

CATHOLIC LEAMINGTON

EXTRA

MAY 2022

CAFOD

It is sixty years since the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales registered CAFOD as an official charity. This was two years after a group of Catholic women responded to an appeal from the Caribbean Island of Domenica where children were starving. On Friday March 11th 1960, families were asked to spend as little as possible on food, eat only one main meal and donate the money saved. The Catholic community responded magnificently and raised the equivalent of nearly £150,000 today. This amazing generosity was quickly recognised by the Hierarchy and CAFOD was born. During these sixty years CAFOD has worked in over forty countries supporting, educating and training numerous communities to fight against food and health inequality



This Lent, at Our Lady's and St Peter's you donated £1,817 to CAFOD's Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. This means that our brilliant Church partners in Ukraine can provide beds, food, washing facilities and transport to people trying to survive. Your support is also helping thousands of families fleeing Ukraine at safe centres in Poland, Moldova and Romania with food, water, shelter, and psychological support

The conflict in Ukraine risks having a ripple effect around the world, causing rising prices and food shortages. Our parishes' Family Fast Day collection of £1544 will make sure vulnerable families know where their next meal is coming from and help them flourish together in the long

term. In Sierra Leone, as we learned during the Lenten Appeal, when malnutrition endangered Lombeh's life as a baby, the Sisters were there to help with healthcare and nutrition classes. Amie, Lombeh's Mum, says: 'When she started growing, I was so happy!'

Your prayers and generosity will reach out to embrace families living in fear, poverty and hunger

Ann Allison



A reflection on leaving Catholic Leamington

Jesus said to Peter: *“Truly, I tell you emphatically, when you were young, you would fasten your belt and go wherever you liked. But when you get old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten your belt and take you where you don’t want to go.”* [John 21:18] We, Janice and I, feel that might apply to us, since we would not have chosen to leave if we had not felt that we needed to, to be closer to the help that only family can give. We discerned that it was the sensible thing to do, and we have accepted that

Coming to terms with the decision, though, is not so easy and has highlighted that, in the words of the song: *“You don’t know what you got ‘til it’s gone”*. We have become acutely aware how fortunate we have been to live the last fifty years in such a wonderful place, with such wonderful people

Originally, we came to Leamington in 1971 looking for a Catholic School for our three small children under five, and we found St Antony’s around the corner from a house at Sydenham. Little did we know that it would also provide a Mass Centre each Sunday and also a teaching post for Janice for many years

In time, St Peter’s and then Catholic Leamington gave us so much more: the marriage of our daughter, Helen, and then the ordination of our son, Nick; St Peter’s Aid for the Needy (SPAN); CAFOD; Justice and Peace; LiveSimply; and above all Christian Life Community (CLC) which has been the mainstay and bedrock of our Faith and Christian life

Finally, and very recently, we have experienced the Synod in our parish, which highlights the thinking faith of the people here. When one reads the report that has been produced, it is difficult to think of another parish that would be capable of doing anything like that. Being part of that process was most uplifting and encouraging. If we had been staying, we would have wanted to see that continued in the future, and hopefully it will be

So now it remains to say ‘goodbye’. Please join us at our leaving Mass on Thursday 12th May at St Peter’s at 6.30pm with refreshments in the hall afterwards. Thank you for everything and God bless you all

Brian and Janice Austin



Live Simply Week 15 > 24 May

We are a LiveSimply parish which means living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor. And trying to reduce any negative impact on our planet, Earth

- We are planning a LiveSimply theme at masses over the weekend of 21/22 May
- We are encouraging everybody to make a small pledge of one thing they can do to try and live more simply. It could be using the car less or eating less meat; all things that help our planet. Pledges can be written on special tags which we will provide and which will be fixed to a display
- **Walk to Church Sunday:** if you are able, can you leave the car at home and travel to church another way—walk, cycle, bus, scooter, roller skate! Special reward stickers are available for those that can manage it

Why not try this together with family or friends for this one Sunday. We could all start changing with one small step

Louise Hathaway

Synod on Synodality



We are now a third of the way through the synod timescale; our Catholic Leamington synod report is available on the webpage www.catholicleamington.org.uk/synod I hope you felt your views were reflected in the report. The Diocesan Synthesis – the Diocesan response to all parish reports, sent to the English and Welsh Catholic Bishops' Conference, is also available on this page

A letter writer in *The Tablet* Catholic Weekly (22nd April) criticises the Diocesan response, saying that although it quotes many comments, it gives no sense of whether any are widely held views, thus avoiding recognising where the discernment of most parishes was pointing

In the second paragraph of the synthesis, I was encouraged by the statement about the Church's commitment to dialogue with other Christians – her openness to listen and learn; I feel I have been waiting since Vatican II to see practical evidence of this

I welcome the recognition that as the people of God, laity and clergy are co-responsible for our Church

The three Pillars of the synod (Communion, Participation and Mission) are framed to help us recognise that our love of Jesus leads us to communal worship, to share the Eucharist, learn more about Him particularly through His Word which then emboldens us to community action for the poor and to share our faith with others (mission)

The synthesis mentions in its final paragraphs that many want to see Church teaching shift, yet in the same section it says many others want to see it better explained. Personally, I believe a shift is essential, alongside formation, to enable us all to feel comfortable about explaining our faith with conviction, accepting that people can hold differing views. The disciples had the Eucharist as food for their journey and were not required to have any developed doctrinal formulation in order to partake – why should we behave differently

If you would like to read more parish synod reports, there are ten or so available on:

<https://www.rootandbranchsynod.org/synod-watch> Below these reports there is an interesting video about items in the Liverpool 2020 synod that lay outside its remit. Paulhayden444@gmail.com

Two new members of our parish community

At the Easter Vigil in St. Peter's Joseph Moreton and Ricky Mancini were welcomed into our parish family. Joseph was baptised and confirmed; Ricky was received into the Church and confirmed. Since October they have been attending our weekly Come and See sessions, where they have learned about the Catholic faith and prepared to receive the Sacraments. This is what they have to say about their experience:

"Hello, I'm Joseph, a medical student at Warwick University. I have spent a long time considering the Catholic Church and joined the Come and See RCIA group in 2021. I found everybody welcoming and informative which has greatly helped me begin my journey. My recent baptism at the Easter Vigil was a very beautiful service and a powerful experience. The Parish has been extremely welcoming, and I look forward to my life as a Catholic."

Ricky says: *"I found the Come and See sessions very informative and well put together, teaching the Catholic faith in a neutral, friendly, welcoming atmosphere. When the time came to decide if I would be received into the Catholic Church, I felt that I had been given enough knowledge to comfortably do so and the whole experience felt like I had finally come home"*

The Come and See sessions will restart in October and are open to all: non-Catholics who are interested in the Faith and Catholics who wish to re-engage or refresh their Faith. Anyone interested can email rcia.cathleam@gmail.com

Margaret Dimambro

