

# CATHOLIC LEAMINGTON


## 4th Sunday of Advent: Sunday 24th December 2023

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

Parish Priest of St Joseph's  
Fr David Hartley

Website: [stjosephs47.org.uk](http://stjosephs47.org.uk)  
Address: 3A Dormer Place, Leamington Spa, CV32 5AA  
Telephone: 01926 423 824  
Office: [stpeterapostle.leamington@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stpeterapostle.leamington@rcaob.org.uk)

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Office: [stjoseph.whitnash@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stjoseph.whitnash@rcaob.org.uk)  
Parish Priest: [fr.david.hartley@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:fr.david.hartley@rcaob.org.uk)

DAY	AT ST PETER'S	AT OUR LADY'S	INTENTION
<b>SUNDAY 24th December</b> <b>4th Sunday of Advent</b> <i>Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers</i> 	Confession 4.15-45pm <b>5.00pm Vigil Mass</b>  <b>11.15am Sung Mass</b>	~  <b>9.15am Sung Mass</b>	James Daly RIP Hilary Barry RIP  Sarah & Patrick O'Mullane RIP; Mary & Tom Beirne RIP
	<b>3:30pm Christmas Vigil</b>  <b>9pm 'Midnight' Mass</b>	~  <b>Midnight Mass,</b> preceded by carols <b>9.15am Sung Mass</b>	Pat McHale—Christmas Gift; Kate Briddon & Mairead Lewis RIP Delia Flanagan Pro Populo
	<b>11:15am Sung Mass</b>		Elizabeth Hastings RIP Terence & Florence Keenan
<b>MONDAY 25th</b> <b>Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord</b>			
Tuesday 26th <b>Feast of St. Stephen, the first Martyr</b>	<b>11am Mass</b>	~	Lesley Hurst—Christmas Gift
Wednesday 27th <b>Feast of St. John, Apostle, Evangelist</b>	~	10am Mass	Monica Gaffney RIP
Thursday 28th <b>Feast of the Holy Innocents</b>	10am Mass	~	Alice Waterfield RIP
Friday 29th <b>Feast of St. Thomas Becket, Bp., Martyr</b>	10am Mass <i>No Divine Mercy Devs</i>	~	Pat Whelan RIP
Saturday 30th <b>Sixth day of the Octave of Christmas</b>	Confession 9.15am 10am Mass	~	Emmy Bl. de Rozari RIP
	Confession 4.15-45pm <b>5.00pm Vigil Mass</b>	~	Deceased members of the Willis Family
<b>SUNDAY 31st</b> <b>Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, &amp; Joseph</b>	~  <b>11.15am Sung Mass</b>	<b>9.15am Sung Mass</b> <i>Children's Liturgy</i>	Thanksgiving  Pat Keaney RIP; Shelia Collins RIP

**SUNDAY MASSES AT ST JOSEPH'S, WHITNASH: 10AM & 5:30PM.** Details on their website: [stjosephs47.org.uk](http://stjosephs47.org.uk)

**Anniversaries of the faithful departed:** Yvonne Charters, Johanne Buckley, Francis McCann, Phyllis O'Regan, Paola Urso, Dominick Blake, Agnes Slattery, James Ballantine, Janina Rorynska, Margaret Moore, John Flanagan, Eugene Murphy, Margaret Astell, Anthony Keegan, Peter McGovern, Concetta Scinaldi, Sheila Collins, Bp. Francis Thomas, Mgr. Cn. William Flint, Mgr. Cn. Thomas Gavin, Mgr. Patrick O'Mahoney, Fr. Patrick Wall, Fr. Anthony Ireland, Fr. Thomas N. Meagher, Fr. Denis Murphy, Fr. Colum McCabe, Fr. James McInerney, Fr. David O'Callaghan, Fr. Francis Etherington CO, Fr. Patrick Lynch, Dcn. Peter Mason. **The recently deceased:** John Smyth, Margaret Butler, John Westrope, F John Lungley. **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](mailto:sg.ccolc.lillington@rcaob.org.uk) ; **St Peter's** Theresa Goh or Susan Chan email [sg.stpeterapostle.leamington@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.stpeterapostle.leamington@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.

### - PARISH FACEBOOK PAGES -

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

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

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



The Virgin is with child,  
And will soon give birth to a Son...



