

CATHOLIC LEAMINGTON: Gaudete Sunday

Sunday 12th December 2021

St Joseph

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



St Peter Apostle

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



Our Lady

Valley Road
Lillington CV32 7SJ
T: 01926 423824



Parish Priest, St Joseph's
Fr Noel Breslin

Parish Priest of St Peter's & Our Lady's, Dean of Warwick
Deanery Fr John Cross
Assistant Priest: Fr Benedict Skipper
Retired Priest: Fr Christopher Greaney

Office: stjoseph.whitnash@rcaob.org.uk
Parish Priest: fr.noel.breslin@rcaob.org.uk
Website: stjosephs47.org.uk

Office: stpeterapostle.leamington@rcaob.org.uk
Parish Priest: fr.john.cross@rcaob.org.uk
Assistant Priest : fr.benedict.skipper@rcaob.org.uk
Website: catholicleamington.org.uk

St Joseph's

Sunday 12th December

Third Sunday in Advent

Gaudete Sunday

9:00: Eric Craig RIP;

Deceased members of the Moran & Horan families

5:30: People of the Parish

Monday 13th

7:00: Joe Brady RIP

Tuesday 14th

9:30: Private Intentions (AK);

Michael Gallagher

Thursday 16th

7:00: Patsy Breslin RIP

Friday 17th

9:30: June Arran RIP;

Mary O'Connor RIP

Saturday 18th

9:30: Margaret Copson;

Teresa McAndrew

Sunday 19th

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00: Phil Shaw RIP;

People of the Parish

5:30: Joe & Rose McGreevy RIP

Confessions:

St. Peter's: Saturdays: 10:00 - 10:30

Our Lady's: After Mass if a priest is available.

St Joseph's : On Request

The recently deceased of our Churches:

Hazel Byrne, Michael Gallagher, Anne Carter, John Tilley,
Annie Gleeson, Laurence Treacy.

May they rest in peace.

Saints of the week

Monday 13th December

Memorial of St. Lucy, Virgin, Martyr

Tuesday 14th

Memorial of St. John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church

St Peter's & Our Lady's

Saturday 11th December

SP 9:30: Peter & Rosemary McGovern

OL: 5:00: Eithne Dunne RIP

Sunday 12th

Third Sunday in Advent

Gaudete Sunday

SP 9:00: Fr. Noel Breslin

SP 11:00: Antonio Quirino Spencer

Monday 13th

SP: 9:30: SPAN Benefactors

SP: 10:00—Coffee Morning after Mass

Tuesday 14th

SP 9:30: Eileen Cummings RIP

Wednesday 15th

OL:10:00—Coffee Morning before Mass

OL: 12:00: Tony Sullivan RIP (Simon & Kevin Daly)

Thursday 16th

SP: 11:00: Jane Haygreen *School Mass*

Friday 17th

SP: 11:00: Carol Ward

Saturday 18th

SP 9:30: Paddy, Nancy, Finn, John & Patrick Murphy

OL: 5:00: Kitty & Jack Ryan RIP (Jack & Hannah Daly)

Sunday 19th

Fourth Sunday in Advent

SP 9:00: Christine Tam (John Collins)

SP 11:00: Mary & Tom Beirne RIP

SP: 7:00: St. Peter's Church Choir Carol Concert followed by refreshments in the Hall

Anniversaries of the faithful departed: Eric Craig, Stephen Mason, Kathleen Geraghty, Peter Delia, Stephen Rogerson, Bernie burns, Brian Crowley, Josephine Williams, Margaret Bell, Maria de Sousa-Monteiro, Ruth Paget, Mary Collins, Eithne Dunne, Annette Jarolyn, Mgr. Bernard Navin, Fr. George Gallacher, Fr. William Borwne, Fr. John Ellis, Fr. John Griffith, Fr. Joseph Rowland, Fr. Denis Ryan, Fr. Michael McKiernan, Fr. Peter Kavanagh, Fr. Fergus O'Connell, Fr. John Dewis, Fr. Daniel O'Connor, Fr. Michael O'Meara, Deacon Bryan Salter, Deacon Henry Atkinson. *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, Rest in Peace. Amen.*

Mass Intentions: Please be aware the earliest availability for Sunday 11am Mass at St. Peter's is in the New Year.

