

CATHOLIC LEAMINGTON: Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Sunday 19 July 2020

St Joseph's

47 Murcott Road East,
Whitnash CV31 2JJ
T: 01926 772712



St Peter's

3A Dormer Place
Leamington Spa CV32 5AA
T: 01926 423824



Our Lady's

Valley Road
Lillington CV32 7SJ
T: 01926 423824



Parish Priest, St Joseph's

Fr Andrew Franklin
Priest in Residence
Fr Ramunas Gerdauskas

Parish Priest, St Peter's & Our Lady's, Dean of Warwick Deanery Fr John Cross

Assistant Priest Fr Noel Breslin
Retired Priest Fr Christopher Greaney
Deacon Rev David Palmer

Office: stjoseph.whitnash@rcaob.org.uk
Priest: fr.andrew.franklin@rcaob.org.uk
Website: stjosephs47.org.uk

Office: stpeterapostle.leamington@rcaob.org.uk
Priest: fr.john.cross@rcaob.org.uk
Website: catholicleamington.org.uk

One interpretation of the parable of the wheat and the darnel is that it is about inclusivity. Darnel is a weed that closely resembles wheat and the difference is evident only when the plants mature and the ears appear. When the owner's servants discover weeds in the wheat field, the question is not only where they could have come from, but also what should be done about them. To their surprise the owner tells them not to weed the field but to let the wheat and darnel grow together. When both are mature at harvest time the sorting will be done. The wheat will be gathered up and stored; the darnel will be burned.

Jesus explains that the parable is about good and evil thriving alongside each other in the world. It is not always easy to tell the weeds from the wheat and their roots are intertwined below ground. Judgement is left to God's angels. We see the inclusive nature of Jesus' vision. He explains that the power of the kingdom of God is like the growth potential of a tiny mustard seed, or the transforming qualities of yeast. The tiny seeds and yeast spores have a dynamic potential for change that is out of all proportion to their size. With the metaphors of the mustard seed and the yeast, Jesus asks us to trust our inner energies and the power of the Holy Spirit. We can all be agents of change in our world.

The Living Word

First reading: *Wisdom 12:13. 16-19; Responsorial Psalm "O Lord, you are good and forgiving." Second reading: Romans 8:26-27; Gospel: Matthew 13:24-43*

Dear Parishioners,
This week has been a week of mixed emotions. It is a personal sadness for me to be leaving St Joseph's to take up a new appointment at Our Lady of the Wayside in Shirley. This sadness is of course mixed with the joy of public Mass being celebrated once again. It was lovely to see people returning to Mass and receiving the Lord in the Eucharist. What I also noticed was that people were smiling and happy to be back in Church. I realised that life, not only for me, but for all of us, is filled with hopes and dreams, joys and sorrows, sickness and health. It is wonderful for us as Catholics to be able to realise that all of these things can be brought to the celebration of the Mass, the source and summit of our Catholic faith. In the Mass we gather as a community of rich and poor, young and old, from all nationalities to encounter the living Lord made present in the simple gifts of bread and wine. So, no matter how we may be feeling this week let's rejoice in the Mass and the gift of our community, our family and our friends.

I hope you are continuing to enjoy the football. The Brakes' new stadium plans look very impressive!

Every blessing, Fr Andy.

St Peter's live-stream Masses (**Public Masses: 11.00 Thursday 23 July, 8.00 am Sunday 26 July)

Sunday 19 July

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time A

8.00: Maureen & Martin Wall

11.00: James Hannan

Monday 20 July Feria

Psalter Week 4

11.00: Anna Dalli

Tuesday 21 July Feria

11.00: Helen Cooke's Intentions

Wednesday 22 July St Mary Magdalene

11.00: Thanksgiving (Sunarjo)

**Thursday 23 July St Bridget

11.00: Willie Ryan

Friday 24 July Feria

11.00: Ann Sayce

Saturday 25 July St James, Apostle

11.00: Sean & Barbara O'Rourke's Intentions

**Sunday 26 July

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time A

**8.00: James & Eithne Dunne

11.00: Henny & David Manning (Anniversary)

St Joseph's Masses

All open to attend or view via live-stream

Sunday 19 July

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time A

9.00: Patrick Nestor Anniversary;

Peggy McGahan RIP

Monday 20 July Feria

Psalter Week 4

7.00: Anna Jelonek's Intentions;

Elias Saez Herce RIP

Tuesday 21 July Feria

9.30: Les Thacker

Thursday 23 July St Bridget

7.00: In Thanksgiving Sal & Colette's

Wedding Anniversary

Friday 24 July Feria

9.30: Gerard Cotter RIP

Saturday 25 July St James, Apostle

9.30: Mgr. Gerard Fahey RIP

Sunday 26 July

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time A

9.00: Roy Anthony Fitchew RIP;

Bernadette Kavanagh RIP

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St Joseph's



This week
Our Lady's
Seven Day
Candle burns

for **Colette & Sal
McSharry's 60th
Wedding
Anniversary**

Leaving Do: On Sunday 2 August from 2.00 pm onwards the Presbytery Garden and Church Grounds will be open and Fr Andy invites you to join him for an open air party to give thanks for his time here at St Joseph's and of course to say *Au Revoir*.

