



# HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER

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

## Redemption through Suffering

Our attitude towards suffering has always been ambivalent. On the one hand to live without suffering has long been the dream of humanity. We strive to eliminate hunger and poverty. We support those who are against violence and war. On the other hand, we are aware, that it is through suffering that we learn and improve our lives. If I hadn't put my hand in fire, I wouldn't have known how hot it is. Thus, suffering is inextricably bound up with what it means to be human. If we completely eliminated suffering, over time our humanity would be lost, since we cannot vicariously experience everything. Of course, not all suffering is the same. There are natural disasters that affect us. There are also man-made disasters. There is suffering which is the result of one's curiosity, and there is suffering which is the due punishment for one's stupidity or for breaking the law. There is emotional suffering, which is part of growing up, falling in love, or losing someone we love. There is bodily suffering which is part of ageing, over-working one's body and sickness. There is also suffering though discrimination because of one's faith or values. However, suffering seen from the perspective of Good Friday has yet another dimension. The suffering of Christ is connected to his mission, which was to bring about our redemption. Redemption was achieved through Christ's self-sacrifice on the cross. As we prepare for the Holy Triduum, let us examine in more detail how 'Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her' (Eph 5:25).

The redemption that Christ won for us is bound up with the laws of the Old Covenant. Our understanding of them is that they were given to us in order to prepare us for the Messiah. Of course, that 'educational process' is very human as well. No one can properly accept another person in friendship or love without preparation. We are free. That means that to accept God's friendship and love, we not only have to do it without pressure, but also we need to have some understanding of our own goals. We need to be clear what we live for. Only then is our freedom fully realized. And so Scripture tells us: 'In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son.' (Heb1:1-2). The sacrifices of the Old Covenant were preparing us for the **one** sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Christ gives himself up, and that means our common humanity too, to the Father. This is redemption in which together with Christ we are offered up to the Father, once and for all. So suffering, sacrifice and freedom are all tightly bound up together. This is perhaps the best way for us to understand what Christ did for us in his work of redemption: just as parents go through many hardships to bring up their children (the freedom *for*, goal), so too Christ suffered and died on the cross as a sacrifice, not just to fulfil the law of the Old Covenant, but also to give us the opportunity to become children of God. He is the Son, and if we remain united to him, then we also have a share in his glory. (Fr Benedict Jonak OP)

## 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

**Covid protocols are now being relaxed but please be mindful that there are still vulnerable people attending Mass. Please continue to kneel or stand at the rail to receive Communion placing one hand over the other and keeping hands very flat.**

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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](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).*

## PARISH NEWS & DATES

**An afternoon for Readers** will be run by Fr John Farrell on **Saturday 15th April**. Tea and coffee will be served at 1:30pm with a session from 2pm- 3.30pm. Please sign up in advance.

**Divine Mercy Devotions:** Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April, 3pm -4pm.

**Monday Church Opening:** from 17<sup>th</sup> April the church will once again be open for mass on Mondays from 12midday to 2pm for the 12.30 mass and 5.40pm to 6.40pm for the 6.10pm mass.

**Coronation Party-** this will take place on Monday 8th May at 12 noon. There will be a mas at 11am for those who would like to come. A sheet will be available in church soon for people to sign up if they would like to come. No charge. Just come and have fun.

**Blackfriars Market & Raffle-** Sunday 11th June

This is our main fundraiser for the year. Lots of fabulous food, exciting stalls including bric-a-brac and a chance to socialise with your parish friends. Please send in all your empty bottle bags asap so we can start collecting bottles straight away. More information to follow soon. Let Fr. JP know if you can help.

**Mass envelopes** are available near the exits to book your mass intentions. Please book at least 2 weeks ahead.

**The repository** (located in the narthex at the back of church) has been restocked. We have a good selection of cards, candles, rosaries, crucifixes, icons, CTS booklets, and religious books for children. We can only take cash payments at present, but a new card reader is on order.

**Happy Easter to you all from Holy Cross Community!**

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](mailto: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 telephone 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:** begins again on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 7.45pm in the Frassati Centre. All welcome.

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

## FINANCE & REPAIR MATTERS

- The CAFOD collection raised £246
- Arrangements to repair the flickering lights is in progress.

Thank you for your continued financial support.

## OTHER MATTERS

- **Pilgrimage to Lisieux:** June 5<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>, cost £380 and to **Lourdes and Nevers** by Coach September 23<sup>rd</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, cost £715. Contact Fr. John McCay at [jmccay1982@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jmccay1982@yahoo.co.uk) or 07853068189
- **Healthcare Workers** - the Catholic Medical Association is holding a day on AI in Healthcare on Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> April at the Good Shepherd Parish Hall in Nottingham, from 10am to 5.30pm - You can also join by livestream. See <https://catholicmedicalassociation.org.uk/events/>
- A Marriage Enrichment Retreat for couples is being held from Fri 19<sup>th</sup> to Sun 21<sup>st</sup> May. More information from <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/a-great-mysterymarriage-enrichment/>