

HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH



JUNE-JULY 2023 NEWSLETTER

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

The Eucharist

From the earliest times Christians regularly met together to 'do what Christ commanded them to do', that is to break bread and bless the chalice. We have come to call it the Eucharist, Holy Mass, Divine Liturgy, or Sacred Mysteries. In this short piece I will point out a few key elements of liturgy, which I hope will deepen your sense of participation in it. The way we celebrate the Mass in the Roman Rite has changed in the last century, however some things remain the same, as they are the core elements of what it means to do the Divine Liturgy.

First, we are rational creatures. God has revealed himself to us through Jesus - his Only Begotten Word, and through the Scriptures, so that we can get to know Him and engage with Him, however, God is not someone we can fully understand or comprehend. Similarly, even though the Mass has a clear structure, it remains at heart something we are not able fully to explain and understand. Therefore, the Sacred Mysteries Jesus left behind for us are full of signs. Divine Liturgy is a rite, a ritual, where the visible gestures and clear words are accompanied by silent prayer, signs and symbols. It is to remind us of the invisible and incomprehensible reality which lies behind it. God is not someone we can domesticate or tame, if you like, and the Holy Mass, in which angels and archangels and all the powers of heaven are present with us as we pray, also does not belong solely to the order of this world. This is why the music we use at Mass is sacred music, reserved and written for this occasion alone. The same goes for vessels and vestments, etc. Some groups within the church have attempted to bring the Divine Liturgy down to this earth, if you like, by using pop or other 'worldly' music, or by not wearing vestments, etc – generally speaking, by trying to strip the Mass of all its symbolism and sense of mystery. Celebrating the Divine Liturgy in this way, although it may initially make one feel more at ease, can hinder one from finding a deeper and more profound understanding of the invisible reality of the sacrament.

Second, the Divine Liturgy is not a show. We, the baptised, come together as one, as members of the Body of Christ, to offer Christ to the Father, and to eat His Body and drink His Blood, 'the only acceptable sacrifice' that brings salvation to the whole world and makes us more Christ-like. In the process of doing this, we first have to accept God's mercy (the penitential rite). It is not because we are all evil and utterly sinful. It is because only through God's mercy, and not through our own goodness, can we be his adopted children. Having received his mercy, we then offer the sacrifice. It enables us to 'go out to the whole world' not only to preach the Good News but also to share the very mercy we have received, even with those that the world considers unworthy. In short, participating in the Divine Liturgy can not only strengthen us, but also remind us of what we are called to do in the world: to be its light, a living sign pointing beyond this very world in which we live. (Fr Benedict Jonak OP)

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).

MASS TIMES

LS = Livestreamed

Sunday: 8am, 10.30am (LS), 7pm

Saturday: 10am, 12.30pm (LS) & 6.10pm (Vigil)

Monday – Friday: 12.30 (LS) & 6.10pm

Open 10am – 2pm Tues. to Fri., & 30mins before evening and weekend Masses. Later opening on Mondays- 12 Noon

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

Congratulations to those recently confirmed - Natasha, Phoebe, Anna and Michael.

The Coronation Party was a great success. It was very well attended and lots of fun was had. Thanks to everyone who organised the event and those who came.

Blackfriars Market & Raffle is *next Sunday 11th June*. Keep bringing your donations as listed below right up to the last minute. In particular, please remember to bring a **cake** and **plenty of cash**. We're not contactless yet! Still 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 and chocolates.

We also need a few more **volunteers to help set up on Saturday 10th at 3pm**. Just turn up outside the Frassati Centre doors.

Most of all, please come and make the event successful. There will be **second collection on 18th June** for those unable to attend. Remember to sign up for Gift Aid to increase your donation with no extra cost to yourself. 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. It is compulsory for people who **are interested in becoming a reader and current readers to attend one of the sessions**. Let Fr. JP if you need to attend but can't. Please sign up in advance.

Children in Narthex: please ensure that your child does not touch items for sale and any moved items are put back neatly in the correct place. Thank you.

Please note that we are keeping a **Novena to St Anthony from the 4th-12th June**. There will be a blessing with the relic on his feast day (13th June) at 12:30 Mass. Look for the posters in the church.

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: continues on Tuesdays at 7.45pm in the Frassati Centre. **There is no meeting on 13th June**. We will meet as usual on 20th June and thereafter every week until the end of July. 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.

OTHER MATTERS

An Inner Healing Retreat will take place at Early Learners School, 78, Uppingham Rd., LE5 0QE on 31st July and 1st & 2nd August from 2pm to 7pm each day. Contact no. 07477841227

Faith & Footprint: online workshop on Monday 5th June at 7pm-8pm. See the Other News & Events page on the website for more details.