



## Justice and Peace at Catholic Leamington

*St Peter the Apostle, Dormer Place, Leamington Spa, CV32 5AA*

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### REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2017-2018

**This year** we have tried to reach out to the three Churches in Catholic Leamington (St Peter's, Our Lady's and St Joseph's) and have had a meeting at St Joseph's as well as including all three in some of the activities that we undertook – this included the 'Walk to Church' Sunday. Stations of the Cross for Justice and Peace during Lent were organised at both St Peter's and St Joseph's. We have introduced a **J&P calendar** with important dates and actions month-by-month for the year ahead, to help with our planning. We now have **our own webpage** on the Catholic Leamington website: [www.catholicleamington.org.uk/justice-and-peace](http://www.catholicleamington.org.uk/justice-and-peace)

**Our monthly meetings are open to all. We reflect on the Sunday Gospel of the week to guide our thoughts and ideas.**

**Throughout the year** we have suggested a different **Rosary Intention** each month – as appropriate to current issues such as **migrants, homelessness, Peace in Palestine and Israel**. This is published in the newsletter and on the notice board.

We respond and consider requests from **CAFOD, Pax Christi**. We correspond with our **MP, Matt Western** regarding local and national issues. At present we are discussing his attending a meeting here to discuss the policies around **Climate Change** and ask how his party is to respond to the issues.

We take an active interest in the **local poverty issues** and each month we have had reports from the Night Shelter and our own Saturday Friendship Group (sfg) in partnership with the Salvation Army. sfg is represented on the local **Poverty Forum**, which has resulted in a **new helpful publication** which highlights all the help available in the area.

**Each month at Our Lady's there is a Fair Trade Stall.** Still awaiting volunteers from St Peter's.

Since our last review in September 2017 we have done the following activities -

#### **CHRISTMAS TIME**

**Christmas Cards to Prisoners of Conscience** - 75 cards, using the ACAT list, were sent from St Peter's and Our Lady's – to Christian individuals and organisations - those who are prisoners of conscience in several countries.

**CAFOD World Gifts** were promoted before Christmas at all 3 Churches.

**Peace Sunday in January – Penitential Rite, bidding prayers and communal prayer for peace at Masses and A Holy Hour for Peace** with special prayers.

#### **LENT**

**A Hunger Lunch in aid of CAFOD was held in Lent.** – funds raised for CAFOD.

**Justice and Peace Stations of the Cross were held both at St Peter's and St Joseph's.** Photographs and texts relating to current issues of migration, poverty, war and natural disasters made it very relevant and moving. Several different volunteer readers participated for the 6 weeks. These stations were put up again during the Peace Festival in June.

**Laudato Si** - course run at Our Lady's Church – Pope Francis' encyclical, which looks at our use of resources and effects on the environment and the poor, within a biblical context. (8 attended.) A Lenten advent-style calendar was distributed to all parishioners (StP & OL) with weekly actions based on LS.

**The Film 'An Inconvenient Sequel'** was shown during Lent - about the effects of Climate Change. (20 attended.)

**Fair Trade Fortnight** -- Fair Trade Stalls at Our Lady's and St Peter's were held during the fortnight. Information given out.

### **LIVE SIMPLY-**

**During April** we had a '**Walk to Church**' Weekend for all 3 Churches and encouraged participation with a 'lucky draw' We also asked people to fill in **CAFOD 'Share the Journey cards** to join in their campaign in support of migrants worldwide. The total mileage of 145 miles was added and sent to CAFOD.

**We issued challenges to 'live more simply'** with ideas for saving waste, changing to green energy, recycling more etc. We did a display on the use of plastic to highlight the damage it causes to the environment, with suggestions as to alternatives.

Two Suggestion Sheets on '**living simply**' and '**living sustainably**' have been issued to all Mass goers in January and April.

### **SUMMER**

**Peace Festival – 16/17 June** - St Peter's was open and **welcoming visitors** from the Peace Festival, held annually on the Pump Room Gardens. Volunteers welcomed visitors and offered refreshments and a listening ear. The Church **displayed work on Peace** by St Anthony's School and the **J and P Stations of the Cross**. 5-min **peace talks** were given at the festival on Saturday and Sunday. All parishioners **prayed for peace** together at the weekend Masses.

**In July – we invited the parish to participate in a local 2 mile walk where we** used the CAFOD '**Share the Journey**' material - and boosted our mileage towards the total as well as praying for migrants worldwide.

**Justice and Peace work is promoted on the notice board in St Peter's, in the newsletter and via Googlegroups on email and the Catholic Leamington website.** [www.catholicleamington.org.uk/justice-and-peace](http://www.catholicleamington.org.uk/justice-and-peace)

**Thanks go to all who helped during this year in any way - and there are many ways. We always need fresh people, ideas, helpers – you can contact us via the website or [cl.jandp@gmail.com](mailto:cl.jandp@gmail.com) or just turn up at the advertised meetings (you don't have to 'join'!).**