



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

JANUARY 2025 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!

The year has already begun with great joy, as for the first time at Holy Cross we celebrated a Mass of Our Lady on New Year's Eve, with a very full church and everyone dressed in their loveliest clothes. What a perfect way to begin the year and to show our devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary!

We have also begun opening the main (west) doors of the church every day, to symbolise the fact that throughout the year our church will be the Jubilee Shrine for the people of Leicester. I expect this to be a year of great blessing for our community, and we look forward to welcoming our bishop, Patrick, to celebrate a Jubilee Mass on Thursday 13 March.

Finally, I want to say thank you to everyone for making Christmas such a joyful time – to our servers, church cleaners and decorators (especially Dorothy for the flowers), to everyone who helped with the liturgy by reading or singing ... and to all of you who were so generous in the Christmas collection, which will enable all the friars to make visits to their families in the next few weeks. God bless you all!

Yours in Christ,

Richard OP

e-mail 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 and Sundays 6-6.45 pm

ADORATION TIMES

Sunday: 6pm – 6.40pm (with Rosary)

Saturday: 10.30am – 12.15pm

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

REPOSITORY

We still have a few diaries and calendars left. The new Sunday Missal is currently out of stock, but we will get new copies as soon as it becomes available again.

Especially now that the west doors are open during the day, it is important to keep this area tidy. Please put chairs away neatly after Mass, and please keep a careful eye on your children – we have had some items damaged or disarranged recently, and this really must stop.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF EVENTS – JUBILEE AND WALSINGHAM

This year is a Jubilee Year, and Holy Cross church is the official Jubilee Shrine for Leicester. We expect to welcome pilgrims throughout the year, but especially at a special Mass offered by our Bishop on 13 March. Please put this date in your diary, and bring all your friends! Also, please take a Jubilee Prayer Card, plus a spare for a friend.

Secondly, the annual Dominican pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham will take place on 25 May. There will be a coach going from outside the church – more details to follow, but again please put this date in your diary. I would like the Leicester contingent to be the largest group again this year...

SACRAMENTS

Please contact the office by email, which is leicester.admin@english.op.org for any of the following:

- **Infant Baptisms, Marriages, Becoming a 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 and Confirmation:** If your child needs to make first Communion and is not doing so through school, please ask a priest for a green form. We expect classes to start up again after Christmas, and First Communions will take place on the Feast of Corpus Christi, 22 June. There will be two sets of Confirmation classes beginning in the autumn: one for children, and one for unconfirmed adults. If you have a child of confirmation age, please ask for a green form; if you are an adult but have not been confirmed, please make yourself known to Fr Richard, or listen out for further announcements. The Bishop will be coming to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday 4 May.

*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.***

CHOIR

If you are interested in joining our choir for the 10.30 Mass, please e-mail Tom, our organist: keogh.thomas@hotmail.com. We regret that at present it is not possible for under-18s to join the choir.

PARISH GROUPS

SCRIPTURE STUDY: The Scripture Group will start up again on Tuesday 14 January, and we will begin where we left off, at the beginning of John 14. This would be a good time to start coming if you've not come before. We meet every Tuesday at 7.45 in the Frassati Centre. Please arrive in plenty of time, and bring a bible if you have one!

STUDENTS: if you are a new or returning student at the University of Leicester or De Montfort University, please ask for a form or make yourself known to Fr Benedict.

FRASSATI GROUP: Our group for young adults meets once or twice a month on Saturdays after the 12.30 Mass, in the Frassati Centre. 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.

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. The first meeting takes place on Sunday 3 March at 5 p.m. in the Frassati Centre.

JESUS YOUTH: The group for teens meets on Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m. in the Frassati Centre for praise and worship and Bible study. Please contact Teesha Miranda, 07458 360580, miranda.teesh@gmail.com

LAST MONTH'S COLLECTIONS

There were five Sundays in December. During the month, you gave Holy Cross £6,368.51 in cash; £2,886.25 by standing order; and £5,119 via the card machine or online, a total of £14,373.76. Out of all of this, £5,062.25 was Gift Aided, so we can claim another £1,265.56 back from Government. We are very grateful for all your support.