

# EXTRA

AUGUST 2020



**TURNING  
CONCERN  
INTO ACTION**

## The SVP in Catholic Leamington *NEEDS YOU*

The St Vincent de Paul Society (or SVP for short) has been active in the three parishes of Catholic Leamington for many years.

The aim of the Society is to seek out those in need and help them. "To turn concern into action" is the Society mission statement, and our members aim to realise this in their activities.

This help can be from simply being a friend to talk to, to helping with basic household tasks, to more substantial financial or material support. We give this help to those who are elderly and housebound, to families who may be struggling in the current difficulties caused by the coronavirus, to refugees who have been allocated Leamington as their residency, but who have no access to work for supporting themselves. Our offer of help extends beyond the faith boundaries of the church to those of any faith or none, who come to our attention and can be helped by our members and our resources. Our work is generously supported by frequent private donations and the occasional collection at all the three churches. Apart from money we get offers of furniture and kitchen items that we give to those without such basics and are truly appreciative of your generosity.

The Society has a spiritual foundation, and our work is supported in prayer and reflection at meetings and other Society events. We do welcome new members to strengthen our work, so please contact these people to find out more –

- ❖ **Our Lady's – Richard Gordon, 07974 455732.**
- ❖ **St Peter's – Peter May, 01926 421785.**
- ❖ **St Joseph's – David Burton, 07713 246987.**

*David Burton – SVP President for Warwick District*

## EXPLORE THE PARISH WEBSITE

[www.catholicleamington.org.uk](http://www.catholicleamington.org.uk)

Perhaps you go to the website to follow the links to the live-streamed Masses at St Joseph's or St Peter's. But do you look at the other tabs, especially **PARISH ACTIVITIES**, where many of the pages are updated by people in the parish groups themselves? There is a wealth of information there that deserves a wider audience. **Do explore!**

EXTRA is primarily for information that we do not have room for in the weekly newsletter. But we can only publish what you send in; please send notices (100-200 words) to [catholicleamington.extra@gmail.com](mailto:catholicleamington.extra@gmail.com) by the end of August. And we could do with more help, too! Let us know if you can assist us: Sue Sugars, Brian Austin (same address).

OUR THANKS to Jane Rebika, who has been responsible for the layout of all our previous editions over the past 18 months and has now left the team. So, for the present, the design is not likely to be the same standard, but if you have the skill to help, please let us know (email as above)



The Season of Creation runs from 1<sup>st</sup> September (World Day of Prayer for Creation) until the Feast of St Francis on 4<sup>th</sup> October.

It is suggested we pray the CAFOD Novena to St Francis on each of the nine Sundays from August 9<sup>th</sup> to October 4<sup>th</sup>, the Season of Creation with CAFOD videos:

[Click here for CAFOD's novena video/prayer](#)

1 <sup>st</sup> Week	August 9 <sup>th</sup>	Sun
2 <sup>nd</sup> Week	August 16 <sup>th</sup>	Night Sky
3 <sup>rd</sup> Week	August 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Wind and Air
4 <sup>th</sup> Week	August 30 <sup>th</sup>	Water
5 <sup>th</sup> Week	September 6 <sup>th</sup>	Fire
6 <sup>th</sup> Week	September 13 <sup>th</sup>	Earth
7 <sup>th</sup> Week	September 20 <sup>th</sup>	Those who suffer
8 <sup>th</sup> Week	September 27 <sup>th</sup>	Peace
9 <sup>th</sup> Week	October 4 <sup>th</sup>	Creation



Keep up to date! There is an email circulation list for Justice and Peace news, including CAFOD and LiveSimply Parish notifications. If you would like to receive these occasional postings (you won't be swamped!) please send a request to

[cl.jandp@gmail.com](mailto:cl.jandp@gmail.com)

The next J&P zoom meeting will be on Monday 28th September at 7pm and if you would like to sample it, ask for an invite from the same email address. You would be most welcome,

 *livesimply parish*

**"As individual consumers, the single best thing we can do for the planet is keep our stuff in use longer"**

Rose Marcario, CEO of 'Patagonia'  
from Chris Goodall's book  
*"What We Need To Do Now"*

## *Pax Christi International is 75 years old.*

Founded in response to a war of extreme brutality, the movement is animated by a belief linked to faith: reconciliation is always possible, even when relations have hardened under the effect of ideologies and conflicts of interest.