Items for the newsletter should be sent by 1 pm Wednesday to stpeterapostle.leamington@rcaob.org.uk
Or St Joseph's stjoseph.whitnash@rcaob.org.uk

Our prayers for the Sick: Margaret Smith, Peter Simmons, Sheila Ireland, Joe Graham, Flor Duckett, Denis O'Halloran, Caleb O'Neill, Anne Kirby, Anne Fraser, Bridie Daly, John Curran, Peter Curran, Rev Graham Coles, Portia Brightburn, Cyril Sheard, Giovanni Allurlino, Edward Behan, Pam Brambles, Mary Craig, Mario Fasi, Eileen Hiorns, Mist Johnson, David Kendall, Mgr Christopher Lightbound, Antonina La Spisa, Nathaniel Manning, Kate Miles, Paula Newton, Jim Olexa, Fr Malcolm Prince, Ann Reilly, Marie-Clare Banner, Patricia Robinson, Peggy Rowlands, Marjorie Smedley, Terena Tam, Terry Tam, George Wall, Elizabeth Weston, Peter Wright & all those at home, or in the nursing homes & hospitals of the Parish.

Lord Jesus, watch over all who suffer and are in pain. Bless all those who care for them.

St Peter's & Our Lady's

Seven-day candles:

The Main Altar Candle burns for: **Patrick Hughes**

The Main Altar Candle burns for: **Tony Sullivan RIP**

Dear Parishioners,

The season of Advent was interrupted last Wednesday by the important Marian Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception. This Feast celebrates the teaching of the Church that the Mother of Jesus was conceived without sin. Sometimes people think the Catholic Church is obsessed with sin. It isn't. If we are obsessed with anything we are obsessed with trying to live the life of grace which God has given to us. At this time of year when we are reflecting on the story of the Nativity of Our Lord, the Church invites us to prepare for this turning point in the history of our salvation by thinking about how we might prepare for the coming of Jesus. In this we think of the three fold coming of Jesus in His birth, through Word and Sacrament and in the Second Coming of Jesus at the end of time. The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is a special Feast for us because our School and Church share the Patronage of Our Lady. The life and example of Mary is close to our hearts and in our prayers we always turn to her and seek her maternal intercession because of her closeness to Jesus. She is the Queen of Heaven and as Fr Benedict mentioned in his sermon last weekend Mary is at the very top of the hierarchy of Saints. During October I spoke to the children about how to pray the Rosary which is the prayer of Our Lady and helps us to reflect on the story of her Son Jesus. Everything about Mary always points to Jesus. In our prayers we ask Mary to intercede on our behalf with her Son, we ask her to put in a good word because we know she can.

We also reflect on the example of Mary, how she accepted the invitation of the Angel Gabriel and gave herself to the vocation of motherhood and discipleship. Through her life Mary provides us with an example of goodness, Holiness and love. As we prepare for the coming Nativity of the Lord, let us reflect on our own Christian vocation as we respond to the invitation of God to be Holy and perfect remembering our need to seek forgiveness for our trespasses and to forgive those who trespass against us. For the remainder of our Advent let us prepare for the coming of the Lord and seek reconciliation with God through the Sacrament of Confession so that like Mary we can receive the Word of God into our hearts and minds and nurture it in our life.

This Sunday afternoon there will be a special sung evening prayer at Our Lady's Church starting at 5 pm followed by seasonal refreshments in the Hall. All welcome. Please wear a mask to cover nose and mouth (except when eating mince pies!)

Confessions will be heard on an Individual basis this year on Monday 20th December between 10—11am and 5—7pm at St. Peter's.

