

## CATHOLIC LEAMINGTON

# EXTRA

## FEBRUARY 2023

### SPAN QUIZ NIGHT

Date: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Venue: St Peter's Church Hall,  
Dormer Place

Time: Doors open 7.30 for 8pm start  
Quiz, Bar and raffle

Ticket price: £5.00 (£1.00 youth)

### Proceeds to New Chapters

Providing an affordable drug and alcohol  
recovery programme in Leamington

Tickets on sale after Sunday Masses in our three  
churches. Contact *Jenny Armstrong* to reserve  
tickets at the door.

[jenarmstrong@talktalk.net](mailto:jenarmstrong@talktalk.net)

### Pastimes Report!

Pastimes will be offering a designated '**Warm Space**' every Tuesday to anyone wishing to join us. They are sure to receive a friendly welcome whether they wish to take part in any of our activities or merely sit quietly in a warm, pleasant environment.

**Shrove Tuesday** will see the return of our **Pancake Day**, thanks to Natalie, at 1.00 pm.

Those who are Spring Cleaning, please remember to let us have your unwanted items for our next **Jumble Sale** in April. *Mary Curran*

## Fairtrade Fortnight

27 February – 12 March

Fairtrade Fortnight 2023 will spotlight the harmful effects of the climate crisis on the future of our food.



The simple message is: making the switch to Fairtrade supported-producers is protecting both the future of some of our most-loved food and the planet.

Did you know? Coffee, bananas and chocolate could soon be more difficult to find on the shop shelves? Climate change is making crops like these harder to grow. Combined with deeply unfair trade practices, the communities growing these crops are being pushed to the brink.

What can we do? If we choose Fairtrade products, it means extra income, power and support for the farming communities so they can carry on growing these endangered foods.

### Traidcraft

It was sad to hear the news last month that Traidcraft has gone into administration. Traidcraft kick-started the fairtrade movement more than forty years ago and pioneered the sort of fairtrade produce that we now all take for granted – tea, coffee, chocolate etc. Traidcraft has created an incredible legacy by demonstrating that you can trade in a way that cares for people and cares for the planet.

Although the loss of Traidcraft is a blow, it is good to know that the Fairtrade movement is now well established and will hopefully continue to grow.

Here is a link to a BBC Radio 4 *You and Yours* programme from 1 February which featured interviews with speakers from Traidcraft and the Fairtrade Foundation. It is an informative discussion that gives some hope for fairtrade in the future. *Louise Hathaway*

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001hp8c>



# Zoë's Place Baby Hospice

## SPAN and KINDAID

presented three charitable causes for the

### **Catholic Leamington Lenten Appeals 2023**

At both Lent and Christmas last year, SPAN and Kindaid appealed to parishioners so that we could support three charitable causes. One cause was Zoe's Place, a second to the Kiiruu Mission in Kenya and the third for supermarket food vouchers to be distributed to local families. Thank you for your generous support. The latter appeal helped many families, those identified by our primary schools and the SVP; and local refugee families and those mentioned by parishioners. We aim to give £60 to each family mentioned above and, if funds allow, families identified through local children's centres. Your generosity through past appeals has been greatly appreciated by our local families.

Donations via JustGiving will be split equally between these three causes. Cheques should be made out to SPAN, so that Gift Aid can be added for these causes. If you wish to just nominate one cause, this can be done by cheque, bank transfer or gold envelopes through our churches, and writing on the transfer reference, or back of a cheque, or envelope, either Local, Kindaid or Zoe's.

Most of the support given at Zoë's Place in Coventry is respite care. The babies at the Hospice have a life-limiting or life-threatening condition often requiring 24-hour support on a one-to-one basis.

Zoë's Place offers parents and carers a chance to recharge their batteries or to spend time with their other children. The value of respite care to families cannot be underestimated. Families would not be able to cope without the help and support of the team. The whole family receives support through a parent support network and sibling groups.

Zoë's Place currently cares for around 40 families with a six-bed hospice. The current level of funding means that they can care for up to four babies at any one time.

To give:

- via JustGiving use our campaign page link: [justgiving.com/campaign/spanlent23](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/spanlent23)
- via bank transfer: account name SPAN, bank code 40-27-06, account number 21324004
- via gold envelopes in our churches, return via collections or boxes
- or send cheques payable to SPAN to Michael Barker: 77 Montrose Avenue, Leamington Spa, CV32 7DS

## **KINDAID Kiirua Mission**

Situated in the Rift Valley area of Kenya, the Mission offers loving care from a Christian Community for children who have been orphaned or abandoned. With the aim of re-integration into their own families or the wider community wherever possible, the children are nurtured and educated and given the tools to overcome past experiences and build self-esteem and self-confidence. Funding also supports some of the older children to access secondary school and higher education.

