

## CATHOLIC LEAMINGTON

# EXTRA

**NOVEMBER 2023**

### Deanery Visitation

Our local parishes were all represented at a meeting chaired by Peter Rand from Kenilworth parish held at Bicester on Friday 13 October. This will lead into meetings in the north and south of our extensive deanery, with the next for our area being planned for Monday 20 November at St Joseph's Whitnash, when we will look further at the strengths we have to share and a more cohesive vision for the way ahead over coming years.

Archbishop Bernard will celebrate the formal opening of the Deanery Visitation with Vespers and Benediction at St Peter's Leamington on Tuesday 7 November at 7pm followed by a meeting led by him in the hall

*Fr David Hartley*

### OUR LADY'S 10<sup>0</sup> CLUB

In January we are starting a **100 club** with proceeds going towards the church maintenance fund. If you would like to join I will be in the church hall each Sunday after Mass or you can contact me on 07950 144450. The cost will be £12 per year for each number you have. There will be two prizes each month; 1<sup>st</sup> prize is £25; 2<sup>nd</sup> prize £15

Each draw will take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month starting January 28th. The more numbers you have the better chance of winning

*Sue Sugars*

### St Peter's New Boilers

The work on the new heating system at St Peter's has begun now that almost half the £100,000 needed has been raised. The old, clapped-out boilers have been removed and the taken away for scrap. The existing ducting system has been cleaned out and we await the arrival and fitting of the new boilers. This should begin in the second week of November and the engineers expect to commission the new system on 4 December. We shall be warm by Christmas! Thank you to everyone who has donated to the costs. All contributions are very gratefully received indeed!

*Fr Stephen Day*



### From Father John Cross...

Thank you for the great celebration of Mass and the Reception in the Parish Hall on Wednesday 11 October. It was lovely to be with you again. I am appreciative of your kindness in presenting me with some gifts and mementos. The cheque was unexpected but most welcome. The framed picture of the Pump Room Gardens and St Peter's Church will take pride of place. The opportunity to catch up and hear your news was good and I shall follow my old parish via the newsletter. Please keep me in your prayers, as I will remember you in mine

Every Blessing, *Fr John Cross*



### November: the Month of the Departed

As part of the ancient tradition of praying for the departed this month, the service of Grave Blessings for Catholic Leamington will take place on Sunday 19 November at 2:30pm at Leamington Cemetery. *Eternal rest, grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon*

*Fr Stephen Day*

A MEMORABLE TREAT FOR HEAT

# CURRY NIGHT

FUNDRAISER FOR  
ST. PETER'S BOILERS

DONATION £ 20  
PER PERSON

**NOVEMBER 18, 2023 @ 7 PM**  
at St. Peter's Church Dormer Centre Hall  
3A Dormer Pl, Leamington Spa CV32 5AA

For booking please contact Aswin on 07424907420, Sebastian on 07425526254,  
Tony on 07422506992 or any authorised volunteer.

First ten persons who register will be eligible for a prize through a raffle

## Presentation at St Peters

A presentation is being given at St Peter's for a book written by the daughter of one of our deceased parishioners. It is the diary of two German sisters separated after the WW2, one of whom married an English man and came here, and the other sister stayed in Germany. The book is a compilation of letters and Christa Maria Cross's diary

A film projection, talk and book sale is on 11 November at 3:00 in St Peter's Church hall

Anne Elson

## Christmas Hampers

Once again, the three SVP groups of the Catholic parish of Leamington will be running their Christmas Hampers project. There will be collecting boxes at all three churches on the weekends of

- ♥ 26 November
- ♥ 3 December and
- ♥ 10 December

for Christmas food items and gifts, children's toys (mainly up to age 11) and a range of basic food stuffs to make a seasonal hamper for families and individuals who will truly appreciate this gift. Further reminders will come in the weekly parish newsletters in November. So, thank you in advance for your usual generosity



*From the St Vincent de Paul Society*

Tel David Burton on 07713 246987 if

**KINDAID**



**Just Desserts:** Thanks to everyone who came to our annual pudding extravaganza at St Peter's. We raised over £700 which will be sent off to our charities at this month. This year we had a choice of four soups followed by an array of puddings donated by parishioners and the Kindaid committee

**Quiz:** The next event will be the quiz night on Friday 10 November at Our Lady's. £5 per head. Teams of four but if you can't make a full team don't worry, you won't be left on your own

Look forward to seeing you there and thank you for all your support over the year