**TWO WEEK DOUBLE ISSUE NOTICE SHEET— HAPPY CHRISTMAS! Next Issue 6 Jan**

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

# CATHOLIC LEAMINGTON

## Feast of the Holy Family: Sunday 31st December 2023

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Retired Priest: Fr Christopher Greaney

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DAY	AT ST PETER'S	AT OUR LADY'S	INTENTION
<b>SUNDAY 31st December</b> <i>Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, &amp; Joseph</i>	Confession 4.15-45pm <b>5.00pm Vigil Mass</b>	~	Deceased Members of the Willis Family
		<b>9.15am Sung Mass</b>	Thanksgiving
	<b>11.15am Sung Mass</b>		Pat Keaney RIP; Sheila Collins RIP
Monday 1st January 2024 <i>Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God</i>	<b>11am Mass</b>	~	Peter Curran RIP
Tuesday 2nd <i>Mem. of St. Basil the Great &amp; St. Gregory Nazianzen, Bps, Drs. of the Church.</i>	10am Mass	~	Patsy Mullan—Recovery
Wednesday 3rd <i>Opt. Mem. of the Most Holy Name of Jesus</i>	10am Mass	~	Elizabeth Hastings RIP
Thursday 4th <i>Christmas Feria</i>	10am Mass	~	Peter Curran RIP
Friday 5th <i>Opt. Mem. of St. Charles of St. Andrew</i>	10am Mass 3pm Divine Mercy Devs	~	David Grayling RIP
Saturday 6th <i>Christmas Feria</i>	Confession 9.15am 10am Mass Confession 4.15-45pm <b>5.00pm Vigil Mass</b>	~	Lily & James Kelly—Christmas Gift
		~	McVeigh Family
<b>SUNDAY 7th</b> <i>Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord</i>	<b>11.15am Sung Mass</b>	<b>9.15am Sung Mass</b> <i>Children's Liturgy</i>	Pro Populo Katie Hannan RIP; Vito La Barbera RIP

**SUNDAY MASSES AT ST JOSEPH'S, WHITNASH: 10AM & 5:30PM.** Details on their website: [stjosephs47.org.uk](http://stjosephs47.org.uk)

**Anniversaries of the faithful departed:** Concetta Scinaldi, Sheila Collins, John Cleary, Maisie Buckley, Reginald Burge, Kenneth Mulroney, Patricia Ash, Florence Lindon, Mary Healy, Mary Shakesheff, Consuelo Connell, David Wingate, Joan Binks, Catherine Burdett, Patrick Gleeson, Natalina Piazzon, Johanna O'Neill, Luigi Bossi, H.H. Pope Benedict XVI, Fr. Anthony De Vere, Fr. Martin Cassidy, Fr. Philip Garrett, Fr. Francis Dwyer, Fr. Philip Smith, Fr. John P. Davis, Dcn. Joseph Patterson. **The recently deceased:** John Smyth, Margaret Butler, John Westrope, Fr John Lungley. **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.**



JESUS, BLESS OUR HOMES, HEARTS AND  
FAMILIES, AND GRANT US YOUR PEACE

MARY, MOTHER OF JESUS TRUE GOD AND  
TRUE MAN, PRAY FOR US

JOSEPH, GUARDIAN OF THE HOLY FAMILY,  
PRAY FOR US

**WELCOME TO MASS** Christmas on a Monday makes Advent the shortest it can be—the fourth Sunday of Advent one day and Christmas literally the next. Liturgically therefore a busy few days. In the Gospel readings we therefore move very quickly from Luke's account of Gabriel being sent to Mary at the beginning of her pregnancy to the events associated with the birth of Christ itself.

Mary is of course an essential figure in God's plan, and Joseph is called to be the guardian of her and her unborn Son. She is chosen to be the first earthly dwelling place of God the Son. She is the first tabernacle to contain Jesus, the Bread of Life, as her cousin Elizabeth and John the Baptist acknowledged. Through such a frequent and natural but nonetheless blessed event as a human birth, God's love for us is made present in the physical world in the Christ-child. He breathes the same air, and has the same needs as any other child. His feet will tread the same earth and yet His hands, trained in carpentry as they will be, will be the only ones to create our salvation by wood and nails. Angels are present at His birth: angels will be present at His resurrection too when His earthly mission is revealed for all to see and believe.

