



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER

· A ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH · THE DOMINICAN PRESENCE IN LEICESTER SINCE 1247 ·

MEMBERS OF THE PARISH TEAM

Fr Richard Ounsworth OP *Parish Priest*; Fr John-Patrick Kenrick OP *Subprior in capite*; Fr Benedict Jonak OP *University Chaplain*; Fr John Church OP *Assistant University Chaplain*; Fr Anthony Rattigan OP *Bursar*; Fr John Farrell 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,

There is no doubt that summer is here! I hope you have not suffered too much from the recent heat wave, which has been a reminder of our shared obligation to look after the environment. But summer is also for many of us a time of relative rest, and I hope you all have the chance to take a break and enjoy some sunshine.

On the subject of taking a break, as I type this I am no longer the Prior of the Dominican community. Priors are elected by the brothers and serve for three years, after which there is a new election. By the time you read this, there will have been an election but sometimes it can be a couple of weeks before the new Prior takes office. It is possible that the brothers will elect me to serve again – we will keep you informed! But meanwhile I am still the Parish Priest, so don't worry... I will be away, though, from 1 to 15 July visiting my parents, and during that time Fr John Patrick will be in charge. Please be kind to him, and please pray for me on 8 July, which is the 25th anniversary of my ordination.

With warmest wishes,

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 – 12 noon and Sundays 6.00-6.45 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

To pay for repository items, please hand cash to one of the priests or to Mary Green, or use the card machine – ask for it if it is not by the Wellington Street door, and press 'General Parish Funds'. PLEASE don't leave cash lying around, as it will certainly be stolen. And once again I need to remind you not to move things around in the narthex or let children interfere with items on sale. Also, please do not leave chairs in front of the tables or stack them in front of the cupboard doors. PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE!!

PARISH WEBSITE

Thanks to some hard work by Fr John Church, the Parish website has been completely revamped, and we will work hard to keep it updated with news and information. Please let one of us know if you have suggestions. The address is www.holycrossleicester.org

SACRAMENTS

- **Infant Baptisms, Confirmation, Marriage, 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, address and contact details.
- **First Communion:** classes have started and no new candidates can be accepted. To enrol your child for next year, please ask for a green form.

*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 Scripture Group will pause for the month of July and begin again on the first Tuesday in August, which is August 4th. This would be a great time for new members to come along, as we will soon be starting to read a new book of the Bible. If there is anything you have always wanted to read but felt daunted by the thought of reading it alone, why not come along and suggest it. Meetings take place in the Frassati Centre on Tuesday evenings – please arrive by 7.45 p.m. Ask Fr Richard for more information – and please bring a bible!

MEN'S GROUP: If you are interested in joining the men's group, Mr Chinedu Megwa would be very glad to hear from you. Phone 07541 004298.

JESUS YOUTH: The 'Upper Room' Young Adults Group gathers every Wednesday evening in the Frassati Centre after the 6.10pm Mass. Please do feel free to join them.

YOUNG ADULTS: The Young Adults Mass *will* take place as usual on Wednesday 22nd July: on the fourth Wednesday of every month there is an evening for young adults, beginning with the 6.10 p.m. Mass, followed at 7pm with a time of adoration, music, readings, and the opportunity for confession. We then head into the Frassati Centre for a social and a short talk, and finish with night prayer at 9pm. Please come along, or ask Fr John Church or Fr Benedict for more information.

FINANCES

Summer is a bad time to talk about money, and we will need to have a proper fundraising appeal after the school/university holidays. But parishioners should be aware that the parish struggles to make ends meet, and what is especially worrying is that there are very few reserves. In the six months to the end of March this year, our total income was just over £90,000, almost all of which was from your donations, which might sound like a lot, but it was less than our total expenses, and was about £5,000 less than our income for the same period a year ago. In particular, the amount of income that is given through Gift Aid, which enables us to reclaim tax money from the Government, is a lot lower.

In the autumn, we will be asking you to think about how much you give each week to support the Church. The last thing we want is for you to give what you cannot afford, but if you are spending more on, for example, gym membership, coffees from Costa or a Netflix subscription, that might be something to think about. And if you are paying tax and not gift-aiding your donation, then you are giving money to the Government that you could be giving to Holy Cross instead. Ask one of the priests for a form! And if you can set up a standing order to give every month directly from your bank account, that would really help. Thank you!

SAFEGUARDING

Holy Cross Priory and Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the Safeguarding Policies of the Catholic Church in England and Wales at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are Mrs Virginia Astill (07513 725413, Virginia.AstillPSR@dioceseofnottingham.uk) and Mrs Gail Neill, who has recently renewed our noticeboards to highlight the safeguarding information, which we strongly encourage you to have a proper look at. The Local Safeguarding Friar is Fr Benedict. He can be contacted at benedict.jonak@english.op.org. Alternatively the Religious Life Safeguarding Service can be contacted on 0151 5562311 or safeguarding@religioussafeguarding.org if you have any concerns.