The Mission includes a hospital which, as well as offering primary care, provides the local residents with a range of health education programmes and supports initiatives which include nutrition and feeding programmes for their younger children





## **Christian Life Community (CLC)**

Do you want to further integrate faith into your everyday life?  
Are you trying to work out God's path for you?  
Are you searching for space to reflect and pray?  
Do you want to meet and share your faith with like-minded people?  
If so, CLC may be what you are looking for.

### **What is CLC?**

CLC is a national and international community, which supports us in living our Christian life. It is not restricted to Catholics and many groups include Christians of other denominations. CLC is not so much an organisation, but more a way of life, inspired by the spirituality of St Ignatius of Loyola, but always under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

### **What do CLC groups do?**

Members meet in small groups of six or seven, usually once a fortnight, during which time they will have been reflecting on passages from Scripture or other spiritual reading. They then share with each other the fruits of their prayer and faith journey and where God has been in their life during those two weeks. CLC groups are **not** prayer groups or discussion groups, as they are sharing and listening groups, where members take care to respect each other's sharing without comment or interrupting.

There are three CLC groups in the Leamington/Warwick area and we are hoping to set up another group. There will be an information session on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 7pm in the Martyrs Room at St. Mary Immaculate church in West Street, Warwick. If you are interested in finding out more about CLC you will be most welcome to attend. Feel free to contact Peter or Margaret on 01926 428399 for further information.

You can find out more about CLC by visiting the website: [www.clcew.org.uk](http://www.clcew.org.uk)

*Margaret Dimambro*

**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 in Microsoft Word (NOT PDF) to

[catholicleamington.extra@gmail.com](mailto:catholicleamington.extra@gmail.com)

by 28 February for the March edition. The EXTRA team is Jane Rebika and Martyn Hathaway

# Walking Together in Catholic Leamington 1

Over a year ago, our Leamington Catholic parishes started an exercise called “Walking Together”.

We asked about people’s attitudes to the Catholic Church today, and held a series of meetings, in which people prayed about and discussed up to three questions drawn from a set of twelve questions proposed by the Vatican, at Pope Francis’ request.

The results of all these discussions – or more correctly ‘*discernments*’, because those taking part tried hard to listen to what the Holy Spirit was telling them – were collected into a report

We identified in the report a whole range of improvements that we, our priests and bishops should make **to become more truly the People of God and Christ’s body on earth today.**

The findings were combined with those from parishes, schools and other bodies throughout the Archdiocese, then with similar reports from all over England and Wales. **Currently the bishops of Europe are producing a synthesis**, the same is happening in other continents. A **Synod of Bishops** meeting in October 2023 and then again in October 2024 will form conclusions as to what should be done.



See [www.catholicleamington.org.uk/synod](http://www.catholicleamington.org.uk/synod) to download our Walking Together reports or diocesan or national reports.

**A remarkable feature is the consistency of their findings – everything we said in Leamington is echoed in hundreds of other parish reports.**

Pope Francis was insistent from the start that the synodal way of being Church – what we have called ‘Walking Together’ – should be **the normal way of deciding what to do at every level**, as it was in the early Church.

**What is Walking Together all about?** It is a method of ‘*discerning*’ the way ahead for the Church, and in particular for this parish, which all of us can and should take part in.

**What do we mean by ‘discernment’?** Pope Francis, has chosen the method described by St Ignatius in his *Spiritual Exercises*. Discernment involves asking for guidance from God the Holy Spirit, then sharing what we hear the Holy Spirit telling us with our fellow parishioners. Usually, if we do this prayerfully and attentively, we reach some form of consensus; sometimes we just have to agree to go on disagreeing on a particular point.

**Where does the Holy Spirit come in?** After the Last Supper Jesus tells his disciples that he is about to die and to go to his Father and says: “I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; *but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you*”.

So, the Holy Spirit is God active in every Christian believer, guiding us on how, as a Church, we can achieve salvation. *He speaks to every one of us, not just to priests, bishops and popes.* But most of us find it hard to hear him and to work out what he is telling us. That is why we must all pray and share with one another what we think he is saying to us, and we must listen carefully to what others, in the light of their own experience, believe he is saying to them. Together, we have much more chance of being right.