Sue Sugars



## CAFOD

### Fix the Food System campaign!

This past summer, over **70,000 parishioners from 762 parishes, including St Peter's and Our Lady's**, supported Salina's letter calling on the World Bank to protect farmers' rights to freely access their traditional seeds – this fundamental right has increasingly come under threat from restrictive seed laws pushed by the Bank

We have just got back from the World Bank's annual meeting in Morocco where we delivered the letters directly into the hands of the Director of Global Food Practice. And our campaign is working. Following our latest actions, the World Bank has started to listen. They agreed to meet with CAFOD representatives in both London and Morocco and have started to look at the issue

This is an important step forward in this campaign, and we want to pass on a big thanks to you

**WORLD GIFT** catalogues will soon be available in church. A great way of buying presents for those who don't know what they want!

**HARVEST SOUP LUNCH** a big thank you to all who came to support this (despite the rain!) A total of £93.50 was donated to the harvest appeal

*Ann Allison*



### Statement on airstrike on St Porphyrios Church hall in Gaza 20 October

We are shocked to hear from our partner at

Caritas Jerusalem that a staff member along with her child and husband were killed when the hall adjacent to the St Porphyrios Church in Gaza was struck last night. Her sister and two children were also among the casualties. The hall provided refuge for 411 people and five Caritas staff members were present

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the grieving families and all those injured and affected

We stand with the Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem in strongly condemning the attack which claimed the lives of innocent civilians, who were sheltering following 13 days of airstrikes, and call for an immediate cessation to the violence which is causing such suffering and bloodshed

Where they are able to, our partners continue to respond, helping those most in need

Please pray for all those who have lost loved ones, have been injured and displaced, and live in fear as the violence continues

## REMEMBER FAIR TRADE!

The cost of living makes us all careful with our food shopping. But did you realise that the cost of a bunch of bananas now (115p per kilogram) is the same as in 1990?

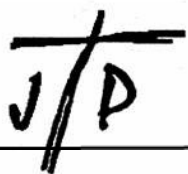
Now it seems that the UK might ditch the EU pledge to protect small producers of bananas post-Brexit and in the light of new trade agreements (the EU promised not to cut tariffs on the big producers of bananas) The African producers are worried for their labour force where more than 80,000 high quality jobs are at risk and the trade sustains half a million people in rural areas

Just making sure you buy bananas with the fair trade mark will help to ensure that small scale producers and their families can benefit from the fair trade premium and fair wages and conditions

Tea, coffee, sugar and many other goods too!

*Jenny Armstrong*





## *Justice and Peace at Catholic Leamington*

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### **Prayer for Peace in Palestine, Israel and the region**

we lift up Palestine and Israel — its people, its land, its creatures.  
War is a monster that consumes everything in its path.  
Peace is a gift shared at meals of memory with Christians, Muslims, and Jews.  
Let us burn incense, not children. Let us break bread, not bodies.  
Let us plant olive groves, not cemeteries.  
We beg for love and compassion to prevail  
on all your holy mountains.

### **God of Justice,**

give strength to those whose long work for a just peace  
might seem fruitless now. Strengthen their resolve.  
Do not let them feel alone. Show us how to support their work  
and bolster their courage. Guide religious leaders to model  
unity and reconciliation across lines of division.  
Guide political leaders to listen with their hearts as they seek peace and pursue it.  
Help all people choose the rigorous path of just peace and disavow violence.

Amen

*Written by Rose Berger, poet and peace worker,  
associate editor of Sojourners & CNI Committee Member*

As we struggle to understand the complex situation in the Holy Land we can pray and we can try to inform ourselves about it.

The Birmingham Diocese Justice and Peace Commission and the Pax Christi websites offer some reflections.

<https://www.birminghamjandp.org.uk/news-and-events.html>

<https://paxchristi.org.uk/campaigns/israel-and-palestine/>

**Also on BBC Sounds** from Radio 4 -- Katya Adler explains in detail the background to the conflict over the last 100 years Over several 15 minute episodes 'Understand Israel and Palestine'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001rv0z>

*Jenny Armstrong*

## **Pastimes**

Pastimes on Tuesday's at St Peter's

Craft, scrabble, bridge, jigsaw puzzles and a lot of chat!!

