



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

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

The Epiphany

The coat of arms of the city of Cologne bears 3 golden crowns in honour of the 3 'kings' whose relics are kept in a shrine in Cologne's cathedral where they were brought with great solemnity in 1164 by emperor Frederick I Barbarossa. According to a legend they were originally found by St Helena and taken to Constantinople. In the 6th century they were moved to Milan.

St Matthew does not tell us in his gospel that there were three wise men and many of the familiar details of the story of the 3 kings in fact derive from a 14th century work known as the *Historia Trium Regum* by John of Hildesheim, who gave the Magi names and descriptions – Melchior who offered the gold of kings to the Lord; Balthasar who honoured him as God by his gift of incense and Jaspar who gave him myrrh, the oil used in those days for embalming the dead, thus honouring Christ as the Son of Man destined to die.

Why, though, are we on this great feast day remembering the visit to the baby Jesus of those wise men, the magi, as they were called? Because on this feast we are celebrating the Epiphany of the Lord, the revealing of God in Christ to the world. The word "epiphany" means "manifestation". The glory of God was revealed at various time - at Christ's baptism and in all his miracles beginning with his first miracle, the changing of water into wine at Cana in Galilee. But in fact, the divine glory of Christ was first revealed in the coming of the magi, representing all the non-Jewish people of the world representing us too, as they were led by the star to worship the infant child in Bethlehem. And so on this occasion Christ's glory was revealed, ironically, in humility, through a powerless infant dependent on its mother.

The Magi represent all that was best in pagan religion, learning of the birth of the child not through the Bible but through a revelation in nature, through gazing at the stars. All the same, to find the Christ-child they had also to learn from the Jewish scriptures. King Herod who had experts in the Jewish scriptures was not interested in worshipping the new-born king and in fact planned to kill him.

The prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled: "the people of the nations that sat in darkness have seen a great light". In fact, from the very beginning of his life different people react to the Lord in different ways - some revere him but others oppose him and want to crush him. The manifesting of God's glory in the world, his "epiphany", is a challenge to us all. In the words of Pope St Leo the Great about the magi: "Surely their worship of him exhorts us to imitation; that, as far as we can, we should be at the service of this grace which invites all people to Christ."

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.

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MEMBERS OF THE DOMINICAN COMMUNITY

John-Patrick Kenrick OP *Prior*; Anthony Rattigan OP *Subprior*; Richard Ounsworth OP *Bursar*; John Farrell OP; Benedict Jonak OP; James Claffey 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).

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.

PARISH NEWS & DATES

Thank you to everyone for your generous Christmas offerings to the Dominicans. The Holy Cross community wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Epiphany, which is a holy day of obligation, will be celebrated next **Friday 6th January** (12:30 & 6:10 masses). There is also a vigil mass on the previous day 5th January at 6:10pm.

The Synod – Continental Stage Consultation.

All the Synod feedback from parishes, dioceses, and national Bishops' Conferences around the world has been gathered, considered, discerned, and distilled into a report which is now being given to each continent to consider in light of their own tradition, history, experience, and religious perspective. Within Europe we now have the opportunity to consider the Synodal feedback from around the world and to report on:

- a) What we feel resonates with our own experiences – list the top three priorities from those given
- b) Consider what are the challenges and tensions in each of those three areas
- c) Define the next steps which move us (parish, deanery, diocese, the Church) forward

Please engage with this consultation by:

- a) Completing the form available in church or
- b) Complete the feedback form on-line at: <https://forms.office.com/e/2Yfs77hHsp>

All responses should be received by 9th January 2023 so they can be included in the overall diocesan response. Let us dream of the Church the Holy Spirit is calling us to become.

Fair Trade Advent: we enjoyed the fair trade tea, coffee and sugar during advent and will continue to serve those products until stocks run out. We will then use up remaining stocks of other products before considering whether to become a fair trade church on a permanent basis. If you have comments or ideas on this, please speak to any of the tea/coffee servers after the 8am and 10.30am Masses.

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: will start up again on the first Tuesday in February (7th) at 7.45pm in the Frassati Centre. 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

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.