New Appointments: As

announced last week I have been appointed Parish Priest of Our Lady of the Wayside, Shirley and Fr Noel has been appointed Parish Priest here at St Joseph's. It is hoped that we will take up our appointments in the middle of August to give us time to settle into our new surroundings. Please do pray for Fr Noel and I as we begin this new stage of our ministry.

Parish Office: The Parish Office is gradually beginning to return to normal. It is open on Wednesdays from 10.00 am -2.00 pm.

Hospital Chaplaincy: I officially finish as Chaplain to Warwick Hospital and CERU on 31 July. You will be advised of the new chaplain in due course.

200 Club: Congratulations to Liz Mullis and Jill Sheard, who won the 1st (£50) and 2nd (£30) prizes in June's 200 Club draw, and to Anna Field and W. Comenale who won in July. The next collection and draw will take place on Sunday 2 August. Now that the Church has re-opened for Mass, it would be helpful if you could drop an envelope into the Presbytery with some contribution towards the 200 Club if you know that you are behind.

Please contact Anne via the Presbytery if you would like to know your current status. However, everyone will continue to be included in the draw for the time being so don't worry if you cannot visit the Church. It is also possible to move to paying by Standing Order if you prefer. All profits go to the Church's Building Fund so thank you for your support.

Remaining Gift Aid envelopes for the year commencing 12th April are available from the Office. Please phone first.

Confessions: the Sacrament of Reconciliation is available on Saturdays from 10.00-10.30 am. Please come to the Narthex and wait until you are called in. This is a social distancing open confession inside the church.

Exposition and Devotions are suspended for the time being so as to prioritise the safe celebration of Mass.

Requests for the Seven-Day Candle intentions (£5.00) are available from 18 October onwards. Please put requests through the Presbytery door.

St Joseph's Whitnash SVP welcomes you to join its new [Facebook group](#). Learn more about the activities that St Joseph's SVP are doing or if you or someone you know is in need of our support, contact us via the Facebook group rb.gy/qqsrvs or via St Joseph's church website <https://stjosephs47.org.uk/>

E-news: Sign up for the Newsletter and to receive Fr Andy's e-news updates via the parish website (stjosephs47.org.uk) or www.warwick-catholicdeanery.org.uk/newsletter-sign-up/

St Peter's & Our Lady's

Live-stream: This facility will continue even as people return to church to help those who prefer to watch from home at this time. It helps us to be together as a family wherever we are watching.

Finance: Last week saw the phased return of our office staff on the flexi-furlough scheme. At last I have been able to properly address why many of the Standing Orders you so kindly sent to help St Peter's and Our Lady's churches during these most difficult and challenging times were not processed by the bank. Sadly fifteen of these, where your bank is not NatWest, were not processed so we have lost three months' of your donations. I am really grateful to those of you who, when checking your bank statements, realised something was wrong and sent a cheque to cover those missed months. This situation has highlighted more than ever how reliant the churches are on our parishioners' generosity week in and week out through donations on the plate. Without this, our finances have been badly affected. Post-lockdown, we see swipe cards and contactless donations as a way forward. I hope to install these units in the near future.

Confessions are taking place at St Peter's on Saturdays at 9.15-9.45 am and 4.15-4.45 pm. Penitents should wait outside the West Doors while the priest hears confessions in church; social distancing will be observed.

Mass Cards / Intentions: A number of people have enquired about getting Mass Cards, particularly if they have lost a loved one who does not live locally and they want to send a card by post. If you require a Mass Card please email stpeterapostle.leamington@rcaob.org.uk or call the office and we can arrange a time for you to safely call by and collect one. Intentions can still be put through the Presbytery letterbox, or send a request through the website 'contact us' form.

200 club July winners: First prize £50 Martin Lucey; second prize £20 Mrs Ayers; and third prize £10 A Holmes. Congratulations to the winners!

Newsletter by email: please email the office on stpeterapostle.leamington@rcaob.org.uk or use the 'Contact us' form on the website (catholicleamington.org.uk and scroll down the Home Page).

