

CATHOLIC LEAMINGTON

2nd Sunday of Advent: Sunday 10th December 2023

Parish Priest of St Peter's & Our Lady's: Fr Stephen Day
Retired Priest: Fr Christopher Greaney

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DAY	AT ST PETER'S	AT OUR LADY'S	INTENTION
SUNDAY 10th December <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	Confession 4.15-45pm 5.00pm Vigil Mass	~	Keenan, Woods & Burford Families
	11.15am Sung Mass	9.15am Sung Mass <i>Children's Liturgy</i>	Peter & Rosemary McGovern RIP Alice Waterfield RIP; Stuart Smith RIP
Monday 11th <i>Opt. Mem. of St. Damasus I, Pope.</i>	10am Mass	~	Holy Souls
Tuesday 12th <i>Opt. Mem. of Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	9.30am Mass	~	Priest's Intentions
Wednesday 13th <i>Mem. of St. Lucy, Virgin, Martyr</i>	~	10am Mass	Shaun Cleary—Birthday 8th Anniversary
Thursday 14th <i>Mem. of St. John of the Cross, Pr. Dr. of the Church</i>	10am Mass Confession 11am-7pm Reception 4pm	~	Tony Sullivan RIP
Friday 15th <i>Advent Feria</i>	11am Funeral Mass 3pm Divine Mercy	~	Requiem: David Grayling RIP
Saturday 16th <i>Advent Feria</i>	Confession 9.15am 10am Mass Confession 4.15-45pm 5.00pm Vigil Mass	~ ~	Holy Souls; Wedding Anniversary thanksgiving Paddy, Nancy, John, Patrick & Finn. Murphy
SUNDAY 17th <i>3rd Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday</i> <i>O Sapientia</i>	11.15am Sung Mass	9.15am Sung Mass <i>Children's Liturgy</i>	Eithne Dunne RIP; Kitty & Jack Ryan RIP Anniversary Emmanuel Toutoungi RIP

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, Mario Fasi, Wilfrid Feely, Joe Graham, Eileen Hiorns, Sandra Hunt, Sheila Ireland, Mist Johnson, David Kendall, Una Maddocks, Nathaniel Manning, Kate Miles, Fina Monastero, Philip Morris, Michael Mulcahy, Jo Murphy, Andrew Murray, Ahmed Musa, Paula Newton, Gill Parker, Fr. Malcolm Prince, Fr. Tony Rohan, Margaret Smith, John & Nell Smyth, Christine Tam, Terena Tam, Terry Tam, Margaret Thornton, 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: Mary Connolly, Arsinoe Wainhouse, Patrick Meade, Bernadette Lawlor, Mary Collins, Maria De Sousa-Monteiro, James Falvey, Margaret Shirley, Steven Kavanagh, Mary Burns, Marian Dowds, Virginia Wilding, Mgr. Cn. Francis Drinkwater, Fr. Thomas McMorro, Fr. Jerome O'Flynn, Fr. Hugh Molloy, Fr. Vincent Lucas, Fr. William Browne, Fr. John Ellis, Fr. Cyril Barlow, Fr. Joseph Rowland, Fr. Denis Ryan, Fr. Fergus O'Connell, Fr. John Dewis, Dcn. Bryan Salter, Dcn. Henry Atkinson. **The recently deceased:** John Westrope, Fr. Sean Turley, Paul Turley, Kathleen McNally, David Grayling. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. May their souls and the souls of all 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 **The Diocesan Safeguarding Team** can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or at safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.

- PARISH FACEBOOK PAGES -

Catholic Leamington: <https://www.facebook.com/RCatholicLeamington>

Our Lady's: <https://www.facebook.com/ourladyslillington>

St Joseph's: <https://www.facebook.com/stjosephswhitnash>



DECEMBER, MONTH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

HOLY MARY, CONCEIVED WITHOUT SIN, PRAY FOR US

WHO HAVE RECOURSE TO THEE!

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

WELCOME TO MASS Today is the **Second Sunday of Advent**. Isaiah prophesies the coming of God among His people and calls on them to prepare His way, to make paths straight and fill the valleys level. In other words, take away all the obstacles that stand in the way of God's triumphal arrival—the crooked paths of hatred and selfishness, the valleys of despair and violence. So, in today's Gospel we meet the messenger who proclaims this warning, John the Baptist. John stands both at the end of the line of prophets who foretold Christ's coming and also at the head of those who actually bear witness to Him. The Lord is very near and John announces that He is among His people who must be ready. So, the crowds flock to John to confess their sins and receive John's baptism to straighten crooked ways and level the pitted ground of past sin. John thus bridges the Old and New Testaments and brings Isaiah's urgent message into the present age.

God bless, *Fr Stephen*

STUDENTS: We are blessed to have you with us. The end of term comes near: have safe journeys home if you are travelling, and may the Christ Child bless you and your families this Christmas, wherever you and they are celebrating.

THE YEAR OF PRAYER IS ONGOING: Pope Francis has designated a year of prayer that we may all more deeply explore what prayer is and our own experience of it. **After Christmas** local priests will be leading a series of discussions about aspects of the **Our Father**, the prayer that Jesus gave us. Watch this space. We hope to have a variety of other events too, but in the meanwhile let us grow in prayer by praying. Rediscover the Rosary; keep ten minutes a day to tell God your regrets, your hopes and rejoice in His love; drop into church and come before the Blessed Sacrament which is Jesus waiting for us; just stop all activity and bring God to mind.

THE QR CODE FOR TODAY'S READINGS: Simply scan on your smart phone. This works for every day.

