



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

JANUARY 2024 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 New Year! On behalf of all the Dominican brethren at Holy Cross, I would like to say an enormous thank you. First of all for your extraordinary generosity to us personally at Christmas – we are still working our way through a lovely collection of wines, and are stuffed full of biscuits, cake and chocolate. The Christmas collection was also very generous, and this enables us to spend some time away with family and friends to recover from the stresses and strains of the Christmas period.

We are also very grateful for your support for the Advent Fair, which raised nearly £6,000 for the Parish. This will help to keep the heating and the lights on in this cold and dark season.

It was wonderful to see such a huge congregation at our Christmas Masses, even though it was on a Monday: altogether we counted over 1200 people, which is remarkable. I have become aware that many of you want to go to a Midnight Mass of Our Lady on New Year's Eve. This is a tradition I have only just learned about, so there wasn't time to organise it, but it will definitely happen on 31 December this year.

Finally, there are some notices in this newsletter about a new series of talks, and some new or re-launched parish groups. Do consider whether you could join in, or indeed if you would like to set up another one. The more, the merrier!

Yours in Christ,

Richard OP

Email me: leicester@english.op.org

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!

CATECHETICAL TALKS

The friars will be offering a new series of short talks on the Catholic Faith at 11 a.m. on Saturday mornings, starting on 27 January with Fr Richard on Creation and the Fall. The talks will be in the Frassati Centre, and will be just 10 to 15 minutes long, with time for questions afterwards. A full list is posted on the noticeboards in the church entrances. Do come!

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 or talk to one of the priests.
- **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, so it is now too late to enrol new children. But there will be more classes next year, so please let one of the priests know.
- **Confirmation:** once the First Communions have taken place, we will start Confirmation classes for any children who need them – this will probably be in the autumn. If you are an adult and have not been confirmed, please speak to one of the priests and we will arrange for you to receive the sacrament.

*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 will restart on Tuesday 16 January, and new members are always welcome. We will continue reading from the Book of the Apocalypse, which is proving very interesting. We meet in the Frassati Centre 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 is being relaunched – please listen out for further announcements from Christopher Dillon, or contact him or Luisa Dillon if you are 18-35 and would like to be more involved in the life of the Church. Phone 07960 384449 or email cjdillon@live.co.uk. The group will meet on Saturdays after the 12.30 Mass, in the Frassati Centre, and the first meeting will be about Pier Giorgio Frassati himself, on 3 February.

MEN'S GROUP: Mr Chinedu Megwa is starting up a group for lay men in the parish, and would be very glad to hear from you if you are interested. Phone 07541 004298, or email megwachinedu@gmail.com. Meetings will take place on Sundays before the 7 p.m. Mass. Listen out for more information soon.

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

Thank you for your enthusiastic use of the Repository, which helps support the Parish as well as providing a service to parishioners and other local Christians. Do 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.