

CATHOLIC LEAMINGTON

EXTRA

SEPTEMBER 2021



SEASON OF CREATION

DATES

Wednesday, 1st September, Creation Day

Sunday, 19th September, Creation Sunday

Saturday, 25th September, Creation Season Walk

Sunday, 26th September, Choir Concert

Monday, 4th October, St Francis of Assisi

An Ignatian Ecological Examen

1. I give thanks to God for creation and for being wonderfully made.

Where did I feel God's presence in creation today?

2. I ask for the grace to see creation as God does – in all its splendour and suffering.

Do I see the beauty of creation and hear the cries of the earth and the poor?

3. I ask for the grace to look closely to see how my life choices impact creation and the poor and vulnerable.

What challenges or joys do I experience as I recall my care for creation?

How can I turn away from a throwaway culture and instead stand in solidarity with creation and the poor?

4. I ask for the grace of conversion towards ecological justice and reconciliation.

Where have I fallen short in caring for creation and my brothers and sisters?

How do I ask for a conversion of heart?

5. I ask for the grace to reconcile my relationship with God, creation and humanity, and to stand in solidarity through my actions.

How can I repair my relationship with creation and make choices consistent with my desire for reconciliation with creation?

6. I offer a closing prayer for the earth and the vulnerable in our society.

"Come and See" sessions for Catholic Leamington Exploring the Catholic Faith



What is the Catholic Church?

How can I find out about Catholicism?

How can I learn more about my Catholic Faith?

My wife/husband/fiancée/fiancé/partner is a Catholic. I would like to understand what she/he believes. What should I do?

I am a Catholic and haven't been to church for some time, but I would like to return. What is the best way for me to do this?

I am a baptised Catholic but have not been confirmed. What is my next step?

If any of these questions apply to you the answer is simple. Why not join our weekly "Come and See" sessions to learn about the Catholic Faith and develop or deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ?

We explore many aspects of the Catholic faith, always centring on the person of Jesus Christ, eg. the life, death and resurrection of Jesus; the holy Trinity; the sacraments; the Bible; prayer and devotions; the Church ...

PowerPoint slides are used to present the themes and questions and discussion are encouraged as we go along. DVDs and works of art are also used as an aid to understanding. All the material used is based on Scripture, the Catechism of the Catholic Church and other church documents (with plenty of quotes from Pope Francis!).

We plan to start on **Wednesday 6th October** at 7.30pm, hopefully in St. Peter's parish centre.

Please pass on this information to anyone who you think might be interested, or maybe you are interested yourself! For further information or to register interest, please contact Margaret 01926 428399 or email rcia.cathleam@gmail.com

There is also information on the parish website <https://www.catholicleamington.org.uk/exploring-the-catholic-faith.html>

Margaret Dimambro

EXTRA is primarily for information that we do not have room for in the weekly newsletter.

But we can only publish what you send in; please send notices (100-200 words) to

catholicleamington.extra@gmail.com

by the **end of September** for the October edition. **And we could do with more help, too! Let us know if you can help:** Brian Austin (same address as above).

Season of Creation

The Season of Creation spans five weeks between the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (1st September) and the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi (4th October). It has been celebrated since 1989 when Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I proclaimed 1 September as a day of prayer for creation for the Orthodox. Pope Francis made the Roman Catholic Church's warm welcoming of the season official in 2015.

During this period, the Christian family unites in a worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. It is a time for us to give thanks for all that God has made, say sorry for the damage we have caused to our earth and commit to taking action to protect it. This is especially important in light of the report recently published by the United Nations (UN) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which painted a stark picture and warns that a catastrophe can be avoided but only if the world acts fast.

This season of creation let us think about what we can do as individuals, families and organisations to protect the earth, living more sustainably and repairing some of the damage humans have caused. Let's also think of ways we can celebrate our common home and encourage others to look after it for the generations that are to come.

At Catholic Leamington, we will be celebrating the Season of Creation with a special penitential rite and prayer of intercession on 1st September, at each Sunday Mass and on 4th October; we will also mark Sunday 19th September as Creation Sunday. There will be a reflective walk in the Park on Saturday 25th September and it is also hoped that St Peter's Choir and Our Lady's Singers will give a Season of Creation Concert on Sunday 26th with readings from *Laudato Si'*.

