



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

DECEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

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

The Annuciation by Fra Angelico

(Before reading, please collect the extra sheet showing the scene described, from the newsletter table or find it on the newsletter page on the website.)

Now it is Advent, we will start our preparation for Christmas. A nice way to get focused is to look at one of the great works of art of the Annunciation. The one I have chosen today was painted in the 15th century by a well-known Dominican called Fra Angelico. It was done as an altar piece for the church of the Dominican abbey in Fiesole, near Florence. The architecture and characters reflect the buildings and the people that lived in Florence at the time it was painted. After you have surveyed the familiar scene, you may like to spot some symbolism that shows what Fra Angelico may have been thinking when he created it.

First, we can notice Mary. She poses prayerfully, her scripture book on her lap, a portrayal of holiness and modesty - the handmaiden of the Lord, ready to do God's will. Shining upon her is a radiant beam of light from heaven. If we look carefully, we can see God's hands at the source of light, having just released the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove. The bird symbolises the Holy Spirit coming down from heaven. The Angel Gabriel announces the coming of the Christ and miraculously Mary is with child - Jesus is incarnated as a human being.

To the left, we see a garden with Adam and Eve, apples at their feet. An Angel ushers them to leave the garden, following their eating of the forbidden fruits. Fra Angelico combines the two scenes: the Old Covenant between God and humanity is broken but will now be replaced by a new one embodied by Jesus Christ. The many flowers in the garden are associated with Mary. They are often shown in an enclosed garden - an allusion to Mary's purity.

The five scenes in the predella at the bottom of the piece, depict key moments in Mary's life: her birth, her wedding, the Visitation, the Adoration of the Magi, the presentation of Mary in the Temple and the Death of the Virgin. We do not read about Mary's Birth and Death in the Gospels. These figure in the apocryphal texts written much later.

Advent is a time for preparation for the coming of Jesus in all ways. During Advent, we clothe the church in purple as a sign of our preparation. We look back to the birth of Jesus in the past but also to His second coming in the future as our Messiah. In the period between these two highly important events, our mission is to find and fulfil our God-given purpose like Mary did. (Adapted from text from How to Read a Painting- Patrick De Rynck).

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

Holy Days of Obligation: 12:30 (LS) & 6:10

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.

UPDATE REGARDING COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

Receiving Communion: Kneel or stand at the rail to receive Communion & place one hand over the other keeping hands 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.

45 Wellington Street, LE1 6HW ☎ 0116 255 3856 ✉ leicester.admin@english.op.org 🌐 www.holycrossleicester.org

MEMBERS OF THE DOMINICAN COMMUNITY

John-Patrick Kenrick OP *Prior*; Anthony Rattigan OP *Subprior*; Richard Ounsworth OP *Bursar*; John Farrell OP; Benedict Jonak OP; Thomas Crean OP. **Sacristan:** Mr Nicholas Hoff; **Music Director & Organist:** Mr Thomas Keogh – 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).

PARISH NEWS & DATES

Advent Market: our first market since COVID struck was a great success both socially and in terms of fundraising. It felt like a reunion with a chance to meet up with friends not seen for a while. Thank you to everyone who organised, volunteered, and indeed spent/donated some money to make it such a great event. Over £2000 was raised!!!

Fair Trade Advent: this starts today! Please join in this series of after-mass events over Advent to raise awareness of the importance of paying a fair wage to workers who produce our luxury goods. There will be different coffees to try each week- all delicious. Refreshments will remain free with voluntary donations to cover costs.

Advent talks by Fr Benedict- there will be brief talks at Wednesday 12:30 masses during Advent.

Christmas Mass Times:

Children's Nativity at 5:45pm on Christmas Eve followed by Christmas Eve Mass at 6:10pm. Children are invited to take part in an impromptu nativity. Lots of dressing up and seasonal singing. This will be organised through the 10:30 children's liturgy group. Please speak to one of the leaders if your child would like to take part.

Midnight Mass: 10pm

Christmas Day Masses: 8am, 10:30am & 12:30 pm (No 7pm mass)

Feast of St Stephen (26th): 12:30pm only. (Week following Christmas Day: daily mass at 12:30pm only)

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: continues with 'in-person' meetings every Tuesday at 7.45pm in the Frassati Centre. We are currently studying Genesis. All welcome. <https://www.holycrossleicester.org/scripture-study/>

FINANCE MATTERS

Thank you to all parishioners for the financial support that you give to the parish community over the years. Without your ongoing contributions it would be impossible to make ends meet. Please support all our fundraising events even if you can't attend. Please also consider putting a legacy in your will to support the long-term future of the parish.

OTHER MATTERS

On the website you will find **Pope Francis'** message for **World Day of the Poor**. The focus for this year comes as a healthy challenge, helping us to reflect on our style of life and on the many forms of poverty around us.

Dates for the **Diocesan courses for Catechists** are now on the parish website on the [Other News & Events](#) page. There are three courses for different levels of experience and role.

Catholic School Pupil Admissions for children born between 01/09/18 – 31/08/2019. The admissions policy is on the parish website on the [Other News and Events](#) page. Apply soon before the 15th January deadline.