# Walking Together in Catholic Leamington 2

**How do we go about it?** The Pope sees it as the way decisions were made in the early Church. He wants the Church to return to being a 'synodal Church'. We, along with tens of thousands of others round the world, tried it out last winter, and it seems so far to have been very successful.

In November 2021, Birmingham Archdiocese published a document called 'Walking Together – a Handbook for the Synodal Journey'. The Handbook recommends that the meetings should take one and a half hours, should start with a prayer addressed to the Holy Spirit, a scripture reading, and an introduction explaining the purpose and process of the meeting. Then in small groups of five or six we discuss two or three specific questions. An 'Enabler' at each table ensures the discussion is respectful, prayerful and constructive.

After a pause to think about the question, each person at the table shares their views or relevant experience for about two minutes without interruption from the others, who should listen carefully to what is being said. After everyone has spoken once, each person will be invited to comment constructively on what they heard, and a short discussion may follow. After a break, they move on to the next question.

At the end of the meeting, there may be a short feedback to all those present by the Enablers, and some time afterwards a report will be prepared and published to parishioners of Catholic Leamington.

Last March we delivered our Report to the Archbishop and made it available to Catholic Leamington parishioners. Since then, the Walking Together team has analysed that report and identified five main topics requiring action at parish level.

Each will require more detailed exploration and discernment to decide what can and should be done, and by whom – the Report was clear that both laity and clergy should work together in making these decisions and putting them into effect.

These five topics are:

**No.1 Building community spirit, by getting to know one another better and recognising our gifts**

– areas to be explored might include:

- parish social activities;
- methods of decision-making in the parish; and
- the activities of existing parish groups.

**No.2 Becoming more inclusive and welcoming** – which might include:

- reviewing the needs of people who feel excluded;
- developing methods and organisation for welcoming newcomers;
- extending our contacts with other Christian denominations in Leamington.

**No.3 Deepening and sharing our faith** – including:

- adult education needs and resources;
- motivation and support to prayer and worship;
- contacts with Catholics and others outside our three parishes.

**No.4 Prioritising young people** – possibly including:

- reaching out to families with school-age children;
- liaison with local Catholic schools;
- helping young people continue their faith journey into adulthood.

**No.5 Improving parish infrastructure** – including:

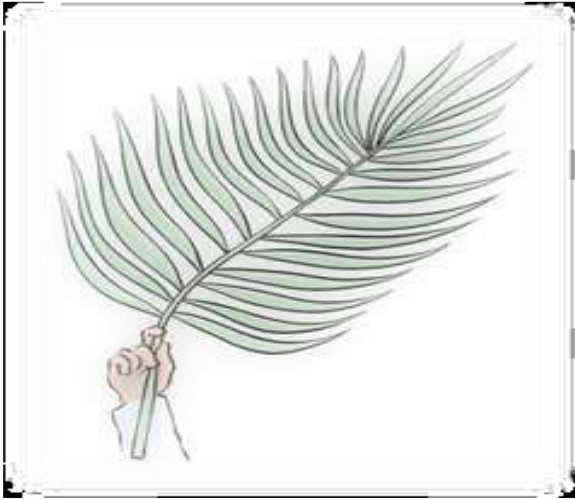
- all forms of communication;
- use of parish spaces and of technology;
- relations between our three parishes, the deanery and the diocese.

We hope every parishioner will consider joining this phase of Walking Together **by selecting one of the five groups**, looking at these topics. There will be lists up in each church **until 12<sup>th</sup> March** for us all to sign.

The discernment meetings of each Topic Group will start after Easter and continue over the following few weeks. The reports on the first few discernment meetings should be available before Pentecost.

*Produced by the Walking Together Team in Catholic Leamington St Joseph's, St Peter's and Our Lady's Parishes working together*

# HOSANNA!



## A Cantata in Song and Mime

*By Anne Ward*

And led by Hand in Hand and friends

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 3pm**

## Our Lady's Church

Come and re-live the events of Holy Week from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, to the devastating crucifixion on Good Friday, with a hint of what happened next.

**Our Lady's Church**

**Valley Road**

**Leamington Spa**

**CV32 7SJ**



Hand in Hand is a group of adults with and without intellectual disabilities, who meet regularly in Warwick and Leamington Spa

*For more information: email [Julia.fitzsimons@gmail.com](mailto:Julia.fitzsimons@gmail.com) or [mcxholden@virginmedia.com](mailto:mcxholden@virginmedia.com)*