Sioned Harper, LiveSimply Parish team

CARE FOR OUR EARTH STARTS NOW!

Season of Creation September 1st – October 4th

I'm sure that most of us are aware of the urgency of action to save our planet. But where do we start?

In *Laudato Si* Pope Francis gives us the starting point ... **ecological conversion**.

What does that mean? Well, it means that we are *converted* to seeing the earth and humans as one interdependent system of energy and life. We need converting because most of us DON'T see it like that now, or at least we don't ACT as if it was so.

For us to act and for humanity to act, it takes more than *knowing about* the climate and environment crisis. We have to *feel personally* about it. Just as with our faith which has to have more than knowledge about God or religion to be alive and active.

What do I *feel* about our earth and its future? I am personally starting to feel angry. I'm angry that we are not yet willing to pressure our governments to listen to the scientists and take action. The latest report from the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\) Report](#) is stark. I also feel very sad every time I see more trees being cut down ... on TV in far-away places or close at hand in Mongu, western Zambia.

The *Season of Creation* month was created to help us fall in love with the earth so that the earth's living organisms might convert us. It is THE time for us and our communities to do some serious reflecting leading to bold actions.

We could walk slowly around the garden or park to see what we see.

We could pray every day for the grace of conversion.

We could explore the special Season of Creation website for resources

<https://seasonofcreation.org>

We could do an "ecological audit" of our community to see which foods we buy and eat, how to cut out plastic, how much fuel we use and whether we can grow some food ourselves.

We know that we have to act TOGETHER as the crises are so overwhelming. Let us support each other through this newsletter. If you are willing to write a few lines with a photo about your response to this issue please send it to George. Let us hear from every community in the Province!

Francis Hall Laudato Si' Writing Group





What does it mean to be a *Live Simply* Parish?

The CAFOD LiveSimply award is an opportunity for Catholic communities - parishes, schools, religious orders and chaplaincies - to respond to Pope Francis' invitation in *Laudato Si'* to "work with generosity and tenderness in protecting this world which God has entrusted to us".

St Peter's Parish Leamington became a LiveSimply parish in 2015 after demonstrating that we undertook activities within the parish to work towards living:

- Simply
- In solidarity with people in poverty; and
- Sustainably with creation.

The LiveSimply concept has been encouraged amongst all three churches of Catholic Leamington.

As our world faces a global climate crisis, never has it been more important to try and reduce our impact on the earth by living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor.

A small committee meets every few months to reflect on how LiveSimply is working in the parish, generate ideas and put them into action. In the past the committee has undertaken various activities to keep the parish aware of the objectives of LiveSimply, including organising:

- walks with reflections
- a LiveSimply Mass involving children and parishioners with learning difficulties
- a parish cook book with recipes using less meat (now sold out)
- improved recycling in the Parish Centre
- eco-tips for parishioners in the newsletter.

We are currently preparing to hold our second stall at the Leamington EcoFest (organised by the District Council) on Saturday 4th September in the Pump Room gardens and a tree walk in Jephson Gardens on Saturday 25th September, where we can learn more about the wonderful trees there and take some time to reflect.

The committee is always open to more members joining in any capacity that they are able – if you are interested please contact Sioned Harper from the LiveSimply team at sioned_hammondjones@yahoo.co.uk

Sioned Harper, LiveSimply Parish team



Our **Recycling for Good Causes Box** will be at **St Peter's** for the whole of **September**.

This enables us to recycle specific items which will raise money for our chosen charity which is **CAFOD**.

YES PLEASE : gold or silver jewellery, costume jewellery, watches, bank notes and coins, stamps and first day covers. **THE ONLY ELECTRICAL DEVICES** we accept are mobile phones , cameras , video cameras, sat navs, electronic gaming devices , I pods / MP3 players , tablet computers . **EVEN IF BROKEN**. We are unable to accept *Laptops, home phones , DVD players , printers, modems or routers , kitchen appliances ,ink or toner cartridges*

Louise Hathaway. (LiveSimply team.)

