

CATHOLIC LEAMINGTON

EXTRA

APRIL 2023

Pastimes Easter Lunch

Pastimes will host a lunch on Easter Tuesday, 11 April, at 1:30 in St Peter's Hall. This is an advance "Thank You" to all the helpers at our forthcoming Jumble Sale. All interested parishioners are also welcome to join.

The JUMBLE SALE is on Saturday, 22 April, starting at 1:00 in St Peter's Hall. We are still accepting donations. These can be brought to Pastimes on Tuesdays from 11:00 or, if required, we can collect (call Mary on 07711 794049). Come early to scoop up the best bargains! Let's hope it raises more money than previous epic jumble sales. It will provide much-needed funds for the parish

Mary Curran



Catholic Leamington Lenten Appeal 2023

SPAN and KINDAID are appealing for three causes this Eastertime. Firstly, to help local families through our Primary schools, SVP or Parish nominations; secondly, Zoe's Place Baby Hospice in Coventry; and, finally, for the Kiirua Mission hospital in Kenya.

Our target is to raise £4,500 as we did last year. We need your support to achieve this. See recent EXTRAs for more details or www.catholicleamington.org.uk/span

Donations can be put in the gold-coloured envelopes and placed in any collection, in SPAN boxes, or by justgiving.com/campaign/spanlent23 or bank transfer.

Paul Hayden

OUR LADY AND ST. TERESA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

ASPIRE, ACHIEVE, LEARN and LOVE as ONE FAMILY in CHRIST

September 2022 marked a new beginning for Our Lady and St Teresa's School as we joined Our Lady of the Magnificat Multi-Academy Company (MAC) with St. Marie's, English Martyrs' and St. Augustine's Schools. This venture is the realisation of the vision of the Archdiocese of Birmingham to secure the future of Catholic Education through the academisation of all schools in the Archdiocese.

Seventeen schools across Warwickshire and Worcestershire belong to Our Lady of the Magnificat. It is hoped that other local schools will join in April 2024.

In a Multi-Academy Company the Board of Directors is the legally accountable body for its schools. The Directors of the MAC work at a strategic level with Tom Leveredge as the Catholic Schools Executive Leader.

The Board of Directors has three core responsibilities:

- ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- holding leaders to account for the school and its pupils, and the effective performance of staff; and
- overseeing the financial affairs of the school.

School governors still have an important role to play at local level. As a Local Governing Board, we meet twice a term. Our main responsibilities are mission, standards, health and safety and safeguarding.

We are very fortunate to have an active, experienced and dedicated local governing board. Our thanks must go to Simon O'Brien who was a governor for twenty years and has now retired from this role.

Our small friendly school is at the top of Windmill Hill in Cubbington with wonderful views over the rolling countryside. Our extensive grounds include a forest school for children to enjoy outdoor learning. Headteacher Mrs Miller welcomes visits to the school from interested parents and carers to meet the dedicated staff and well-behaved children. Although we are a Catholic school, we welcome children and families of all faiths and no faith.



Catholic means universal and that is our aim at Our Lady and St. Teresa's School: to provide a Catholic universal education for all. More details can be found on our school website www.olst.co.uk

We look forward to our future as part of Our Lady of the Magnificat MAC whilst retaining our own identity as a school serving Catholic Leamington and the local community.

Claire Walsh

SPAN Donations Allocation – first quarter 2023

How have your SPAN donations been allocated in the first three months of 2023? Our core support has given: the Leamington and Warwick District Foodbank £300; Saturday Friendship Group focussing on the homeless £600; New Chapters setting out to give direct help for local addiction sufferers £300 (plus £1,000 from the SPAN Quiz night); St Francis Leprosy Hospital in Nyenga, Uganda £616; Ortum Mission Hospital in Kitale, Kenya £616; Fr Mayele in Uganda, supporting the education of vulnerable children £111; House of Light and Hope in Beirut, Lebanon, supporting the work of Dr Robert Caracache sheltering and educating street children £249 (plus a £1,500 private donation).



