



HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH



SEPTEMBER 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,

There is a lot in this month's newsletter so I must be brief! I hope you have all had a good summer and survived the heat. To those of you new to our parish, especially students coming to Leicester for the first time, a very warm welcome.

This weekend some of our parishioners will be walking in London in the March for Life to bear witness to our faith and our love for all people, especially the most vulnerable. Those of you who have written, as I asked, to the MP for Leicester South, Shokat Adam, will have had a very encouraging reply from him; if you live in another constituency where the MP is not so sure to vote against the Assisted Dying Bill, do please write before it's too late.

Please do carefully read the rest of this newsletter, and consider getting (even)more involved in the life of the parish!

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.

WORKSHOP FOR EVERYONE – 12 SEPTEMBER

Pope Leo and Pope Francis ask all the baptised to build new relationships in the church through 'synodality' (walking together). Led by Dr Austen Ivereigh, Pope Francis's biographer and an invited expert at the synod on synodality, the workshop runs from 10am till 3pm and will explore practical ways to listen, build relationships and be inspired towards mission. A donation of £20 is suggested to cover costs, though if this amount means you can't come, you are invited to give what you can. Any surplus will be donated to Caritas Nottingham. Book through this link <https://bit.ly/synodalityleics> and see the poster in the church entrance for more information.

REPOSITORY TOYBOX

We have a toybox in the narthex with toys and books to keep young children occupied during Mass. A number of items have gone missing or been damaged over the last few months so we would be very grateful for donations of suitable second-hand toys (nothing too large, noisy or with small parts, please - soft toys particularly welcome!). Donations can be left in the narthex itself or given to Mary Green or one of the friars. Thank you!

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.***

CAFOD – RUNNERS WANTED

The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development is the official charity for the Catholic Church in England. If you would be interested in running a sponsored 10k for CAFOD on Sunday 11 October, please contact cgalagher@cafod.org.uk And please do all you can to support its Harvest Fast Day on Friday 2nd October by returning your CAFOD envelopes to the Parish.

PARISH GROUPS

SCRIPTURE STUDY: The Scripture Group meets 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! We have just started reading the Gospel of Luke, but it is never too late to join, and new or occasional participants are always welcome. Please ask Fr Richard for more information.

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: Our monthly events for Young Adults resume this month, on Wednesday 22nd September. It begins 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. This month the talk will be on 'What do Catholics believe about other religions'. Please contact Fr John Church or Fr Benedict for more information.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

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. This year the event takes place on Saturday 12 September. Secondly, there will be a Parish Fair on Sunday 8th November, with a raffle, lots of delicious food, and an opportunity to buy Advent calendars and Christmas cards and presents. More information to follow...

FORTY DAYS FOR LIFE

The Leicester 40 Days for Life Launch Evening is taking place on Monday 7th September at 7.30pm, in Saint Edwards' parish hall, 633 Aylestone Road, Leicester LE2 6TF. Information will be shared about the 40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil being held between Wednesday 23rd September and Monday 1st November. For more information contact leicester40daysforlife@gmail.com or visit www.40daysforlife.com/en/leicester. There will also be a brief address after Masses on Sunday 13 September here at Holy Cross.

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. 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.