



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER

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

The Need to Learn about our Faith

We all want freedom. For some it is a very practical desire to be freed from some kind of constraints: they want to be freed from prison, free from deportation, free from obstructions to cross the border into another country. We understand that kind of freedom, freedom *from* something, and in fact, it is how most people understand or define freedom. But as we grow more developed and have access to more resources, another kind of freedom becomes important, even though we might not think of it as freedom. It is freedom *for*.

What do I live for? This question might arise when choosing a work career or university course, or when you consider getting married or joining a religious order, or more generally, when you think about what human life is for. And to answer these questions you need to have sufficient knowledge or understanding, you need to know the truth about yourself and the world.

This is where 'dogma' comes into play. The word dogma is much hated, as it has become a symbol of restricting the first type of freedom mentioned above. Catholic dogma (Catholic teaching) may prevent us from doing some things e.g. killing, stealing etc. However, it also provides us with the truth about the world, and this makes it an absolutely central instrument for the second type of freedom, freedom *for*. Not many of us have the time and leisure to figure out the workings of this world, and so Catholic teaching is the sure foundation on which to build our important life choices. All of this gives us a philosophical or, if you like, a common-sense analysis of how important dogma or truth is for our freedom.

There is also another way to approach the issue of dogma: starting from the Gospel itself rather than philosophy. The central message of the preaching of Christ is to love God with all your soul and mind. This is not the emotional or erotic feeling we may associate with the word love. Rather, it is a direction in life, a decision made in good faith, to want God - for Him to become someone we are not afraid of and truly want to see at the end of time.

This divine love does have one thing in common with earthly love; if you love someone you want to know him or her. When you decide to have a partner to spend the rest of your life with, in love, you want to know his or her past, their hobbies, interests, all kinds of big or small truths about that person. If you do not know those things your love is an empty word. For how can you truly claim to love someone you do not know very well? That's not love, it's more of an obsession. Similarly, if you want to love God, dogma is essential, as it contains all the teaching about Jesus Christ's revelation. So, if you claim to love Jesus, you need to make an effort to learn what his message is, to know the content of faith. This will help you to build your life in true freedom and also bring you closer to the one who made you and saved you. It will help the love of God in your heart to pull you in the right direction through a more personal experience of the Saviour. (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

Easter Liturgy and Confession Times:

Tenebrae: 9:30am on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday

Maundy Thursday: 7.30pm

Good Friday: 3pm

Vigil Mass on Easter Saturday: 7.30pm

Easter Sunday: 8am, 10.30am and 12.30 midday.

Extra confessions at 6pm-7pm on Tuesday 4th April and 6pm-7pm Good Fri 7th April

- **Lenten Talks:** Fr Benedict will be giving Lenten talks at the 12.30 Wednesday masses on 15th, 22nd and 29th March.
- **Ukraine:** the appeal for Ukraine is still open. If you wish to give aid through the Dominicans who work in Ukraine, just put your donation in an envelope marked 'Ukraine appeal'. Cheques should be made out to Holy Cross Priory.

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 by email, which is leicester.admin@english.op.org 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 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: meetings on Tuesdays 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

Want to learn more about the faith in easy steps? Just listen to Fr Mike Schmitz's podcast (The Catechism in one year). Each episode is just 20 minutes max.

This is the link to the podcast: <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/the-catechism-in-a-year-with-fr-mike-schmitz/id1648949780>

Retreats in the Diocese of Nottingham this Lent – After the great success last year, The Diocese of Nottingham is again offering day retreats to help you grow closer to God this Lent. There is a FREE Young Adults (18-35) retreat in Derby on Saturday 11th March, a Men's retreat on Saturday 18th March and a Women's retreat on Saturday 25th March. The Men's and Women's retreats will be held at the Rosmini House of Prayer (LE7 4SJ) and cost £20 which will include lunch and a light breakfast. To book your place or for more information visit: www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/events, email adult.formation@dioceseofnottingham or call 0115 953 9841.

CALLING CATHOLIC TEACHERS

If you are a Catholic teacher currently working outside of Catholic education and would like to find out more about the joys of working in a Catholic school within the Diocese of Nottingham, a virtual information session will take place on **Wednesday 29 March** from 7.00pm – 8.30pm. See the poster on our website on the **Other News & Events** page.