

# CATHOLIC LEAMINGTON

## 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Sunday 24th September 2023

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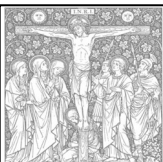
DAY	AT ST PETER'S	AT OUR LADY'S	INTENTION
<b>SUNDAY 24th September</b> 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Confession 4.15-45pm <b>5.00pm Vigil Mass</b>	~	Solange Beckles RIP; Ted Cunningham RIP & Sheila Insua RIP
	<b>11.15am Sung Mass</b>	<b>9.15am Sung Mass</b>	John Salt RIP; Catherine Ryan RIP Anniversary Antonio Cost RIP; Sheila Griffin RIP Anniversary
Monday 25th <i>Feria</i>	10am Mass	~	John McGarvey RIP
Tuesday 26th <i>Opt. Mem. of Ss. Cosmas &amp; Damian, Martyrs</i>	10am Mass	~	Priest's Intentions
Wednesday 27th <i>Mem. of St. Vincent de Paul, Pr.</i>	~	10am Mass	Anthony Gateley RIP
Thursday 28th <i>Opt. Mem. of St. Wenceslaus, Martyr</i>	<b>1pm Funeral Mass</b>	~	<b>Christina Finn RIP</b>
Friday 29th <b>Feast of Ss. Michael, Gabriel, &amp; Rafael, Archangels</b>	10am Mass	~	Thanksgiving
Saturday 30th <i>Mem. of St. Jerome, Pr., Dr. of the Church</i>	9am Holy Hour, Confession, and Benediction before 10am Mass	~	Eddie Purfield RIP Anniversary
	Confession 4.15-45pm <b>5.00pm Vigil Mass</b>	~	People of the Parish
<b>SUNDAY 1st October</b> 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time	<b>11.15am Sung Mass</b>	<b>9.15am Sung Mass</b>	Patrick & Eileen Prior; Charles Walsh RIP SPAN Donors

**Sunday Masses at St Joseph's, Whitnash: 10am & 5:30pm.** Details on their website: stjoseph47.org.uk

**Our prayers for the Sick:** Giovanni Allurlino, Marie-Clare Banner, Edward Behan, Sarah Bonnalie, Pam Brambles, Portia Brightburn, Norman Byrne, Patrick Campbell, Chris Carter, Mary Craig, Peter Curran, Mario Fasi, Wilfrid Feely, Joe Graham, David Grayling, Eileen Hiorns, Sheila Ireland, Mist Johnson, David Kendall, Una Maddocks, Nathaniel Manning, Kate Miles, Fina Monastero, Philip Morris, Jo Murphy, Andrew Murray, Brian Murray, Ahmed Musa, Paula Newton, Gill Parker, Fr. Malcolm Prince, Fr. Tony Rohan, Margaret Smith, Christine Tam, Terena Tam, Terry Tam, Elizabeth Weston, Peter Wright, Mary Yapp & 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. Our Lady, help of the sick, pray for them.**

**Anniversaries of the faithful departed:** Ernest Timlin, John Daly, Velma Harrison, Michael Pettipher, Joan Doyle, Catherine Ryan, Thomas Hill, Brigid Dunbar, John Cronin, Sheila Griffin, Mary McCann, Margaret Launchberry, James McGivern, Henry Willis, Margaret Bull, Sean Hogan, Beryl Hartnett, Mgr. Michael McTernan, Mgr Henry Farrelly, Cn. Albert JJ Adams, Cn. Peter Reilly, Fr. Peter Lloyd, Fr. John Bale, Fr. Gordon Bancks, Fr. Paul Orchard, Fr. Edward Cotter, Fr. Laurence Daly, Fr. Denis Egan, Fr. William McGann, Dcn. Michael McCormack, Dcn. Tony Colby, Dcn. John Burrows. **The recently deceased:** Sean Bell, John Joseph White, Zainab Lawless, Fr. Paul Chavasse CO, Anne Cronin, Christina Finn, Christine Lawrence, Anthony McKenna, Theresa Hortas, Theresa Bicknell, Fr. Keith Enston, Patricia Robinson. **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.**

**SAFEGUARDING.** The Parishes operate in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are: **Our Lady's** Claire Walsh email sg.ccolc.lillington@rcaob.org.uk ; **St Peter's** Theresa Goh or Susan Chan email sg.stpeterapostle.leamington@rcaob.org.uk ; **St Joseph's** email sg.stjoseph.whitnash@rcaob.org.uk. **The Diocesan Safeguarding Team** can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or at [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern.



