



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

NOVEMBER 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,

Just a quick note this month to let you know about times of services for Christmas. This information is also available on our website. Christmas this year falls on a Monday: on Sunday 24th December we will have the usual morning Masses at 8 and 10.30, as well as the vigil on the Saturday night. On the Sunday evening there will be a children's nativity play at 5.45 p.m. followed by the Vigil Mass of Christmas at 6.10. There will be no 7 p.m. Mass. Midnight Mass will be at 10 p.m. On Christmas Day there will be Masses at 8 a.m., 10.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m., but no evening Mass. There will be no tea/coffee after Masses on the Sunday or Christmas Day, and during the week after Christmas there will be no evening Masses. Everything will go back to normal on Saturday 30th December. A separate leaflet with all these times will soon be available to take home.

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 – dusk 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.*

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 10th 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!

MISSION PREACHER – Fr Clifton Harries OP from our Dominican Community in Jamaica preached to us about his work there, and took up a second collection which raised nearly £2,000. We are enormously grateful for your generosity.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE – There will be a service of reconciliation on Saturday 18th 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 17th 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.

DAY FOR READERS – Fr John will give a day for readers on Saturday 2nd December. If you read at Mass, either on Sundays or weekdays, or would like to start, you are asked to come to this meeting, which will run from 1.45 to 3.30 p.m. in the Frassati Centre and will look at the readings for Advent and Christmastide.

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 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.

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.