



Local Catholic Schools Recent OFSTED Inspections

Three local Catholic primary schools have already been inspected by OFSTED this year, with very pleasing results. St Anthony's has been inspected and retained its 'Outstanding' grade. St Patrick's has been inspected and retains its 'Good' grading. St Joseph's has also recently been rated 'Good' by inspectors. Congratulations to staff, parents, pupils and governors

St Patrick's Catholic Primary School Vacancies

From September there will be vacancies for the head teacher and deputy head teacher positions. Full details are on the Birmingham Diocesan Education Service website

Foundation governors for St Peter's school

St Peter's School, Leamington, has vacancies for Foundation Governors. Foundation Governors are appointed by the Archdiocese to promote the Catholic life and ethos of Catholic schools. They must be practising Catholics (as defined by the archdiocese) and their parish priest must confirm this. Their place of worship does not have to be the parish the school serves, but clearly if they do, school and parish links are enhanced. If you are interested in supporting Catholic education in this way, please have a word with Fr Stephen or enquire at the school

Fr Stephen

Holy Week & Easter at St Peter's and Our Lady's

Palm Sunday 24 March

Saturday 5pm Vigil Mass at St Peter's

Sunday 9:15am Sung Mass at Our Lady's

Sunday 11:15am Sung Mass

Sunday 4:30pm Stations of the Cross at Our Lady's

Holy Monday

10:00am Mass followed by Stations of the Cross at St Peter's

Holy Tuesday

10:00am Mass at St Peter's

Holy Wednesday

6pm Mass at Our Lady's

Holy Thursday

7:30pm Sung Mass of the Lord's Supper & Adoration at Our Lady's

Good Friday

10:30am Morning Prayer at Our Lady's

12 noon Children's Stations of the Cross at Our Lady's

3:00pm Liturgy of the Passion at St Peter's

6:30pm Stations of the Cross at St Peter's

Holy Saturday

10:30am Morning Prayer at Our Lady's

7:30pm Easter Vigil Sung Mass at St Peter's

Easter Sunday 31 March

9:15am Sung Mass at Our Lady's

11:15 Sung Mass at St Peter's

Fr Stephen

CAFOD

A big thank you to all those who supported the Soup lunch on Family Fast Day. Donations amounted to a very generous £252. Also thank you to all who made donations to the CAFOD appeal in church. The final amount is not yet known

This Lent's national fund raiser is the Big Lent Walk. Anyone can take part in this sponsored event – walk with your friends and family or get them to sponsor you. Please look at the website for further details Big Lent Walk @cafod.org.uk

Ann Allison



An Example of Welcome and Inclusion - Walking Together

This is a short story of how a Nigerian family with great faith, seeking asylum, were moved by the Home Office from Wolverhampton into Leamington Spa not knowing any one, but within days found St. Peter's church, where they were welcomed and included in a number of parish activities with success

It started by a parishioner talking to them before the Sunday mass and inviting them to share a coffee with the parishioners after the service. This is where their story began and it was clear that they had numerous problems. We provided a listening ear and they were introduced to the parish priest

They were subsequently invited to attend the Community Hub which met every Tuesday in St. Peter's hall, organised by the "Pastimes" group. The welcome they received was outstanding, so much so they continued to attend every week. Parishioners who attend the Hub are a mixed group of mainly retired people, some with professional backgrounds, all of whom are very caring people. The net result was that several individuals became a constant source of support to the family

The family consisted of Father, and Mother who was nursing a baby of six months and a toddler of two years plus

Pastimes offered this family a place of safety where they able to relax, enjoy warm food, and the children had space to play as their accommodation was limited. In addition, their warmth enabled them to form friendships with a number of the parishioners

As Christmas approached the family received small cash gifts from a collection at Pastimes, from two individual parishioners and from St. Peter's Aid for the Needy (SPAN)

Meanwhile, the family approached Fr. Stephen to have the baby baptised, and the baptism took place after Christmas. The godparents were two parishioners who regularly attended Pastimes. A local Nigerian couple also attended the service

The family were receiving support from Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre through a parishioner of Our Lady's parish in Lillington, who was also a member of the SVP. On one occasion he arranged for the family to use the kitchen of Our Lady's parish hall to cook and to enjoy a Nigerian meal. It was a wonderful treat for the family

On February 16th the family received notice from the Home Office that they were to move out of Leamington to Lancashire. This is the plight of refugees, the constant moving on! This time the move is into a house which will be much better for the family than their previous accommodation. The SVP member took steps to alert the SVP in the town they were going to, to welcome them there

They will be sadly missed by many and, as one parishioner said, "They have enriched our lives with their presence"

May God protect them as they take another step in their long journey to find peace in this country of ours

Mary Holden

SPAN Lenten Appeal

The SPAN Lenten appeal provides supermarket vouchers for local families and continues our support in the Holy Land for Beit el Nour (House of Light and Hope) in Lebanon