GREEN ENERGY

Which do you choose: energy that harms the planet or energy that doesn't? Exactly.

So, your LiveSimply Parish team are recommending that you **switch to a green renewable energy tariff** and make the move to **greener energy**. You may probably save money too. This increases the demand for renewable energy and decreases it for fossil fuels.

How? Try one of these ways:

- **See** if your existing energy supplier has a Green tariff and switch without changing supplier.
- **Use the Warwickshire County Council's Switch and Save Scheme – described below.**
- **Use** an online comparison site like uswitch.com to find a Green tariff.
- **Ask** your LiveSimply Parish team to help you find one: email cl.jandp@gmail.com.
- **Get** an no-obligation invitation to switch to 100% green energy provider **Bulb Energy** with a £50 gift in your new account: email cl.jandp@gmail.com.

Do you want more information?

You can go to: energysavingtrust.org.uk and use the search for [switching your energy supplier]

Switch and Save

... is a Warwickshire group buying scheme from **energy providers**. Year on year, the scheme has delivered competitive tariffs for households. **All tariffs through Switch and Save now come with renewable electricity.**

The Autumn Scheme is now live, so you can register **now** and offers go out from Monday 25th October 2021.

The process is simple. If you are comfortable using the internet, you can [register yourself](#).

- Register at <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/switchandsave>

The process is easy and the Switch and Save helpdesk can support registrants if they need any assistance.

Solar Together

... is a Warwickshire Group-buying scheme for [solar panels](#) and battery storage.

Currently, solar panels from the last phase are currently being installed.

- Register for free and without obligation.
- It ensures you receive a complete, high-quality system.

If you sign up now, you will be informed of future schemes taking place:

<https://solartogether.co.uk/warwickshire/home#>

Brian Austin, LiveSimply Parish team.

MY ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION

My life has undergone some quite fundamental changes. The way I practise my religion now is totally different. Having learned to read nature and creation as a revelation of God, my view has broadened considerably. This came about after I completed the Laudato Si Animators online programme in 2020. Listening to and watching others who have changed certain aspects of their lives as a result of studying Pope Francis letter to humanity [Laudato Si'] has inspired me to make similar changes. This is a result of the work of the Holy Spirit and is ongoing.

My appreciation of God's creation has grown considerably. I am learning about biodiversity; the way in which all living things are connected and interdependent. Spending time in nature has increased my sense of wonder at the beauty and balance which exists there, and I am learning more from people who are knowledgeable about plants, insects, chemistry and so on.

So what practical changes have I implemented in my lifestyle you may ask. Well food and diet is an important one ... I now make a weekly visit to a small fruit and vegetable shop where the produce is not wrapped in plastic, and I can ask where it has been grown. I am trying to reduce my carbon footprint by not buying food which has been imported by plane from the other side of the world. We all know how fossil fuel is one of the main causes of global warming and how planes are the biggest culprits. In addition, I am trying to eliminate meat from my diet. I am amazed at the variety of vegetables available and am being more adventurous with recipes in an effort to convert my family.

... I have made an effort to maintain fitness by riding a bicycle and this gives me the opportunity to observe the countryside, especially as the beauty of springtime has manifested itself in the trees, flowers, birds and insects.

Inspiration comes to different people in different ways, and God's Holy Spirit will lead us forward as long as we make time every day to listen to his whispers in our hearts.

Susan Porter, Laudato Si' Writing Group



Tree walk in Jephson Gardens.

Saturday 25 September 3-4 pm

To celebrate the Season of Creation the parish *Live Simply* group have organised a Tree walk in Jephson gardens led by Sidney Syson (chair of The Leamington Society) .

Please come along to learn more about the wonderful trees that are planted there.

Sidney is very knowledgeable about them and she gives entertaining and informative short talks.

Among others we will see the Paper bark maple which has bark that peels off like tissue paper.

And find out facts like the coastal redwoods growing in the gardens are now mainly only found in their native California and the species is the tallest living thing on earth and can live for up to 2,500 years! I wonder how old the ones in Jephson gardens are?

