



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER

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

Mary, Our Mother

May is a Marian month. In order to understand the role that the Mother of God has in our tradition, we need to start with the communion of saints.

Behind that seemingly simple statement from the *Apostles' Creed* lies an important belief, that we are truly connected to each other. 'No one is an island'. There are Christian bonds between baptised people but there are also simple human bonds that we all have. One can clearly see how that works: people have many and different kind of relationships. There is family and relatives. There are friends and colleagues. There are neighbours, acquaintances and fellow countrymen. The list can be very long.

What happens to these when we come to see God face to face? What will happen to these at the day of the resurrection of all? Of course, you will still be you, and I will still be me. Hopefully we will be among the blessed, although changed and glorified and having access to the fullness of truth. You can see here clearly how special Mary is. Not only is she the first and only faithful disciple of Jesus (a Christian bond), but she is also his own mother (a human bond). Nothing can change the strength and the rank of that bond between her and Christ. But she was also given to us, we believe, at the foot of the cross.

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister

Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple,

"Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. (John 19:25-27)

Since then, we believe, Mary has become the Mother of us, Christ's disciples, and so we enjoy that special relationship with her too, a relationship that is different from other saints.

People who object to us Catholics putting too much stress on Mary are often misled by this statement: God loves everyone with the same love. If this is true, how can Mary be special, or more special than other saints? Yes, God does love everyone with the same love, but some people are closer to him than others. God is not a thing, after all, but a community of the Holy Trinity. Just as the divine relationship between the Father and the Son is unfathomable and tremendously important, surely there still remains an important bond between the human Mother and the Son who is both fully human and fully divine, even after they have been taken up to heaven and the fullness of the presence of God?

(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. If you receive on the tongue, please put your tongue out.

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; 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).

PARISH NEWS & DATES

Congratulations and welcome to Natasha who was recently baptised and confirmed here at Holy Cross.

Sacristy toilet: due to safety reasons, the sacristy toilet will no longer be available during masses. Fr. JP hopes to make an arrangement to access the centre toilets in due course.

Coronation Party: in order to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III, there will be a family, parish party on the extra bank holiday on Monday 8th May at 12 noon. There are still a few places available so sign up on the sheets at the doors as soon as you can. As part of the celebrations, there will be a music slot featuring an excellent Spanish guitar player, not to be missed. No charge. Just come and enjoy.

The **First Holy Communion** Mass for those on the course, is on Sunday 11th June at the 10:30 Mass.

Blackfriars Market & Raffle on Sunday 11th June. Please put the date in your diary and do what you can for this important fundraiser. Things needed:

- Bottles (alcohol and soft drinks).
- Raffle prizes and buy/sell raffles tickets.
- Good-as-new toiletries/sets.
- Bric-a-brac, toys and jigsaw puzzles etc.
- Unwanted religious items such as rosary beads, statues and books.
- Cakes (bring on the day as early as possible) and chocolates.
- Volunteers to set up on Saturday 10th or to help on the day. Let Fr. JP know if you can help or send an email to Anne (anne_chafer@yahoo.co.uk).

Most of all, please come and make the event successful. There will be **second collection on 18th June** for those unable to attend. Thanks for your support.

Reader session 2: this will take place on **Saturday 17th June**. Tea and coffee will be served at 1:30pm with a session from 2pm- 3.30pm. This is for people who **are interested in becoming a reader and current readers who were unable to attend the first session**. Please sign up in advance.

Happy Birthday to **Bishop Patrick** (30th April).

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 by email.
- **Infant Baptisms, Marriages, Becoming Catholic:** Please apply to the parish office by email.
- **Visiting the Sick:** If you would like a visit, either send an email or 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 2nd May at 7.45pm in the Frassati Centre. All welcome.

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

FINANCE & REPAIR MATTERS

GIFT AID: information will be coming out soon about **how you can make the money you give to Holy Cross increase by 20% without any further expense to yourself**. Please read this information carefully or talk to one of the priests to find out more. It will make such a difference. Thank you for your continued financial support.