In recent years civil society in Lebanon has faced crises: political insecurity, a deteriorating economy, depreciation of the Lebanese lira, a major explosion, the overflow of violence from disputes with Israel. Hundreds of thousands of displaced Syrian families are still live in Lebanese areas, and thousands of Palestinian refugees are living in camps. The country is also affected by the migration of Lebanese youth and families searching for better life conditions abroad. These factors have produced an increased demand for support for vulnerable children, marginalized young girls and women, women imprisoned, and families in need of help

However, House of Light and Hope are able to ensure the education of hundreds of children and their protection from risks and ensure for them and their families the psycho social support needed. They also support hundreds of young girls and women victims of violence and exploitation, and the imprisoned in three women prisons, through their empowerment and social rehabilitation and reintegration. They continue to ensure hot meals for children who come every day to study in their centres. These children belong to families who no longer have the ability to provide the basic needs

The annual report of House of Light and Hope said, "We would like to thank our friends who provided a variety of critical donations in 2023, which were distributed to hundreds of families who live under the poverty line. The donations included medications, stationery, milk for children, food baskets, hygiene kits, blankets, clothes, shoes."

SPAN gold envelopes are available for donations, please return them in any collection

Paul Hayden



SPAN ARE CELEBRATING 50 YEARS THIS YEAR !

PLEASE COME AND HELP CELEBRATE
WITH US ON

7TH JUNE 7:30PM AT

ST PETER'S HALL

SAVE THE DATE!

WHEN WE WILL HAVE

A 'WORLD FOOD EVENT'

AND A DISPLAY OF SPAN
FROM 1974 - 2024

IF YOU COULD CONTRIBUTE A
DISH OF YOUR COUNTRY –
SAVOURY OR SWEET

OR HAVE A CONTACT FOR SOME ENTERTAINMENT

CONTACT JENNY ON jenarmstrong@talktalk.net

Can you help our parishes to be beacons for the Light of Christ?

Put more simply, could you volunteer in some way to help your parish? Being 'Church' means being part of a worshipping and sharing community. Some people have so many commitments to work or family that they have little time to give to volunteering but there might be something you could do. Or have you noticed something lacking / missing that you could help remedy by volunteering to do so.

- * Would you like to find out more about a parish group without having to give a commitment?
- * Could you work with children e.g. helping at a children's liturgy or reading with children in one of our five primary schools in Catholic Leamington?
- * Are you a technology guru or someone who has enough knowledge to help with Facebook, webpages or regularly checking equipment?
- * Could you update communications / noticeboards, give time to help in the office?
- * Would you enjoy helping with social events or other special occasions?

**Please look out for the green volunteering
form available in St Peter's and Our Lady's**

Jenny Hayden

Catholic Leamington Young Adult Group

Lent Discourse:

Why we are Catholic. Why are YOU Catholic?

Topic introduction and Q&A



St Peter's Hall Dormer Conference centre

Friday 22nd March at 7pm

Light refreshments available throughout

All parishioners are invited to come along for a led evening discussion about our Catholic faith. We would love to chat about the beauty of the faith, its richness, and how that contributes to our personal faith and relationship with Jesus. Let's get discussing our faith. The session will be led by Freya from the young adults group. See you there.

Rosemary Pauling

Study Group for Sunday Readings

In January's *EXTRA* I described the background of this group and how we expected to run it. First, we read the first and second readings and the Gospel of the following Sunday's mass and consider them in the context in which they were written and how they were understood by the writer and by his intended audience. Then we reflect in a controlled (Ignatian) way on what God is saying to us today in those passages of scripture. In January, I invited anyone who would like to join the group on a regular basis to contact me

We have been running for seven weeks since 19 January with about eight regular members, meeting at 11am each Friday in the Davenport Room of St Peter's Parish Hall. I am now extending the invitation to any who would like to join occasionally without a commitment to come every week, to experience this approach to the scriptures

One of our members recently said that seeing the way the Sunday readings throw light on each other provides a valuable dimension missing from traditional Bible study. But I believe the most important part of our meetings is our sharing what each one of us believes God is saying to us personally through these readings

If you would like to come on a particular Friday, please let me know in advance by email (jaholden@virginmedia.com) or phone (01926 420045), so that I can prepare enough copies of the readings and, if necessary, adjust our way of working for numbers greater than eight

Jonathan Holden

Young volunteers at Our Lady's

Recently, because of an opportunity to fundraise for a trip to Belize with explorer scouts I, and several other young people, have been helping out serving teas and coffees for parishioners after mass as a great way to serve and help the community through our fundraising. As well as this we organise regular bake sales after mass for those who wish to buy cakes and other baked goods to take home. It's been nice to get more involved in the community and to talk to people we wouldn't usually speak to. It's also been good to perfect our tea and coffee making skills

Another young person has been helping out with children's liturgy creating weekly sessions for the younger children of the parish community. We also have several young altar servers and young people who read regularly in mass. It is great as young people, to be able to contribute to the parish, Hope to see you for a cup of tea after mass soon!

Angus via Deirdre Buckley & Jo Mander

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 March for the April edition

The EXTRA team is Jane Rebikah and Martyn Hathaway