Every Blessing,

Fr John

Parish Lunch: 19th December 2021 a Christmas Sunday Lunch in the Main Hall at St. Peter's after the 11am Mass. The cost is £20 per person which includes a 3 course meal and glass of wine. Sign up sheet at the back of the Church Now Available. **Please place your money into an envelope with your name and Christmas Parish Lunch written clearly on the front and post through the Presbytery letter-box.** The last day to pay is Wednesday 16th December. If you need to cancel please telephone 07780 543976

St Joseph's

The Church now is open to the Public for all Masses

All Masses will be Live Streamed

Confessions will be heard on request.

Our Lady's 7 Day Candle Intentions for 2021: The candle is now fully booked for this year, dates are available for 2022 from 20th February, please place your request together with your donation (£5.00) through the Presbytery letterbox.



This week Our Lady's Seven Day Candle burns: **In grateful thanks for Intercession & Peace**

Gift Aid Envelopes: If there is anyone who is a tax payer and would like to join the Gift Aid Scheme which allows us to claim back 25% tax on donations you make, please contact Patrick Murphy on 07711 346 405

Synodal Pathway: Pope Francis is asking you and me, all the people of God, in all parishes around the world, about our dreams of the Church in the future.

Our parish steering group on the Synod, a word meaning 'Walking Together' has described how you can participate in the December EXTRA. If you cannot go online and download the EXTRA, we have produced a Synod Special leaflet called 'Your Church – Your Voice' available after Mass. It reminds us to start with prayer and lists ten areas on which we can reflect at some point during the weeks ahead, perhaps thinking and praying about one area each day.

Starting in January we will hold some parish meetings across Catholic Leamington for you to join. Next week we will distribute Synod Forms to help gather your views and that of others on ways the Church should be in the future.

You can find out more on the Parish website.

Please take a leaflet for anyone you know of who does not have the internet and does not get to Mass at the moment.

Christmas Mass Times at St. Joseph's:

Christmas Eve Friday 24th December 2021—5pm & 8pm

The 8pm Mass is preceded by a Carol Service at 7:30pm

Christmas Day Saturday 25th December—9am

Feast of the Holy Family Sunday 26th December—9am & 5:30pm

Bank Holiday Monday 27th December—9:30am

Eucharistic Adoration & Rosary: This has now started at 8:30am on Saturday mornings.

Walk With Me: The Advent booklets are now available in the Narthex.

Christmas Offerings for your Parish Priest: Special envelopes are now available at the back of church, please place in the collection baskets or through the Presbytery letterbox.

Missio Calendars: These are available in the Narthex at no charge, please feel free to take one.

200 Club: For only £1 a month you could win a monthly prize of either £50 or £30 in addition to an extra prize of £25 at Christmas. If you are interested please speak to Anne or Carol after Mass on the first Sunday of each month when the subscriptions are being collected, or leave your details at the Parish Office.

The Sower Magazine: The Advent copy containing many interesting articles from around the Diocese is now available in the Narthex.

Synodality: If anyone from St. Joseph's would like to join the Catholic Leamington Parish Steering Group on Synodality, please contact Paul Hayden at paulhayden444@gmail.com

St Peter's & Our Lady's

SAFEGUARDING: St Peter's Theresa Goh or Susan Chan email sg.stpeterapostle.leafington@rcaob.org.uk , Our Lady's Claire Walsh 01926 430070; St Joseph's Honor Hynes email sg.stjoseph.whitnash@rcaob.org.uk. The **Archdiocese Safeguarding Team** can be contacted on 0121 230 6240. An independent support group for survivors of abuse free tel. 0808 801 0331.

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CHRISTMAS CONCERT: **On Sunday 19th December at 7.30. JOY TO THE WORLD.** St Peter's choir would like to invite you to a family evening of joyful Christmas Music. Carols and Readings. **Free Entry** with a retiring collection for **Zoe's Place Baby Hospice** and **Papyrus prevention of young suicide.**

Bishops Statement on COVID: With respect to the current situation with the omicron variant it is important to ensure the following points are followed in our churches:

- That people displaying any symptoms of covid-19 should stay at home and not travel to church or participate in person.
- That hand sanitiser is available to those attending the Church.
- That there is a strong recommendation for people to wear a face covering (both nose and mouth) during the act of worship.
- That there is good ventilation and air throughput in the building; in this case, because of climatic conditions, it would be important to remind people to wrap up well in church!
- That a positive message encouraging people to get vaccinated and have the booster jab when able is delivered whenever possible.
- That people who are engaged in a form of pastoral ministry which involves ministry to the housebound, sick and vulnerable, should take regular lateral flow tests to ensure they are safe to do so. These are free from the NHS.