## SEPTEMBER, MONTH OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS

‘Now there stood by the cross of Jesus, His mother...’ (St John’s Gospel, 19:25)  
**Our Lady of sorrows stand by all those in sorrow today and help me to stand by them too**

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

**Welcome to Mass** Welcome! We gather to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The gospel today speaks of God's great generosity. It is not a manual for employment legislation, but an affirmation of God calling all to His service. Whether we came to faith through having been born into a faithful Catholic family or have been led by other events and people into the Church through our own conversion, God creates no hierarchy, no grades of believers. A true conversion, whether on a deathbed or growing all through life is still a true conversion! God's love and mercy for the repentant sinner means that we find salvation. There is no 'half salvation' for the latecomer or the nastiest sinner. Why be envious because He is generous?

**A warm welcome to any students** joining or rejoining us for the new academic year. Please say hello to Fr Stephen. We have a monthly Young Adults Group you are welcome to come along to. You might have already discovered the Catholic Chaplaincy on campus. Deacon David Palmer, the chaplain, would be happy to hear from you. Details on the Warwick University Website

*God bless, Fr Stephen*

## CATHOLIC LEAMINGTON FACEBOOK PAGE

Please visit [Catholic Leamington | Leamington Spa | Facebook](#)

We have given the parishes' Facebook page a new lease of life. Thank you to all who visit it and have maintained it. R&Co, a local PR firm, are generously giving their services free of charge to support our boiler fundraising campaign through social media. They will be posting items on the Facebook page and taking our message far and wide using their professional skills.

## THE DIOCESAN VISION & THE VISITATION

St Peter's has been asked to host the opening Mass for the visitation. The date is still to be confirmed. Bicester parish will host closing Vespers. **Our Lady's and St Peter's Visitation will be on 27 & 28 Jan 2024.** Canon Paul Fitzpatrick, the Episcopal Vicar will be carrying this out. There will be a timetable of events and opportunities for us to engage with him. As well as meeting parishioners and clergy, Canon Paul will be considering our finances, schools, the condition of our buildings, the worship, social care and outreach of the parishes. The backdrop at present is our changing level of resources. Leamington now has half the number of priests it did ten years ago. This year, no one was ordained to the priesthood for the diocese and next year there will—God willing—be one. There are seven men in formation. By 2033, 43pc of currently active priests will have reached or exceeded retirement age—75. How are we encouraging young men in our parishes **and** families to consider ordination? How do we grow our congregations?

Change cannot be avoided, but we can shape it! Therefore, there will be a **meeting at Bicester on the evening of Fri 13 Oct**, for all parishes, clergy and parish representatives. Various members of the parishes—especially those connected with finance, catechists, schools for example—are asked to attend.

This is an introductory meeting to begin exploring the process of planning. It arises out of the experience of Kenilworth parish who have begun to discuss this issue among themselves. Things are of course at this stage a little vague. The diocese wants to consult at parish level and, ideally, for decisions to be made by parishes in their deaneries. This is the notion of 'subsidiarity': no one is going to tell us what needs to be reorganised, clustered, amalgamated, sold, rebuilt or closed, but a mixture of these things have to happen. If we don't plan then bit by bit parishes will face problems they cannot solve. There is no magic money tree at the Archdiocese!

Next week, the delayed presentation of accounts will take place for the two parishes. The figures in themselves are a snapshot of how 2022 went. There is always a history behind why accounts are as they are. The picture for St Peter' and for Our Lady's are mixed. St Peter's faces a big bill for the boilers.

Our Lady's is at the beginning of the process of curing the roof leaks and replacing rotten high level woodwork. Both these projects will take up almost all the available funds, if not more. St Peter's hall continues to lose money as its use has not returned to anything like pre-pandemic levels but the cost of water, gas and electricity have trebled. Our Hall Group is working hard to promote its use and they deserve our thanks. We shall be reviewing progress in six months'

time. Please suggest the hall to anyone you know who wants to hire a venue like it. But the bottom line is that we simply cannot lose money on the building indefinitely. Parishes are reaching the point where they need to show that they are, or are becoming, viable in every sense—people, finances, buildings.

## SUPPORTING THE PARISHES

First, we need to be faithful in our attendance. Do you know people who have fallen away from attending our churches and could be welcomed back? Are there friends of yours who fell out over someone or something and need to be encouraged back with joy and celebration? We are approaching the point where staying away from your church starts becoming almost a vote to close it. That sounds harsh, but how can a parish be viable if people stop away from it? If parishes have to be amalgamated, clustered or closed it will be the small ones that people don't go to that will face extra issues.