Please join us , especially as Sidney is happily giving up her time to share this walk with us.

It will be an enjoyable stroll around the gardens taking in the beauty of creation in the trees. It will be fun for adults and children - all very welcome.

Details of meeting point will be in the weekly parish newsletter.

Louise Hathaway (Live simply team)

OPINION

Synodality

A personal reflection by Paul Hayden

Hooray for Pope Francis, standing up for the essential reforms of the 2nd Vatican Council, reminding us that the church is essentially missionary and determined to help the poor. We are indeed the **Easter People**.

Vatican II (1962-65) sought our more active, conscious participation as laity, through Mass in the vernacular and in the life of the Church, a turning away from clericalism towards a new age of laity engagement, emphasising 'the people of God', filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and radically equal in grace. A people of God which evangelises, with inclusion of the poor of society, working for peace and dialogue within society. *In Catholic Leamington we are blessed with several social action groups, so that it is easier to give our time, or our resources, to support the needy.*

The pope invites us all to participate in an experience of synodality over the next few months, providing us with another chance to focus on Word and Action. I hope it will help us all see that mission, driven by our increasing life in Jesus, is of fundamental importance.

If I am convinced of this, why am I not out and about inviting everyone to join our church community? I think it is because of embarrassment. Not just because of the dreadful unfolding news around abuse, the cover ups and lack of focus on the victims. Sadly, the church behaved little differently to the rest of society. **Embarrassment**, because the statements of the church have not caught up with the reality of different understanding that has emerged over several decades, or do not exhibit the mercy of Christ, and yet those statements are still quoted, for example regarding those divorced and barred from the Eucharist, or in same sex relationships who do not feel welcome in our church, or people living together. These statements need revisiting and restating or somehow nullifying. There are often many good things in past church statements, but some are past their sell-by dates; they get in the way of us evangelising our neighbours and sharing God's mercy and love, for example: *Humanae Vitae* - banning contraception or treating it akin to abortion!

I hope the synodality dialogue will allow us to look at the reasons we are embarrassed and help us find ways of moving forward. There are big questions which might be seen as a challenge to doctrine or at least church practice and these should be allowed space, for us all to discern where the spirit wants us to move: Women in the spiritual life of the church – Deacons or Priests; LGBTQ – where the catechism still refers to homosexuality as an intrinsic disorder - inappropriate to a caring church, where we should be accepting and rejoicing in the diversity of people created in God's image; issues around gender identity; the rules around who is allowed / worthy to receive communion; the ban on contraception.

All my adult life, there have been times when gusts of the Holy Spirit have been felt from the vision of Vatican II. Dare we hope that synodality will help embed the renewal that is called for, we are after all a **People of Hope**.

Paul Hayden

Paul.Hayden@ntlworld.com



Last month Catholic Leamington started an important initiative called ‘**Something Greater**’



As you came into church a few weeks ago I hope you were given a **Something Greater** prayer bookmark. You may be wondering what ‘Something Greater’ is or asking ‘something greater than what?’

Over the last 18 months or so all the Covid restrictions have affected how we live our lives, including our life within our parish. Our community has become fragmented and some of us, maybe most, have almost forgotten how to socialise and interact.

Some of us are still uneasy about returning to church, or have become comfortable with live-streaming. We want **something greater** than that for our parish community, so the purpose of the Something Greater initiative is to extend a welcoming hand of friendship to family, friends, and all parishioners, so that we can build up a strong, faith-filled and vibrant community, which reaches out to others, and in which every person can play a part. For this to happen, a lot of prayer is needed, so we ask you to pray this prayer frequently as individuals, couples, families or parish groups, so that this initiative can blossom in the months ahead.

If you do not have a prayer bookmark please pick one up at the back of church.

A number of initiatives were discussed at the last Team meeting on 18th August (*notes of meeting available on catholicleamington.org.uk > Welcome > Evangelisation Team*). You are invited to join future meetings, initially by Zoom. Please tell Peter, mdimambro@hotmail.co.uk 01926 428399, if you are able to come so he can send you the Zoom link.