Britain emerged from the Second World War apprehensive and expectant. Beveridge published his Report in November 1942; a welfare state (disapproved of by the bishops) was established by the post-war Labour government. Nye Bevan fought for, and launched, a National Health Service. A new global vision was embodied in the United Nations, in its Declaration of Human Rights, and international law incorporating, not without a struggle, the crime of genocide alongside 'crimes against humanity'.

*Jonathan Holden [Extracted from 'JustPeace' <https://paxchristi.org.uk/2020/07/13/justpeace-july-august/>]*

We who were children then, took our cod-liver oil, drank our free orange juice and milk, and grew up healthy, the first generation to do so. The Attlee government's policies met opposition but were not rejected as utopian. Today, the pandemic has highlighted options that once would have seemed utopian. In a world irrevocably transformed by COVID-19, proposing an 'economy of enough' instead of an 'economy of no-tomorrow', advocating concern for workers' rights, scrapping Trident, and ending the arms trade, isn't utopian either. It's necessary.

## **A FAMILY 'EXAMEN'**

An 'Examen' is a devotional exercise involving reflection on, and moral evaluation of, one's thoughts and conduct, typically on a daily basis. In these confusing times it can be adapted to use as a family exercise.

Perhaps at the end of the day or after the evening meal or at whatever time is best for you: gather together! If helpful, light a candle as a way of asking for God's light as you look over the day. Say a prayer that you all know, such as the Our Father. Take it in turn, if wanted, to go through your day.

Adapted from Ignatian Spirituality  
*Jane Rebika*

What happened this morning? ...  
 What happened at lunch time? ...  
 and in the afternoon? ...  
 What else do you remember about today? ...  
 What was good about today? ...  
 What was difficult about the day? ...  
 What are you finding hard about having to stay  
 inside at the moment? ...  
 What helps you to fill the time? ...  
 Ask God for what you need for tomorrow ...  
 Pray for anyone else you know who might be  
 feeling lonely or sick at this time ...  
 Thank God for this day.  
 End with the 'Glory be'. Amen.

### **The power of Prayer**

### **"Life just before and after death?"**

I vividly remember some events when we lived in Trinidad in the West Indies for three years in the 1980s, and I am reminded of them from typing my wife, Marjorie's diary, handwritten in 21 exercise books.

Our friend Stella developed cancer and went downhill rapidly and died shortly after. She was a marvellous woman and had a quite unbelievable effect for good on so many people that we are all of us now not grieving for her but wondering what sort of wonderful person she was. Unknown to most people, she took the vows of the Order of St Francis, ten days before she died she took her last vows.

We were on annual leave in France on All Saints Day and we prayed for Stella at Mass. We had been very close to her in the last months. After Mass we walked in the woods and Marjorie writes "Then I knew she was as close to me on one side as Michael on the other, and just as real. I could have touched her." "I thought she had died that day, but No, I think she was at the height of her spiritual power the day she took her vows." Other people had similar experiences.

Paul, one of her nephews, was sleeping and woke suddenly and went through to his father. He said that Stella had come to him, not as a dream, but as a normal person standing beside him. She did not want her coffin to be open at the church as is usual in Trinidad. Then she said, "Sweet Rose, Sweet Rose". Paul had no idea what she meant.

Stella's sister, Monica, went straight to Stella's bedside from the plane on return from the States and Stella said, "I've been waiting for you" and died two hours later. Stella died in the hospice of the Living Waters, where she found with great joy the loving care from a nurse, "Sweet Rose" Stella called her.

All sorts of reconciliations of estranged friends and couples happened. Liz's marriage, previously precarious, took new life. Stella's nephew, Robert, when criticising a part of the Mass – his brother, Malcolm, took him by the shoulders (Malcolm having left the church a long time ago). "Don't you talk stupidity. That Mass was not just for Stella – it was for me"

*Michael Smedley*