Do take a moment in this holy time to reflect that at a certain time, in a certain place, through certain people God's will was done. But also remember with wonder the gift of human life in every birth but that at Bethlehem on the first Christmas at the unique birth of Christ, born that we might have the new life of the resurrection.

On a personal note, I thank you for your kind Christmas wishes, cards and gifts, and for all your support over the past year. In many ways, I still feel very new as parish priest, but I have already learned a lot about the warmth, enthusiasm and generosity of you all in St Peter's and Our Lady's. Thank you. Finally, I thank Fr Christopher for all his help.

God bless you all this Christmas, *Fr Stephen*

**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](#)

**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.

**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 £85,000—**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. Please spread the good news—no one needs to be cold in St Peter's any more.

**PASTIMES COMMUNITY HUB: Tuesdays 12-3pm.** A warm place to meet for company, refreshments (including soup and rolls), and a variety of activities. 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. There are no devotions on Friday 29 Dec. We resume on Fri 5 Jan. Heavenly Father, for the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world. Please join us.

**OUR LADY'S 100 CLUB** Begins January in aid of Our Lady's church maintenance fund. Sue Sugars will be in the church hall each Sunday after Mass to collect subs. Drawn on the fourth Sunday of the month from Jan 28.

**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. The centre is in the final few months of being built. **Thank you.**

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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**

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

**SERVERS AND SERVING:** **Thank you** to our servers at both churches. **We'd love a few more!** See **Fr Stephen or Adrian at Our Lady's or at St Peter's see Bob, the Master of Ceremonies,** to volunteer

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CAME TO THE CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT:** A splendid evening of music was provided by the

**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, 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.**



## - TWO WEEK DOUBLE ISSUE NOTICE SHEET—Next Issue 6 January 2024 -

combined talents of singers and musicians from St Peter's, Our Lady's and Royal Spa Brass. A great deal of work went in to making it all so lovely, including the social event afterwards. Thank you to all our talented performers. We are blessed by their skills in both our churches.

**CAFOD RECYCLING BOXES:** In both churches are CAFOD recycling boxes for used stamps, mobile phones, inkjet printer cartridges and other items as listed that CAFOD can recycle to raise funds. Be green and support the world's poor at the same time.

**FOOD BANK:** At the back of St Peter's there is a large plastic box to receive items of non-perishable foodstuffs for the local food bank. Thank you for help.

**ST PETER'S HALL** Please spread the word that the hall is *open for hire* by groups and people who are not connected to the parish. **We need bookings** as the hall costs more to run than it now brings in. Hourly rate £40, discount for all day bookings. **Note:** parish groups are *not* subject to this rate. Email [hall.stpeterapostle.leamington@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:hall.stpeterapostle.leamington@rcaob.org.uk)

**7 DAY CANDLES:** The 7-Day Sanctuary candle burnt on week commencing Friday 15th December for: Tony Sullivan RIP. If you would like to have a Sanctuary candle lit for your intention please complete one of the envelopes titled - 7-day candles, at the back of Church together with your donation of £10 and post through the Presbytery Letterbox or in the collection at Mass.

**SPAN:** Thank you for supporting the Christmas Supermarket Voucher Appeal; we have ordered £ 5,000 vouchers; families have expressed their thanks for your support. SPAN has also responded to some white goods appeals from social workers. We wish Catholic Leamington a safe and spiritual Christmas.

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

**CATHOLIC LEAMINGTON WEBSITE:** Could **you** look after it? Help

is needed to maintain the site. Please volunteer to Fr Stephen

**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**



**LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTIONS:** St. Peter's—1st: £615.24, 2nd (Christmas Flowers) £337.76, Our Lady's— 1st: £282.75, 2nd (Christmas Flowers) £219.06. 2nd Collection this weekend: SP & OL—Church maintenance. **There is only ONE collection at all Christmas Masses.** This is the Christmas Offering which is your Christmas Gift to the Clergy. **Thank you!**

### PLEASE PRAY FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

**L**ORD 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.

A VERY MERRY AND A BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO YOU  
ALL, AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

MAY THE CHRIST CHILD BLESS YOU THIS HOLY SEASON



From Fr Stephen, Fr Christopher, and all at the Presbytery.