*Anne Elson*





## Being Welcoming

At the beginning of 2022, Catholic Leamington – along with every other Catholic parish, school or organization in the world – gave its input to the Synod on Synodality taking place in Rome this October and next October. Our Catholic Leamington Walking Together discussions for this purpose identified four or five main areas in which the universal Church and our parishes in Leamington needed to be better followers of Christ. One of these was in welcoming everyone into our churches and parish activities, especially ‘outsiders’ who may feel excluded from our community

This summer we held further Walking Together meetings to look more closely at how we in Leamington could do better in these areas. In terms of being more welcoming and inclusive we came up with over forty practical actions, some of which we have begun to implement already

But one point came over strongly in our discussions. When we meet together in church, say, for mass, we *all* have a part to play in making people feel welcome - it is not just the role of the ‘Welcomers’ at the door. We should be friendly and helpful to everyone there, and smile at them because we are happy to see all our sisters and brothers in Christ (“I give you a new commandment: love one another”, John ch13 v34), and be particularly attentive to anyone we do not yet know. That means we should be continually aware of those around us, to notice anyone who looks lost, or unsure what to do in church, or in need of help, and to go out of our way to introduce ourselves and invite them to sit beside us. If they are new to the church or perhaps returning after a long period of not coming to church, you could invite them for a cup of tea or coffee after mass and introduce them to some of the other parishioners. That is how a Christian community behaves. But you don’t have to be a Christian to be caring, like the Good Samaritan. As the Dalai Lama once said: “Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible”

*Jonathan Holden*

## Parish Facebook Pages

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

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

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

**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 to  
hathawayfamily@aol.com by 31 November for the December edition  
The EXTRA team is Jane Rebikah and Martyn Hathaway**

## SVP Christmas Hampers

for needy families in Catholic Leamington

We are appealing for donations of non-perishable food items such as

- ☑ tinned, packeted and dried food
- ☑ bottled and tinned soft drinks
- ☑ chocolates
- ☑ snacks
- ☑ biscuits

and most importantly

- ☑ Christmas items such as mince pies
- ☑ puddings
- ☑ selection boxes and
- ☑ Christmas crackers

Games and jigsaws are also welcome

Donations are needed by **Sunday 10 December**

Items can be brought to Mass on the weekends of 26 November and 3 and 10 December. There will be a box in the entrance area to take your donation

**Can you help?** The SVP are looking to recruit helpers for the box dressing and the hamper making sessions

**Box dressing** on Tuesday 28 and Wednesday 29 November at 7-9pm to construct the sixty flat pack boxes already donated; wrapping paper and tape will be available. Bring anything else you might think will be helpful. Please let David Burton know if you can make either time [davidburton636@gmail.com](mailto:davidburton636@gmail.com) or 07713 246987. We will be using the Jeffries Room and Fr Flint room at the front of the St Peter's Parish Centre

We need a few volunteers to collect and move donations from St Peter's church to the Jeffries Room after these Masses, please let David [davidburton636@gmail.com](mailto:davidburton636@gmail.com) or Peter [peter.may@yahoo.com](mailto:peter.may@yahoo.com) know if you can help. Masses at OL's and SJ's are covered

**Filling the hampers** on Saturday 16 December, 10am to 4pm in the main hall at the St Peter's centre. Light refreshment will be provided!

Paul Hayden / David Burton



## SPAN CHRISTMAS SUPERMARKET VOUCHERS APPEAL

SPAN is helping local families who are struggling this Christmas by giving supermarket food vouchers - a feature of our work in recent years; it is valued and continues to be necessary

In recent years, we raised over **£4,000** and helped around **fifty families** referred by our **five local Catholic primary schools**. In addition, several refugee families & ten parishioner families were also supported with supermarket vouchers. 75 families identified by Social Services were also helped. Families received vouchers for between £40 and £60 depending on the family size

### How can you help?

Whatever contribution you can give will make a difference and put food on the table for local families at Christmas

Early donations will help SPAN know how much we have available to distribute to families

## Thank You!

Gift Aid or Standing Order Forms can be printed from our webpage  
[www.catholicleamington.org.uk/span](http://www.catholicleamington.org.uk/span)

### DONATING TO SPAN

Place cash or cheques in the **green envelopes**. Return in SPAN boxes or a Sunday collection

Or bank transfer to SPAN, sort code 40-27-06 account 21324004 with reference "Vouchers".

To Gift Aid this, email

[michaelbarker77@sky.com](mailto:michaelbarker77@sky.com)

Or post a cheque to SPAN c/o Michael Barker  
77 Montrose Avenue,  
Leamington Spa, CV32 7DS

Write 'vouchers' on the back of any cheque

Or use our JustGiving page – see the newsletter for details

