



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

DECEMBER 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,

A very happy Advent to you all! Firstly, we would like to thank you for your generous support for the Winter Fair, which raised over £4,000. At this time of year it is very expensive to heat and light the church, so your kindness really makes a difference.

The Sunday after Christmas, the Feast of the Holy Family, marks the official start of the Jubilee Year, and we are very proud that Holy Cross has been chosen by the Bishop to be the Jubilee Shrine for Leicester. This means that it will be a place of pilgrimage for Catholics from across the city and further afield, and I know that you will join us in making them feel welcome.

Times of Christmas services have been published on the parish website and flyers are available – please take one, or indeed several to pass on to friends and family. You will notice in particular that this year we will be having a Midnight Mass of Our Lady on New Year's Eve, in response to popular demand. I hope lots of you will be there.

Finally, of course, from me and all the priests at Holy Cross we wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas.

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

Christmas stock is now on sale! We have a good selection of cards and some lovely small nativity scenes, plus other items such as candles, gift bags, booklets with Advent and Christmas devotions, children's nativity stories, and ceramic and wooden Christmas plaques. 2025 calendars and diaries are still available but selling fast!

The New Lectionary is now in use and there are CTS leaflets explaining this significant change. Mass readers in particular are encouraged to pick one up, and for those who would like to find out more there is also an excellent booklet available

ADVENT MOSES BASKET APPEAL

During the season of Advent and Christmas, we aim to support a local charity, *Baby Basics*. They collect second hand and new items donated by local people and redistribute them to people in need who are expecting a baby. Referrals are made to Baby Basics by midwives, health visitors, social workers, refugee agencies, housing officers and other professionals. The aim is to ensure every baby has a safe place to sleep and the basic items needed for their care by providing a basic Moses basket starter pack. We are appealing for donations of specific items to go in the Moses basket starter packs:

Newborn clothing (especially babygrows), 0-3 month clothing, small blankets and sheets for Moses basket, baby towels, baby sleeping bags, board books, rattles and also Moses baskets. Second hand items must be washed and in good condition. There will be a collection point at Holy Cross Church. Thank you for your generosity.

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

This is a particularly good time of year to volunteer to join the parish choir, so that we can have really good singing at the Christmas liturgies. If you are interested, please e-mail Tom, our organist: keogh.thomas@hotmail.com.

PARISH GROUPS

SCRIPTURE STUDY: we are continuing to read from St John's Gospel. 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!

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 four Sundays in November. During the month, you gave Holy Cross £6,852.53 in cash; £2,988.75 by standing order; and £1609.85 via the card machine, a total of £11,451.13. Out of all of this, £4,403.50 was Gift Aided, so we can claim another £1,100.88 back from Government. We are very grateful for all your support.