Tales of the unexpected: I have been a bit of a poorly dog this week so I ask your prayers for me and for the boss who has been very upset that I am not well. I said to him 'I hope those are real tears'. Poorly woofs, Bertie ;-) xx

The recently deceased of our churches:

Teresa Lynch, Philomena Vale, June Moore, Seamus Martin, Anne Keegan, Angela Davies, Leslie Thacker, Michael Rigby, Richard Murphy, Mary 'May' Crawford, Gertrude Lane, Leslie Harfield, Rupert Atkinson, Patrick Thompson. **May they rest in peace.**

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Dear Parishioners

Last weekend we heard that Fr Andy will be leaving St Joseph's in the next few weeks and, after a short holiday, will take up a new post as Parish Priest of Our Lady of the Wayside in Shirley. I congratulate him on his new appointment but I will be very sad to lose a good friend and neighbour.

Last week's news was quite a shock for St Joseph's parishioners and indeed across the Catholic Leamington community because Fr Andy has become an established priest due to his role as Chaplain of Warwick Hospital, Governor of St Joseph's Primary School and a vocal supporter of Manchester United F.C! As a fellow dog-owning priest I can't miss out Monty and Oak who are almost as well-known as Fr Andy! Indeed as Fr Noel commented at the end of his live-streamed Mass last weekend, Fr Andy will be a hard act to follow.

I also congratulate Fr Noel on his appointment to Parish Priest at St Joseph's and look forward to working with him to build on the strong foundations already established in Catholic Leamington. These foundations comprise unity, collaboration and partnership or, put another way, we shall need to lean on each other when we need help. Fr Noel has opted not to have a 'leaving do' – as he put it: "I'm only going down the road!"

This weekend I would like to announce some more news. At St Peter's and Our Lady's we will welcome our new priest towards the end of September, Fr Benedict Skipper, who will be ordained to the priesthood on Tuesday 22 September at St Chad's Cathedral. He will be known as Fr Benedict so let's start now and call him by that title. I won't say anymore because he will want to tell us his own story. But I ask you to pray for him and indeed for all your parish clergy, new and old, during this time of transition and change.

Thank you to those who have volunteered as stewards or cleaners as we look forward to re-opening St Peter's for public Mass at 11.00 am on Thursday 23 July and Sunday 26 July at 8.00 am.

People love their church. It is the place where you feel at home. Pre-coronavirus a Sunday congregation would be a large gathering of the faithful. Post-lockdown the numbers we can accommodate with the 2 metre rule is significantly lower. At St Peter's, the new guidelines will restrict us to 50 places. Our Lady's will be about 40. As time goes on I hope to be able to re-open St Peter's for daily mass and near enough the same at Our Lady's. Using our two churches we shall be better able to accommodate our worshipping congregation across the entire week. The Sunday obligation was suspended by Cardinal Vincent at the beginning of lockdown and so now we can go to Mass on any day of the week if we wish. Having live-stream has allowed us to watch Mass at home and this facility will continue even as people return to church.

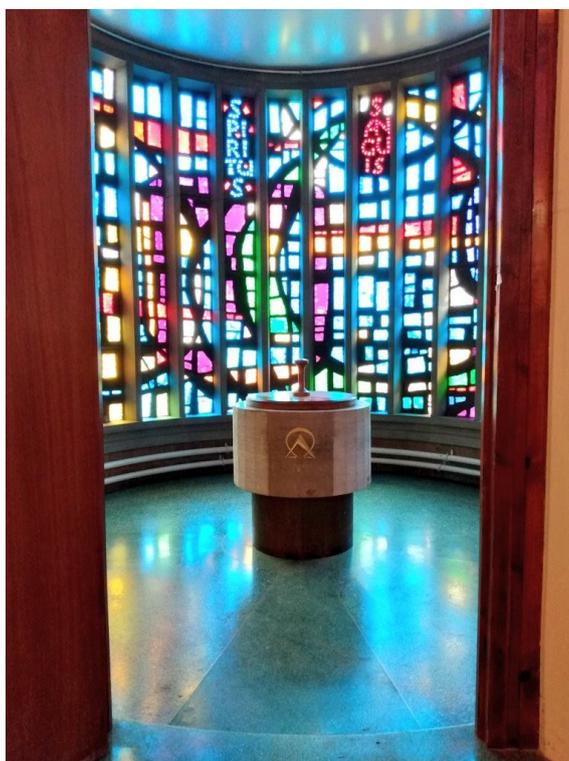
It has been a laborious process wading through the government advice and Diocesan guidelines and then applying them to our situation. Please keep to the guidelines published overleaf for Mass in these times of Coronavirus – they are for our mutual protection. The church is now arranged to facilitate this new regime. It will be very different but for those of you who want to receive Holy Communion again or receive a blessing it is also a chance to come home. During lockdown I have moved furniture around to facilitate easy access and egress for the parishioners and the priest. Some benches have had to be moved and some areas in the church are no longer being used for seating due to the 2 metre rule.