At our meetings we receive correspondence from previous recipients and new appeals. We consider how best to respond to the needs presented. We agreed to help: Starfish Malawi alleviating poverty through education, vocational training and use of sustainable resources through a number of projects in Malawi £400; for CAFOD's work in Darfur, Sudan £300; Daylight Christian Prison Trust for visits

to prisoners £200; Guy's Gift a charity supporting bereaved young people in Coventry and Warwickshire. £350; Hope House Babies Home Nairobi, Kenya, a home for abandoned babies and babies whose mothers have offered them for adoption £250; Rosa Care Zimbabwe, assisting orphans and vulnerable children, also aimed at preventing and responding to violence against girls', children and women with disabilities £250; Educaid providing high quality, holistic education among the under-privileged young people of Sierra Leone £250; Legs4Africa recycling prosthetic leg parts helping 25 amputees across Africa access unwanted prosthetics from the UK £500; CAFOD campaign to Fix the Food System £1,000; Fr Siluvai Nathan in India, private donation £1,000; CAFOD Syria and Turkey earthquake appeal £1,000

SPAN has also responded to specific requests to help local families from the Local Authority's Family Support Services to provide: a single bed for a 12-year-old following rehousing £185; a double bed for a Ukrainian family moving into social housing £300; a laptop for a child no longer able to attend school £240. We are currently being asked if we can help with two or three other families in need.

How can you support SPAN? Most SPAN support comes from parishioners' generous standing orders to our bank account, SPAN yellow envelopes or legacies. See booklets in Church or look at www.catholicleamington.org.uk/span

Paul Hayden



Come early to the Jumble Sale (see overleaf) to scoop up the best bargains! Let's hope it raises much-needed funds for the parish.

St Vincent de Paul Society

The St Vincent de Paul Society is active in our Catholic Leamington churches. We visit the housebound, help families in need, collect food donations for the local foodbanks, and unused school uniforms to be recycled in all three of our churches. If you think you can spare some time, please talk to Brian Malone at St Joseph's, Peter May at St Peter's and Richard Gordon at Our Lady's after Sunday Mass. Come along to one of our meetings and find out more. Contact David on davidburton636@gmail.com



David Burton



Some personal reflections by paulhayden444@gmail.com

We celebrate Pope Francis' ten years as Pope. His fellow Bishops (led by the Holy Spirit) tasked him with reviewing the Roman Curia, addressing the shortcomings of the clergy abuse crisis and applying the thinking of the Second Vatican Council. All challenging projects. Characteristically Pope Francis has taken time to engage others in his actions. We pray for his health.

The Walking Together Synod (and the Diocesan Vision) call us to continue our journey of faith from our desire to know more of the love and mercy of Jesus, evidenced in scripture, to act as the People of God – Vatican II asserted that we are all called to community and our joy in knowing Christ should lead us to share this with others. To do this better we need enhance our Eucharistic community, have formation to appreciate more about scripture and tradition, so that we are more confident to share our faith with others.

Vatican II recognised that the Holy Spirit is not constrained to the Catholic Church. It is easy to forget that the church has got things very wrong in the past: proclaiming that the earth revolves around the sun was deemed heretical, condoning slavery for many centuries, siding with fascist regimes at times, covering up abuse.

We have to be cautious about tradition, the formal church has expressed too much in Black or White. Our understanding of so many issues has evolved in the past 60 years. There are shades and colours that enrich God's world:

Whilst holding up marriage (or celibacy) as a lifetime commitment, circumstances do prevail where our pastors should be able to offer the mercy, forgiveness and hope of God for all (including the divorced and remarried) and not just in some token way;

Pope Francis told Chilean abuse survivor Juan Carlos Cruz: *"that you are gay does not matter. God made you like that and loves you like this and I don't care. The Pope loves you like this. You have to be happy with who you are."* Pope Francis also said, *"If a person is gay and seeks the Lord and has good will, who am I to judge that person? You should not discriminate against or marginalise these people";* and

I believe that the Church missed the boat of accepting gay couples as having an agreed status different to marriage, but now needs to accept gay marriage and bless such unions which allow our God given sexuality to be lovingly expressed.

The Eucharist is food for the traveller NOT just for the holy! Vatican II simply says we are all guests at the Lord's party. Who are we to say, you are not good enough to be here.

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 and photos as jpgs to the NEW address: leamingtoncatholicextra@gmail.com by 30 April for the May edition.

The EXTRA team is currently Jane Rebika and Martyn Hathaway.