Second, we need to give practical and financial support to our parishes. Volunteering is something we rely on, but is sometimes in short supply. Readers at Mass, servers, stewards, cleaners, children's liturgy helpers, social events and so on show a lively and committed parish. But we also need to pay the bills, so thank you for your giving! Are you giving in an efficient way? As a tax payer, if you make a Gift Aid Declaration the taxman adds 25% for your giving at no cost to you! The parish reclaims the tax you paid and every £100 donated turns into £125. Very efficient! Are you able to leave the parish a legacy? We would be grateful if you are. Do you have a smart phone? You can donate via the QR code on the next page. Are you giving what you did ten years ago and could you perhaps add a little to make up for inflation? Is what you give the price of a newspaper, or a pint of beer or a meal out? These are questions that will not be asked of you directly—don't worry! - but are offered merely to get us all thinking.

Our two wonderful church buildings and lovely parishes are testament to the hard work and devotion of previous priests and people, as well as all of you who are in them today. We are stewards of what they began so that it may be handed on to the people and priests of the future, that the faith is proclaimed and God's love and mercy experienced afresh.

May God bless all that we in His name and the Holy Spirit guide all our thoughts and actions. We can't go wrong if He does!

**The QR code for today's readings:** Simply scan on your smart phone. This works for every day.

**St Peter's Livestream:** is on YouTube click here—[St Peter's Leamington Spa - YouTube](#)

**Holy Communion:** If you are not a Roman Catholic, a member of a church in full communion with it, or an Orthodox unable to attend an Orthodox Liturgy, you are warmly invited to come forward for a blessing at the time of Holy Communion. Holy Communion cannot be given to all, as it is for us the sign of **unity in the faith**. Communion is not bread and wine, but the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of God the Son. Let us pray for true unity among all Christians, as God wills. As for Catholics, we need always to remember the truth of the Blessed Sacrament and receive It with care, attention and reverence. **Blessed be Jesus in the most Holy Sacrament of the Altar!**

**Mass Intentions:** If you'd like a Mass said please complete a yellow envelope, from the back of Church and either post it along with your donation through the Presbytery letterbox or alternatively place in collection at Mass or drop into the Piety Shop. Thank you.

**Pastimes Community Hub:** 12-3pm Tuesdays in the hall. A warm welcome, company, refreshments, activities. Do come, bring a friend!

**The Season of Creation: 1 Sept-4 Oct** (St Francis' Day) is a time to pray for in thanksgiving for the wise stewardship of creation. Inspired by the prophet Amos (Amos 5: 24) this year's theme is "Let Peace and Justice Flow". We are called to join the river of justice and peace, to take up climate and ecological justice, and to speak out with and for people impacted by climate injustice and the loss of biodiversity.

**Pastimes Jumble Sale:** Pastimes Jumble Sale in aid of St Peter's Church heating on **Sat 30th Sept 2023**. Currently we need clothing for our clothes stall. Please drop these in to Pastimes on a Tuesday afternoon. Many thanks for all your donations so far.

**The Statements of the Two Parishes' Finances** will be available on 1 Oct. We are sorry for the delay.



**Laura Godwin:** is leaving Leamington to be near to her family in Cornwall at the end of this month. The Hand in Hand group are holding a farewell party for her on Tues 3 Oct in the parish hall from 1 -3pm. It will run along side Pastimes. Parishioners will be very welcome. For further information please contact Mary Holden 01926420045 or email [mcxholden@virginmedia.com](mailto:mcxholden@virginmedia.com)

**Come and See** and learn about the Catholic Faith. Our weekly *Come and See* sessions start on **Wed 4 Oct 7.30pm**, in St. Peter's Parish Centre. Contact 01926 428399, or email [rcia.cathlearn@gmail.com](mailto:rcia.cathlearn@gmail.com) to register interest or for more information. Details at <https://www.catholicleamington.org.uk/exploring-the-catholic-faith.html>

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Meeting for St Peter's 11am 7 Oct at St Peter's Meeting for Our Lady's 11am 14 Oct at Our Lady's. **Thank you** to all our ministers. Please be present. There are a few things Fr Stephen would like to know, and would like to develop, including linking this ministry more obviously to Sunday Masses.

