



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

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

The Feast of the Presentation of our Lord

Nowadays we do not use words related to *sacrifice*, such as *offering* or *oblation* outside liturgy. Even the word *victim* has lost its original positive meaning of *something that we offer*. Most of us hear that word used in the expression: a victim of violence. When we come to Holy Mass, we hear after the preparation of the gifts: *Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, Almighty Father.*

However, perhaps we are somewhat disturbed by the whole idea of offering sacrifice, as it has become a taboo for many of us. We think of it as something less civilised, generally we avoid the word altogether, even when we talk about Mass. Sacrifice is something they did long ago somewhere on a pacific island, slaughtering chickens behind their huts. It has nothing to do with us. But sacrifice is at the centre of our faith as it is indeed at the centre of every Mass.

From a faith viewpoint, *Sacrifice* comes from the Latin *sacer-facere*, to make holy. Sacrifice means making whatever it is that you offer (victim), the domain of God. To offer a sacrifice means to set something aside for God and this is how our redemption came about. In Christ's sacrifice on the cross, his humanity becomes part of what is offered to God or made holy and is thus restored to God, reversing the Fall.

The *Letter to the Hebrews* is absolutely central to our understanding of the Sacrifice of Mass. The letter speaks of Christ as High Priest of the New and Eternal Covenant. His sacrifice on the cross is once and for all, and it does not have to be repeated. Why? Because that sacrifice was perfect in every way unlike other sacrifices which needed repeating. For God there is no time; this sacrifice of Christ is for all eternity and that very sacrifice is made present in Mass, in a bloodless way. Of course, sacrifices have been offered to gods, idols or spirits from the very beginning of the human race and was also very important to the Jews. The whole of Jewish religion was centred on the Temple in Jerusalem and sacrifices were being offered there all the time.

We can say, then, that all those sacrifices were pointing towards the one sacrifice of Christ. God has chosen to redeem us in a way that we would all understand. There must be so many different ways in which God could have redeemed us, yet he chose to redeem us using our nature, using the things that we do and understand.

This is why Simeon and Anna rejoice at seeing the Light of the Gentiles and the glory of Israel. All the sacrifices of the world, whether Jewish or Gentile, point towards the one of Christ. We ourselves are invited to offer our lives as a living sacrifice to God. Let us not be afraid to do so, for offering our lives to God is a sure way of preserving them for the world to come. (Fr Benedict Jonak OP)

UPDATE REGARDING COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

Please 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

We welcome to **Fr James Claffey** to the pastoral team. He has moved to Holy Cross from the Oxford priory and he comes with a wealth of experience in various ministries both at home and abroad.

Please remember to **dress warmly** when you come to Mass. The costs of keeping the church warm are very high and it is a challenge to keep such a big space warm.

Fair Trade: following the success of using fair trade refreshments we will now move towards using fair trade goods on a permanent basis. Old stocks will be used up first. Thank you for all the positive feedback and support.

Feast days in February

The Presentation of the Lord: Thursday 2nd February

Ash Wednesday: 22nd February- Masses with ash distribution at 12:30 & 6:10.

Please note that the **parking charges** on the roads around the church have increased. These charges of course don't apply on Sundays and after 6pm on weekdays.

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

Help raise money for medical aid for sub-Saharan Africa.

INTER CARE WITH LACY : Leicestershire Active Catholic Youth warmly invite all young people, families and friends to join them on Sunday 12th March at **2.00 p.m.** in a social walk, doing laps of Knighton Park, Leicester to raise funds for **Inter Care. Inter Care provides free access to medical aid for vulnerable patients across sub-Saharan Africa.** Take on board as short or long a walk as you wish. All monies received will help towards medical aid for the people of Africa. **4.00 p.m.** hot drinks and cake will be provided at St. Thomas More Church, 75 Knighton Road, LE2 3HN. **5.00 p.m.** a Youth Mass - which will be celebrated for us by Fr. Simon Gillespie. (Lifts available from Knighton Park to the Church if required). The Mass will be offered for the vulnerable people of sub-Saharan South Africa. Sponsor forms available from paulinepayne@hotmail.com and fundraising@intercare.org.uk. We look forward to seeing you! Help us to make this the most amazing event ever! All donations to Just Giving: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/lacysponsoredwalk2023>.