



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

FEBRUARY 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,

It will be Lent on Wednesday. Time for us all to think about how to live better Christian lives, focusing on prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Don't just give something up – take something up as well, and keep it going for life! I want to draw your attention to two things you could consider: firstly, prayer for life – see the notice in this newsletter for more information on this very worthwhile and beautiful cause. And as far as almsgiving is concerned, there is a way that you can help the parish's funds while also having a good time and building up friendships by taking part in the buffet supper on Monday 18th March. Again, see the notice in this newsletter or the flyers or posters by the doors.

As far as prayer is concerned, please spare some for me and the other friars this Lent; let us pray also for those who are in prison or in hospital in our parish, that God will show them his mercy. I wish you all the happiness of this joyful season.

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.*

PRAYER FOR LIFE

40 Days for Life will have a prayerful witness outside the BPAS abortion centre in Aylestone, Leicester from Wednesday 14th February to Sunday 24th March, and we welcome you to join us, to be part of God's work in stopping abortion in our city. You will never be on your own and you can sign up for one hour or two, whenever you are available (even weekends and evenings). We pray, holding simple signs, outside a place where abortions are carried out. We are asking God to end abortion in our community. If you feel called to this special work call Sica Martinez on 07943 711549 or email leicester40daysforlife@gmail.com. You can also directly sign up for hours at www.40daysforlife.com/en/leicester

Secondly, on the first four Sundays of Lent we will have an extended Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 5 p.m. to pray for Life, with silent prayer, chants and meditations led by students from our congregation, followed by Benediction at 6.45. Come and pray with us for Life!

SHORT TALKS

The friars are giving a series of short talks on the Catholic Faith at 11 a.m. on Saturday mornings in the Frassati Centre. They are just 10 to 15 minutes long, with time for questions afterwards. The next will be Fr John Patrick on the Church's social teaching on 17 February, followed by Fr Benedict on the sacraments on 2 March. A full list is posted on the noticeboards in the church entrances and there are some fliers by the doors too. Do come!

SACRAMENTS

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 is continuing to read 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 parish website.

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 has been relaunched – please contact Christopher 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 meets on Saturdays after the 12.30 Mass, in the Frassati Centre.

MEN'S GROUP: If you are interested in joining the men's group, Mr Chinedu Megwa 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.

FUNDRAISING BUFFET SUPPER

This will take place at the Chef and Spice Restaurant, 1 Andrewes Street LE3 5PG, at 7 p.m. on Monday 18 March. You must book in advance: tickets are £20 per person for all you can eat! Of this, £10 will go to parish funds. Please see the posters or flyers by the doors for more information, and contact Tony (07940 906510) or Liz (07984 147109) to book or find out more. A great opportunity not just to help the parish but to get to know each other too.

REPOSITORY

The repository has been restocked after Christmas with lots of lovely new items. Do please go and have a look at the back of the church – and 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.