Our first event was a **parish picnic** in the Leamington Pump a pleasant social time including fun grass games.

All parishioners are asked to help in some way by supporting the initiatives and all parishioners of St Peter’s and Our Lady’s are to be requested to complete a form “Parishioner Update/Register your interest” which is in the planning.

Sept 2021 - Your Something Greater Team.

Something Greater Prayer

Loving Father, as Covid restrictions ease, we pray for our **‘Something Greater’** initiative.

As we reach out to others, give us the wisdom to know how to communicate in a way that will attract them to our parish community in worship and fellowship.

May we be alert to ways of encouraging them in their faith journey.

We make this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ

Your Son,

Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

Amen.

 THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM

Thanksgiving Mass for Marriage
Saturday 9th October 2021
12 noon at St Chad’s Cathedral
Celebrant Bishop David Evans

During the Mass married couples will be invited to make the Renewal of Commitment.
If you are celebrating a milestone anniversary during 2021, whether it is your 1st anniversary or every 5th year up to 60th (and every year after 60), and would like to be listed in the Mass booklet please email marriage.mass@rcaob.org.uk before October 1st


 Marriage & Family Life Co-ordinator
Lianne Pap

To register to attend the Mass please email marriage.mass@rcaob.org.uk



St Vincent
de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

St Vincent de Paul Society SVP What do we do?

September is SVP Awareness Month and there will be an appeal from the pulpit at all Masses on the weekend of 25th-26th September

The late Cardinal Basil Hulme once said: ***“A Parish without an SVP is missing a vital limb”***.

The SVP does not exist for its own sake but to seek, find and help those in poverty and need, to support the work and mission of the Parish; a vital limb.

Poverty takes many forms: homelessness, debt, ill or disabled people, asylum seekers and refugees trying to survive on benefits or people in full-time work not earning enough and having to use foodbanks. There is poverty which is obvious, and the hidden kind; loneliness and social isolation. The SVP tackles these locally and campaigns on a national level for Social Justice.

One of the relatively untapped resources the church has is ourselves – the laity. Those of us who continue to practise our faith, come to church regularly and try to put our faith into action.

The SVP is –

- We are a lay organisation and have been combating poverty and isolation in England & Wales since 1844
- We are a National and International Charity in 154 countries across the world
- We seek and find those in need in the spirit of St Vincent de Paul and Blessed Frédéric Ozanam
- We support the work of the clergy and other groups in the Parishes where we have a presence

St Vincent de Paul was a French Priest who was Chaplain to the Royal Court but did not feel this was his vocation when he saw ordinary people in poverty. He moved to a poor Parish to begin his Vincentian work of finding, befriending and ministering to the poor.

The SVP didn't start until 200 years later, when some students at the Paris Sorbonne University led by Frédéric Ozanam, inspired by the example and writings of St Vincent, founded it in 1833 to help the poor of Paris. Soon the work spread across France and into other countries. The SVP came to England in 1844, gradually spreading from London across England & Wales.

Today there is still poverty and need, so we are asking the same questions:

- **What can you do?**
- **Are you caring and compassionate?**
- **Are you a good listener and able to keep confidences?**
- **Are you respectful and non-judgemental of others?**
- **Do you care about Social Justice?**
- **Can you spare some time – even an hour a week – to help others?**

There are many ways to put your faith into action but joining the SVP is one of the very best.

It makes you part of a network of charity and love which stretches across the world in over 150 countries. You have the support of a professionally run SVP National Office based in London and Bradford.

If you join the SVP you will receive ongoing practical help, training, spiritual development and many other resources; an SVP Prayer Book, Vincentian Concern Magazine and an interactive website -www.svp.org.uk, as well as the support of your fellow Members.

The SVP continually needs new members to help us with our work, if you would like to find out more about what we do, please feel free to contact the SVP Presidents at our three churches –

St Peter's, Peter May 01926 421786 - **St Joseph's**, Brian Malone 01926 613693 - **Our Lady's**, Richard Gordon 07974 455732.

www.svp.org.uk

David Burton, SVP