



# HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

## JULY & AUGUST 2022 NEWSLETTER

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

### WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS & THE ELDERLY- POPE FRANCIS

“In old age they will still bear fruit” (Psalm 92:15)

Many people are afraid of old age. They consider it a sort of disease with which any contact is best avoided. The Scriptures see things differently. A long life – so the Bible teaches – is a blessing, and the elderly are not outcasts to be shunned but living signs of the goodness of God who bestows life in abundance. Blessed is the house where an older person lives! Blessed is the family that honours the elderly!

Old age is not a time of life easily understood even by those of us who are already experiencing it. Even though it eventually comes with the passage of time, no one prepares us for old age, and at times it seems to take us by surprise. On the one hand, we are tempted to ward off old age by hiding our wrinkles and pretending to be forever young, while on the other, we imagine that the only thing we can do is bide our time, thinking glumly that we cannot “still bring forth fruit”.

Along with old age and white hairs, God continues to give us the gift of life and to keep us from being overcome by evil. If we trust in him, we will find the strength to praise him still. We will come to see that growing old is more than the natural decline of the body or the inevitable passage of time, but the gift of a long life. Aging is not a condemnation, but a blessing!

For this reason, we ought to take care of ourselves and remain active in our later years. This is also true from a spiritual standpoint: we ought to cultivate our interior life through the assiduous reading of the word of God, daily prayer, reception of the sacraments and participation in the liturgy. In addition to our relationship with God, we should also cultivate our relationships with others: first of all by showing affectionate concern for our families, our children and grandchildren, but also for the poor and those who suffer, by drawing near to them with practical assistance and our prayers. These things will help us not to feel like mere bystanders, sitting on our porches or looking out from our windows, as life goes on all around us. Instead, we should learn to discern everywhere the presence of the Lord.

The World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly (24<sup>th</sup> July) is an opportunity to proclaim once more, with joy, that the Church wants to celebrate together with all those whom the Lord – in the words of the Bible – has “filled with days”. (Abridged version- for the full version, go to the website)

### UPDATE REGARDING COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

**Receiving Communion:** Please could everyone either kneel or stand at the altar rails to receive Communion, which can now be taken on the tongue or in the hands. If you are taking it in the hands, please place one palm over the other, keeping them very flat.

- Please use the hand sanitizers and continue to keep a safe distance from others.
- Masks should still be worn, including when singing and please do not hold conversations in the church.

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### MEMBERS OF THE DOMINICAN COMMUNITY

John-Patrick Kenrick OP *Prior*; Anthony Rattigan OP *Subprior*; Richard Ounsworth OP *Bursar*; Luke Doherty OP; John Farrell OP; Thomas Crean OP. **Sacristan:** Mr Nicholas Hoff; **Music Director & Organist:** Mr Thomas Keogh – [keogh.thomas@hotmail.com](mailto:keogh.thomas@hotmail.com)

*The daily 12.30pm and 10.30am Sunday masses will continue to be 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)

**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

**Wed. & Friday:** 11.15am – 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.

## PARISH NEWS & DATES

We congratulate our servers Prospero, George, Magnificat and Ismael on becoming members of St Stephen's Guild and also Adler Dsouza who was baptised last Sunday.

The parish party produced a great turnout with over 70 people participating and enjoying a range of delicious sandwiches, mouth-watering cakes and sparkling refreshments. A presentation gift was made to Fr. Luke in appreciation of all his great work and wonderful friendship over his time at Holy Cross. Thanks to everyone who helped to make this event so successful: the organisers and workers on the day and of course all the people who came along and made it such a lovely event. Good luck to Fr. Luke in his studies. We look forward to seeing him again if he visits in the future.

What an excellent response we've had to the questionnaires with over 100 completed forms! Having parishioners' contact details and availability to volunteer, will really help to promote the mission of the parish. The next step is to analyse the data. This will hopefully be completed by early autumn and then we'll start to make contact with those who have expressed an interest in helping.

**Children's Liturgy for ages 3-6:** Our weekly 'Catechesis of the Good Shepherd' sessions run by Ellie Calderon will be starting on Sunday 11th September at 10am. To sign up please pick up an information sheet at the exits or see our parish website.

### Future events:

- Feast day of St Dominic: Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August. There will be treats after morning masses.
- Advent Market: Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November: 8:45am onwards.
- March for Life: Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. The march is a chance to proclaim the central message of 'Life' through the streets of London. If you would like to join others on a coach from Leicester, please contact Sica on 07943711549 or email, francisca@sicamartinez.plus.com

Please let Fr JP know if you have some church-related, interesting or happy news to share with the parish.

## 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.
- **Visiting the Sick:** If you would like a visit, leave a tel. message with 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.***

## PARISH GROUPS

**Scripture Study:** details and recordings of previous studies are on the website.

<https://www.holycrossleicester.org/scripture-study/>

**Rosary prayer group:** Families are welcome. For more info & to confirm attendance, contact Ellie on 07961297228.

## FINANCE MATTERS

Our parish has been very lucky over the last couple of years in terms of making ends meet over the pandemic years. This is due to some generous legacies. Despite this and some very careful budgeting, the parish accounts are in the red (a summary of the annual accounts will be published soon). Furthermore, we will face massive financial pressure in the winter in keeping the church warm, due to ever-increasing, energy prices. Unfortunately, the parish will not receive any subsidies from the government. Thank you to those who have signed up to a standing order. This enables the bursar to engage in informed financial planning. Please support all our fundraising events even if you can't attend so the parish can make ends meet. Please also consider putting a legacy in your will to support the long-term future of the parish.

If you are able to help out at one of our events, or on a regular basis, please contact Jeff Henry on 07854525820