There is now very strong evidence to support that the main mode of transmission is through breath and nasal aerosols, and that the risk from surface and touch transmission is very small indeed. As such, the strict regimes of church cleaning that were recommended at the beginning of the opening of churches for public worship are no longer necessary. General church cleaning is sufficient. If these guidance points are supported, then the churches will continue to be safe places for people to gather for acts of public worship, including over the Christmas period.

**** The Sparrows**** - We heard someone singing Deck the Halls the other day, they must be putting on our dinner... Deck the Halls with bows of Holly. Sure sounds good to us. Best Tweets, The Sparrows

Fr. Benedict's Advent Homilies: you can listen to Fr Benedict's homilies online <https://frbenedict.blog/blog-2/>

First Holy Communion Preparation 2022: We would like to invite all the Children who are in Year 3 and attend a non-Catholic School to register with the Parish Office at stpeterapostle.leafington@rcaob.org.uk for First Holy Communion in 2022. The deadline to register is 6th January 2022.

Young Adults Group (18-30): We're so excited to be able to bring in 2022 together at NEW. This will be a retreat filled with friendship, community, fun, prayer & learning as we enter into a NEW year from the 31st December - 2nd January at Trinity Catholic High School in Woodford Green, London. Book NOW! youth2000.churchsuite.co.uk/events/vxjhconq

Young Adults Group (18-30): Christmas Social. We'll have a cheery chat about all things Christmassy. Everyone in the age group welcome. Join us on our Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/949489832168594>

SPAN: Our meeting agreed to send £ 250 for appeals from: the Orchid Project - female genital cutting (FGC) is practiced in 90 countries in Africa, Asia and Middle East, OP work with communities to change this not religious but cultural practice; Tanzania Development Trust enabling water access through using hand drills and water pumps; Children of the Dump helping neglected children in Manila, Philippines, an International Refugee Trust project supporting the "Italian Hospitals" in Karak and Amman, Jordan, run by the Dominican Sisters of the Presentation and the Comboni Missionary Sisters.

SPAN's Christmas Supermarket Voucher Appeal: see Nov EXTRA for details. Green envelopes are available our Churches. A Just Giving donation page is available www.justgiving.com/campaign/spanxmasappeal21 which can also be Gift Aided.

Christmas Cards: sending a warm message to isolated parishioners: Last Christmas the SVP, SPAN and Kindaid sent cards to housebound parishioners, those in Nursing Homes, or those effectively isolating, and it would be good to do the same this year. If you know someone who would appreciate receiving a religious card, please let us know, in confidence, their name and address. Please contact Peter May on 01926 421785 (SVP) or Jeanette Davison on 01926 424529 (SPAN).

Walking Together: This weekend we are inviting you to take a Synod Form, to pray and think about the questions on it, then to complete and return it to the Walking Together team before the end of January. If you know other people who might like to share their experience of the Catholic Church and views of how it should develop, please take extra forms for them. They could be family visiting you at Christmas time or friends or colleagues with an interest in the future of the Church or in walking together with us.

WEBSITE UPDATE: Please note that the Bishop's letter about the Sunday Obligation is available on THE CHURCH BLOG <https://www.catholicleafington.org.uk/the-church-blog> The CAFOD Page has been updated: <https://www.catholicleafington.org.uk/cafod.html> And there is now a new page devoted to the SYNOD: <https://www.catholicleafington.org.uk/synod.html> . Also we will have a donation button on the website shortly. Link to follow.

