



# HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

## DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

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

### MEMBERS OF THE DOMINICAN COMMUNITY

Very Rev Fr Richard Ounsworth OP *Prior*; Fr John-Patrick Kenrick OP *Subprior*; Fr Benedict Jonak OP *University Chaplain*; Fr Anthony Rattigan OP *Bursar*; Fr John Farrell OP; Fr James Claffey OP.

**Sacristan:** Mr Nicholas Hoff; **Music Director & Organist:** Mr Thomas Keogh – keogh.thomas@hotmail.com

### A MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

Dear brothers and sisters,

Happy Advent! This is the start of a new year in the Church's calendar, and a suitable time for us all to make a new year's resolution; this is especially so because the Holy Father has declared this to be a Year of Prayer, so let us decide to pray harder, to be kinder to those we meet, and perhaps to get more involved in the life of the Church.

Advent is also a time of penance, so we will be having a reconciliation service on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December – see below for more information. And the following day is 'Gaudete Sunday' – a day for special rejoicing this year, as Patrick our Bishop will be with us to celebrate.

It is now getting very cold. We are trying our best to keep the church warm enough, but the heating is very expensive to run. Please do continue to give as generously as you have been to the church so that we can make everybody comfortable.

Yours in Christ,

Richard OP

### 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

Church open 10am – 2pm Tuesday to Friday, 30 minutes before evening and weekend Masses.

Later opening on Mondays at 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

**Wednesday & Friday:** 11.15am – 12.15pm

*Livestreamed Masses on YouTube @ HolyCrossTV  
Leicester, Sunday 10.30 a.m., weekdays 12.30 p.m.*

*Please take a separate leaflet with times of Christmas services.*

### RECEIVING COMMUNION

Please kneel or, if you cannot kneel, stand at the rail to receive Communion, placing one hand on top of the other and keeping your hands *very flat*. If you wish to receive on the tongue, please open your mouth and put your tongue out!

### PARISH NEWS & DATES

**ADVENT FAIR** – The Parish Advent Fair will take place this year on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December. We would be very grateful for raffle prizes and bottles for the bottle stall – please hand these to any member of the community, or Nick the Sacristan. And please sell as many raffle tickets as you can! If you have any unsold tickets, you can bring them back on the day to be sold at the Fair itself.

**RECONCILIATION SERVICE** – There will be a service of reconciliation on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 3 p.m., with an opportunity for individual confessions. Do consider taking this opportunity during the penitential season of Advent. **THE BISHOP IS COMING!** – Patrick, Bishop of Nottingham, will celebrate the 10.30 Mass for us on the morning of Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December. It would be wonderful if our church was even fuller than usual at that Mass, and there will be an opportunity to meet the Bishop after Mass in the Frassati Centre. Please let Fr Richard 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:

- **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.
- **First Communion:** classes will begin soon for children who are not receiving catechism at school. Please ask one of the priests for a green form, or e-mail as above. Once the classes start, it will be too late to enrol new children, so please do this by the end of the month.

*The Dominican priests 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:** the group has started up again and is going very well, but new members are always welcome. This autumn we have begun reading from the Book of the Apocalypse. We meet on Tuesday evenings at 7.45 for about an hour, and all are welcome, including older children if accompanied by a parent or guardian. Please bring a Bible! Also please be on time – the door to the street will be shut at 7.45. For more information visit the website: <https://www.holycrossleicester.org/scripture-study/>

**STUDENTS:** if you are a new or returning student at the University of Leicester or De Montfort University, it is not too late to get involved with the Chaplaincy group – please ask for a form or make yourself known to Fr Benedict.

**FRASSATI GROUP:** Our group for young adults will be relaunched after Christmas – please listen out for further announcements; if you are 18-35 and would like to be more involved in the life of the parish, please let Fr Richard or one of the other priests have your contact details and we will be in touch.

## FINANCE MATTERS

**GIFT AID:** information is available by the church doors about **how you can make the money you give to Holy Cross increase by 25% 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.

**STANDING ORDERS:** if you would like to give regularly by standing order instead of cash or cheque, this makes things easier for us and is very easy for you – please ask one of the priests for a form.

## REPOSITORY

The repository at the back of the church has been re-stocked with lots of lovely Christmas items, so do pop in and have a look. There is a machine for making credit card payments as well as a cash box. But please ensure that your children do not touch items for sale and any moved items are put back neatly in the correct place. Thank you.

## A REFLECTION FROM THE HOLY FATHER

‘The world is divided in two: those people who do not give thanks and those who do; those who take everything as if it is owed them, and those who welcome everything as a gift, as grace. The prayer of thanksgiving always begins from here: from the recognition that grace precedes us.’