ST PETER'S LIVESTREAM: — [St Peter's Leamington Spa - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=StPeter'sLeamingtonSpa)



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 Jesus with care, attention and reverence. **Blessed be Jesus in the most Holy Sacrament of the Altar!**

ST PETER'S BOILERS: we are extremely grateful for some generous donations this past week, and in particular for an especially large gift. We have now raised about £82,000—**brilliant!** The boilers are now working, so please offer a prayer in gratitude for parishioners' giving that has made this long-awaited and much needed event happen.

PASTIMES COMMUNITY HUB: A warm place to meet for company, refreshments (including soup and rolls), and a variety of activities - Tuesdays 12-3pm. A warm welcome in a warm place. Do come!

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET: We are praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet with intercessions at the Foot of the Cross every Fri from 3—3.30 in St. Peter's. Heavenly Father, for the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world. Please join us.

PIETY SHOP—CHRISTMAS: There is now a selection of Christmas Cards, Cribbs, Nativities, Calendars, Christmas Candles, Incense, 2024 Diaries, and much more. Please pop in and have a look. Electronic payments accepted, please ask for further information. You can scan this code to pay by smartphone.



ADVENT DAY OF CONFESSION AT ST PETER'S: 14 December 11am-7pm

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES: will be as last year. 3.30pm Vigil Mass SP, 9pm SP, Midnight OL, 9.15am OL, 11.15am SP

COME AND SING CAROLS: at the Leamington Christmas Tree Festival, Saturday 16th December from 3-4pm at All Saints' Parish Church. No need to book, please contact Nigel Sharp for more information call 07552 102 265.

PARISH CHRISTMAS LUNCH: on Sunday 17th December after the 11:15am Mass, a 3-course Christmas Dinner with a glass of wine, tickets are £20 per person, see sign up sheet at the back of Church for more information.

OUR LADY'S 100 CLUB In January we are starting a 100 club in aid of the church maintenance fund. Sue Sugars will be in the church hall each Sunday after Mass. Drawn on the fourth Sunday of the month from Jan 28.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR CHILDREN NOT AT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS *First Communion* classes will begin in January. **Confirmation**

Classes will begin in April. These will take place at Our Lady's and be led by our team of catechists. Please contact Mary Rouse for full details and to enroll your child - maryrouse@rocketmail.com

DEANERY VISITATION: Our Visitation (both Our Lady's and St Peter's) will be on **27 & 28 Jan 2024**.

WALKING TOGETHER 'DEEPENING FAITH' GROUP: plan to start a weekly series of 3/4-hour meetings after Christmas to study and reflect on the readings of the following Sunday's mass. Please contact Jonathan Holden (jaholden@virginmedia.com or 01926 420045).

YOUTH WORK IN LEAMINGTON AND WARWICK: '*Come and See*' join us on **Feb 1** to find out what could be possible **St Mary Immaculate, Warwick. 7.30- 8.30pm**

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 very limited**. Please park without giving local residents any reason to complain. **Thank you.**

SP 200 CLUB: The winners of this month's draw are 1st Prize (£50) - M. Cashman, 2nd Prize (£20) - Pastimes, 3rd Prize (£10) - Bill Quinn. Congratulations to the winners. If you would like to sign up please see Bill at Pastimes on Tuesdays.

DONATING TO ST PETER'S: You may give online via the website OR by simply scanning this QR code on your smart phone. **Thank you**



ST PETER'S HALL The hall is **open for hire** by groups and people who are not connected to the parish. **We need bookings** as currently the hall loses us money every week. Hourly rate £40, discount for all day bookings. **Note:** parish organisations are **not** subject to this rate. Email hall.stpeterapostle.leamington@rcaob.org.uk

CAFOD: The wonderful World Gifts Catalogue are available in church. Buy a chicken, medical care or a range of other practical gifts for those struggling in developing countries.

SPAN: Our Christmas Supermarket Voucher Appeal via green envelopes is progressing well, our target is £ 5,000. JustGiving page <http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/spanappealchristmas23> Thank you. At this Monday's meeting - 7.30pm in SP Hall, we will consider the best way for us to support the people of Gaza. we will also be 50 years old! Refreshment to toast SPAN from 7pm.

COMING TO CHURCH: Do you need a lift to church? Can you give a parishioner a lift to church? Contact Peter 01926 428399

FATIMA PILGRIMAGE: 9th to 16th July 2024: Please see notice board for information. Local contact Peter 01926 428399

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL (SVP) CHRISTMAS HAMPERS: for needy families in the area. Boxes are at the back of church for donations of non-perishable food items and games and jigsaws also, by **10 Dec**.

CATHOLIC LEAMINGTON WEBSITE: Could **you** look after it? Help is needed to maintain the site. Please volunteer to Fr Stephen

DECEMBER JUSTICE & PEACE PRAYER INTENTION: When we think of the Holy Family at Christmas we pray for all driven from their homes by war, threat of persecution or climate change.

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTIONS: St. Peter's - 1st: £526.40, 2nd (Church Boilers) £268.09, Our Lady's - 1st: £230.70, 2nd (Church Maintenance) £211.10. 2nd Collection this weekend: SP & OL: Poor Parishes. **Thank you!**

PLEASE PRAY FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

LORD GOD, your Son Jesus Christ took flesh and trod the soil of His homeland. We pray for all who live on that same soil today that hatred and violence may be replaced by justice and peace. Turn savage hearts from the way of death and let Your message of peace and life be heard once again as it was on the hills of Bethlehem at Jesus's birth. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

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.