At Our Lady's I have opened up the original confessional boxes, moved the font back and followed the Health and Safety guidelines provided by the Diocese and the Government to make the church and hall a safe place to be. The same has been done at St Peter's. Currently both halls are out of bounds pending risk assessments.

Here is the font in its proper home in the Baptistry. Like you and me when we are able to return to church, it is just so glad to be back in the place where it should be.

May Our Lady and St Peter welcome you home.

Every blessing, Fr John.



CORRECT NEWSLETTER EMAIL: the wrong email address has been published for some time now. It was missing the 's' at the end of peter. Sorry for the frustration caused. Items for the newsletter should be sent by 4.00 pm on a Wednesday to newsletterstpeters@gmail.com. Thank you.

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GUIDELINES FOR MASS ATTENDANCE

1. Please observe the socially-distanced queue markings.
2. You will be greeted by a Steward at the west doors. You will be asked a few basic health questions. Your name and contact details are required for 'track and trace' if necessary.
3. Don your mask – **OBLIGATORY** (unless you are a child or you have breathing difficulties).
4. Sanitize your hands – **OBLIGATORY** (remove gloves, if worn).
5. A second steward will show you to your place for Mass. You are required to **remain in place** until the end of Mass. (If you need help, please raise your hand and a steward will attend to you.)
6. Holy Communion takes place **after** the final blessing. Wait until a steward invites you forward for Holy Communion.
7. The reception of Holy Communion is **silent** and on the hand. The priest wears a mask.
8. The recipients do **not** return to their place but follow the arrows and leave the Church directly.
9. A collection will be taken on leaving the church.
10. **Please leave directly because only when everyone is out can the church be thoroughly disinfected.**

CAFOD's summer of hope

CAFOD is desperate for funding to meet the demands of the COVID-19 crisis, particularly in parts of Africa. What can you do? You and your family are invited to be part of a Summer of Hope to ensure clean water and food reaches some of the poorest families in the world during this global emergency. Recreate at home the events you will miss this summer and have fun transforming them into a sign of hope through raising money for [CAFOD's Coronavirus Appeal](#).

School sports day cancelled? [Hold one in your back garden!](#)

Be sponsored to do your daily walk with an egg and spoon!

Summer fair postponed? [Play 'guess the sweets in the jar' or 'treasure hunt' online!](#)

Missing out on a summer BBQ? Get on Zoom and charge for cooking tips!

Missing the Olympics? Walk, cycle, jump, run an Olympic distance and be sponsored.

Anniversaries of the faithful departed:

Dennis O'Keeffe, Patrick McMahan, Pamela Elkins, Robert Gibbons, Peter Healy, Michael Mangan, Barry Whitlock, William Cronin, Bob O'Brien, Craig Berry, Robert McManus, Timothy Canty, Pasquale Abbruscato, Thomas McGreavy, Patrick Thornton, Timothy O'Connell, Marjorie Taylor, David Dunbar, Gaetan Fallone, Maureen Guilfoyle, Evan Bowen, Sarah Brazier, Canon Laurence Kelly, Fr Albert Kelly, Mgr Peter Ryall, Fr Anthony Owen, Fr Euan Henderson, Fr Denis O'Shea, Fr Basil Wrighton, Deacon Ernie Titchmarsh. **May they rest in peace.**

Mass will last 30 minutes or less, even on a Sunday.

Votive candles cannot be lit.

There are no missalettes, no hymn books and no newsletter.

No-one is permitted to enter the sacristy or the sanctuary as

these are the 'workplace' of the priest.

Do not bring too much with you.

There will be no choir or congregational singing but music is allowed.

The toilets will not be available.

HAPPY HOLY_DAYS!

The summer holidays have begun. Schools are shut. Families prepare for a week or two away (or a stay-cation!) The word holiday derives from 'holy day'. It is a good time to take stock, to give time to prayer giving thanks, asking for grace and seeking the peace that the world cannot give. In this difficult time of coronavirus let's re-focus on the simple joys of life: family, friends and fellowship. I wish you all a blessed holiday. May the children return refreshed for their schooling, be it a familiar or a new



school; and the young adults return inspired for their studies as apprentices, college or university students.

For the unemployed, for families in need for whom a holiday is a far-off dream, and for the homeless and marginalised with complex needs, I offer special prayers

that your faith may be kept alive and that you know that God is with you in these difficult times.

Every blessing, Fr John.