The gift of books: Due to the current rise in covid cases in the area we are not hosting a Christmas fair this year. We are asking whether families would consider giving the gift of a book for Christmas to school with the money they would usually spend at our Christmas fundraising events The link to our Amazon shopping list is here

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3M9CYYASEGYT?ref=wl_share. All purchased books can be delivered straight to school so you don't even need to leave your home to support us with this. The books on the list are all needed for the spring curriculum. All of the Autumn books were purchased with the support of the school community and they were much appreciated by the children.

The Justice & Peace Rosary Intention for December is: We pray for those who are on their own over Christmas and that we may find ways of reaching out to them

Employment Opportunity: There are several job opportunities available at Princethorpe and Crackley Hall Schools. Jobs include Caretaker (Full-Time), Spanish Teaching (Maternity Cover), Cleaner (Saturdays only) and Caretaker (Afternoons/Evenings). To find out more information please visit www.theprincethorpefoundation.co.uk/join-us

The Universe Catholic Weekly: is thrilled to announce that we have launched our new online newspaper with the full support of our first subscriber none other than His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Order your Digital copy by going to www.universecatholicweekly.co.uk or call us on 0743661 7650 and ask for Michelle.. Special offer: Only £20 for 3 months.

The December EXTRA will be online this weekend featuring The Synod, SPAN, SVP, The Choir, Pastimes, LiveSimply, COP29 and Laudato Si', Something Greater, World Gifts and an Advent Poem. This can be viewed at www.catholicleafington.org.uk and scroll down and will be sent out with the regular newsletter.

St Joseph's

Medjugorje Pilgrimages 2022: By Air from €315 per person sharing for 7 nights B&B. If you are interested contact 020 3239 8662 or email reservations@med-irishcentre.com for more details.

Coventry Comhaltas: are having a Charity Christmas Ceili at Christ the king Club on Friday 17th December 8pm-12.00am (11.30pm bar). Dancing to the Innisfail Ceili band (with caller). Also our younger members will perform as will the Celtica Irish Dancers. Admission is £5 Adults, £2.50 Child and £10.00 Family (2 adults + 2 children) Many raffle prizes to be won and includes a buffet. All proceeds towards Coventry Stroke Association For more details contact: Jarlath Mulhern Mobile: 07876013590 email: mulhernj92@gmail.com

Walking Together: This weekend we are inviting you to take a Synod Form, to pray and think about the questions on it, then to complete and return it to the Walking Together team before the end of January. If you know other people who might like to share their experience of the Catholic Church and views of how it should develop, please take extra forms for them. They could be family visiting you at Christmas time or friends or colleagues with an interest in the future of the Church or in walking together with us.

St Peter's, St Joseph's & Our Lady's Churches are part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Reg. Charity No. 234216.

St Peter's & Our Lady's

Christmas / New Year Mass Times

Pre booking is not required. Masks to be worn.

Christmas Eve:

3.30 pm St Peter's

9.00 pm St Peter's (Midnight Mass Liturgy)

12.00 Midnight Mass at Our Lady's

Christmas Day:

9.00 am St Peter's

10.00 am Our Lady's Family Mass

11.00 am St Peter's

Sunday 26th Feast of the Holy Family

9 am St Peter's

10 am Our Lady's

11 am St Peter's.

New Year's Day

10 am Our Lady's

11 am St Peter's

2nd January Second Sunday after Christmas

9 am St Peter's

10 am Our Lady's

11 am St Peter's

From 8th/9th January 2022 Baptism of the Lord

Saturdays

9 am – 10 am St Peter's Exposition

9.15 am - 9.45 am St Peter's Confessions

9.40 am St Peter's Morning Prayer

10.00 am St Peter's Saturday Morning Mass

Vigil for Sunday

4.15 pm - 4.45 pm St Peter's Confessions

5.00 pm St Peter's Vigil Mass

Sundays

9.00 am St Peter's Family Mass & Children's Liturgy

10.00 am Our Lady's Family Mass & Children's Liturgy + coffee etc afterwards

11.00 am St Peter's Coffee in hall afterwards

3.00 pm St Peter's Baptisms (by appointment)

Holy Days of Obligation

9.30 am St Peter's

12 noon Our Lady's

7.30 pm St Peter's