



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

FEBRUARY 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,

January is over, and the Feast of Candlemas reminds us that Christ is the eternal light of the world that brings us hope – including hope of warmer weather! We are very aware that the problems with the church heating make it uncomfortably cold in the church a lot of the time, and it is all the more a testament to your faith that you continue to come and put up with the cold. Thank you! The engineers think they know what the problem is and have ordered a new part – please pray for it to arrive quickly and solve the problem.

I just want to draw your attention to the two dates mentioned below for the Bishop's Mass in March and the pilgrimage to Walsingham in May. Please put them in your diaries. It's also worth mentioning that January and February tend to be quiet times for Mass intentions, so if you have an intention you would like Mass offered for, now is a good time to ask; you can now make a Mass offering through the card machine.

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 2025 diaries left, at a reduced price! St Patrick's Day cards and gifts will be available from next week. 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. Children should only be taken into the area if they are under careful supervision, for their own safety.

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. First Communions will take place on the Feast of Corpus Christi, 22 June. If you have a child of confirmation age, please ask for a green form and complete and return it by the end of this month. The Bishop will be coming to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday 4 May.
- **Adult Confirmations:** if you are a young adult (over 18) and have not yet been confirmed, please attend the meeting with Fr Benedict in the Frassati Centre after the 10.30 Mass on Sunday 9th February. Older adults should speak to Fr Richard. Also please approach me if you are an unbaptised adult and would like to be baptised, or if you are a baptised non-Catholic and would like to be received into the Church.

*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

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL: If you are interested in helping to launch a St Vincent de Paul group, to help the parish look after the sick, elderly and housebound, please e-mail Fr Richard: leicester@english.op.org.

SATURDAY PRAYER GROUP: There will be a new group meeting in the Frassati Centre on after the Vigil Mass for prayer and fellowship on the third Saturday of every month. Please contact Fr Richard for more information, or just turn up!

LAST MONTH'S COLLECTIONS

There were four Sundays in January. During the month, you gave Holy Cross £5,170.76 in cash; £2,911.25 by standing order; and £1319.50 via the card machine or online, a total of £9,400.75. Out of all of this, £4,563.50 was Gift Aided, so we can claim another £1,140.88 back from Government. We are very grateful for all your support.