



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

CHRISTMAS 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 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Dear brothers and sisters,

As we celebrate once again the coming of Our Lord in flesh and blood like ours, we recall the message of the angel choir that accompanied his birth: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of goodwill.

So let us not wait until the new year to make resolutions. Let us decide this Christmas that we will do something more each day to give glory to God – light a candle, say an extra prayer, go to an extra Mass each week, or whatever; and let us decide to do something more each day to spread peace. Let us decide to put aside our anger, hurt and resentment and make peace in our families, our workplaces, wherever we find ourselves. We dare not ask God to grant us peace on earth unless we are determined to be peacemakers ourselves.

Christmas is also a time to express our gratitude, and the friars here at Holy Cross want to say how thankful we are to all of you for your friendship, kindness and support throughout the year. We remember the great warmth and generosity that greeted Fr Clifton when he came from Jamaica to speak to us about the work of the friars in the West Indies. We thank you especially for your support of the Advent Fair two weeks ago, which raised nearly £6,000. We are deeply conscious of your continued generosity in our weekly collections, which make it possible to continue our work here. But most of all we are thankful to all of you for choosing to make Holy Cross your spiritual home.

When Christmas falls on a Monday, it can seem like a lot of effort to go to church twice in two days. But this is what the Church asks us to do. In case you still haven't made a note of our Christmas service times, please remember that there is no Sunday evening Mass this week, but the Children's Nativity takes place at 5.45 p.m. on Sunday, followed by the Vigil Mass of Christmas. Midnight Mass is at 10 p.m. on Sunday night, and there are Masses on Christmas Day at 8 a.m., 10.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. There is no Mass on Monday evening – we will all be having our Christmas dinner! And no Masses on weekday evenings this week, just one Mass at 12.30 p.m. We look forward to seeing all of you, and wish you all a very merry Christmas.

Yours in Christ,

Richard OP

USUAL 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.*

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!

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 have begun for children who are not receiving catechism at school. Sadly it is too late now to enrol more children in the classes, but they will run again next year.

*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: This autumn we began reading from the Book of the Apocalypse. The group is on a Christmas break but will start up again next month – please listen out for announcements, and new members are always welcome. 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.

CHRISTMAS GIFT – your offering at all Christmas Masses is a gift to the members of the Dominican Community, and Fr Richard and all the friars would like to thank everyone in advance for their generosity, and for all the other lovely presents and cards that we have already received.

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

There is no better way to pray than to place oneself like Mary in an attitude of openness, with a heart open to God: 'Lord, what you want, when you want, and how you want'. That is, a heart open to God's will. And God always responds.