26th November 2021 at 10.30 in St Joseph's church and the burial at Scraftoft natural burial ground.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING FOR LIFE

On Wednesday 17th November 2021, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia.