



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH



AUGUST 2026 NEWSLETTER

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

MEMBERS OF THE PARISH TEAM

Fr Richard Ounsworth OP *Prior & Parish Priest*; Fr John-Patrick Kenrick OP *Subprior*; 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,

Firstly, I want to thank you all for your kind wishes and prayers on the recent occasion of my 25th anniversary of ordination, and my re-election as Prior. I will serve another three years, and then we will have a new Prior and probably a new Parish Priest too. Meanwhile I will continue to do my best to serve you, with the support of your prayers and your friendship, which is so important to all of us.

Secondly, let me tell you a little about the recent We Believe Festival which Fr John Church and I took part in. What a wonderful occasion! An extraordinary number of people came to Oscott College, a seminary just outside Birmingham, to celebrate our faith, to learn more about it, and to offer pray and worship to God, mostly in a massive blue tent. We have posted some very good short videos from We Believe on the Dominicans Instagram page – look for @dominicanfriarsinbritain. It will happen again next year, and I really urge you to consider coming. It could change your life!

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.

LIFE MATTERS

As you may have seen, the proposal to legalise assisted suicide which was rejected by the Lords in the last parliamentary session is returning to the Commons in exactly the same form on Friday 11th September. Our Bishops have asked us to oppose this legislation because it undermines respect for the innate value of life, it could lead to vulnerable people feeling pressured into ending their lives, and it risks putting many hospices and care homes in the position of no longer being able to operate. The Bishops have asked us to contact / write to our MPs once again, to express our opposition to this bill. They have provided materials to help us to do this on their website (www.cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide/).

Please also consider joining many hundreds of Catholics and other concerned people on the Annual March for Life on Saturday 5th September in London. A kind parishioner is sponsoring a free coach to the event (and back!) and there is more information on posters in the church entrance.

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!!

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 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: There will be no Young Adults event in August, but it will restart in September: 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 Fr John Church or Fr Benedict for more information.

RIDE & STRIDE

Ride & Stride is an annual fund-raising event on behalf of the Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust which gives grants to historic churches and chapels. Over the years Holy Cross has received a number of grants from the Trust. There's more information at www.lhct.org.uk.

The aim is to get people to sponsor you to visit as many churches as possible on the day by bike or on foot. Some ten open churches are within easy walking distance of Holy Cross, and Holy Cross will be open all day as usual. If you wish to participate, sponsorship forms and the list of open churches will be available on the tables by the entrances to the church or may be downloaded from the Trust's website.

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.