**Just Desserts 7 Oct 7pm St Peter's Hall.** Tickets available for KINDAID's fabulous annual social fundraiser event, JUST DESSERTS. Delicious homemade soups followed by as many puddings as you can eat. Donations of puddings welcomed. Tickets, £10 adults, £5 children, from Jo Mander 07980 315575 and Kindaid committee members.

**Fr John's Farewell:** On 11 Oct 7pm Fr John will be back for his farewell Mass at St Peter's. Refreshments follow. Collection envelopes for Fr. John are available at the back of St. Peter's, please place the envelopes either into the collection bags or post through the letterbox.

**An invitation to join the Christian Life Community (CLC):** Would you like to belong to a small group where you share your faith journey, develop your prayer life, give mutual support and explore how to live your life on a daily basis in the spirit of the gospel? If so, CLC may be for you. We would like to offer the opportunity to parishioners to experience this way of life by **setting up new group in the Leamington and Warwick area**. Invitations are available at the back of church to an information event on 26 Oct, see also the poster in the porch.

**St Peter's Boilers: We have diocesan approval! Thank you** to everyone for your donations. Please keep them coming! You may donate on your phone using the QR code here. We still have a way to go! Contractors make a site visit this Monday to plan the work, which should start within a month.

**Donating to St Peter's:** It is possible to give online via the website OR by simply scanning this QR code on your smart phone. You can also pay for purchases at the piety stall by smart phone. **Thank you**



**Servers and Serving: Thank you** to our servers at both churches. **We'd love a few more!** See Fr Stephen at Our Lady's or St Peter's or Bob, the Master of Ceremonies, at St Peter's to volunteer **Parking at Our Lady's:** While the health centre is being constructed next to Our Lady's Church, **parking is extremely limited**. Please park without giving local residents any reason to complain. **Thank you.**

**Last Weekend's Collections:**

SP: 1st - £488.99, 2nd - £187.99 (Catholic Evangelisation), OL: 1st - £175.01, 2nd - £130.73 (Catholic Evangelisation), 2nd Collection this weekend for: SP & OL —Fr. Hudson's. Standing Orders in August - SP £3,205.00. OL £910.34.

**Thank you for all your giving.**

**Walking Together:** The next WT open meeting is on **Thur 5 Oct 7:45pm** in St Peter's hall. All welcome. On **Mon 9 Oct** there will be a meeting to discuss how to put into action some of the suggestions that were made at the meetings in May about **Topic 2 Becoming more inclusive and welcoming**. Parishioner who would like to share ideas are invited to attend. Meeting upstairs in the Davenport room.

**Readers Needed for 5pm** Please consider joining the readers' rota for the Saturday Vigil Mass. See Fr Stephen or Paul Milton. Thank you.

**SPAN:** £1,000 is going to the **Moroccan Earthquake Appeal** & £1,000 to the **Libyan Flooding Appeal**. Any monies given to SPAN **last Sunday, and this Sunday** will be added to our donations. There are SPAN collection boxes at St Joseph's and St Peter's. Thank you for your generous support so far. See [www.catholicleamington.org.uk/span](http://www.catholicleamington.org.uk/span) for other ways to give.

**St Peter's Hall** The hall is open for hire by organisations and people who are not connected to the parish. We need bookings as currently the hall loses us money, week in, week out. Hourly rate £40 discount for day

bookings. **NOTE:** parish organisations **not** subject to this rate

## HIRE ST PETER'S HALL

The parish hall at St Peter's is available for hire.  
Please email

[Stpeterapostle.leamington@rcaob.org](mailto:Stpeterapostle.leamington@rcaob.org) to enquire

## ARRANGING A WEDDING

**Congratulations on your engagement!** To arrange a wedding, an initial meeting with Fr Stephen is necessary so that the canonical and civil processes can be explained and correctly followed. Couples need to give at least six months' notice.

## ARRANGING A BAPTISM

**Congratulations on the birth of your baby!** First, parents must begin the process by seeing Fr Stephen **in person** at a Sunday Mass. He can then check a few simple facts and give out a baptism application form. We do not deal with initial arrangements by phone, email or through other members of the family, but face to face. Parents need to attend a preparation session before the baptism can take place.

## MORROCCO EARTHQUAKE LIBYAN FLOODS

All money given to **SPAN** this weekend will be sent to help disaster relief in these countries. Please give via the printed yellow envelopes, or in the wall box by St Anthony at St Peter's or to a volunteer with a labelled basket after Mass.

*This week's news sheet has become a bumper edition:  
we cannot make it two pages every week!*

