

CATHOLIC LEAMINGTON

EXTRA

NOVEMBER 2021

SPAN'S CHRISTMAS VOUCHERS APPEAL

Via your bank to SPAN,
Sort code 40-27-06

Account 21324004 with reference
"Vouchers". To Gift Aid this, email
michaelbarker77@sky.com

Or by putting cash or cheque in the
green envelopes available in all three
Churches from the weekend of
6th/7th November.

Or dropping a cheque to SPAN to
Michael Barker
77 Montrose Avenue
Leamington Spa CV32 7DS.

*Please write 'donation for Christmas
supermarket vouchers' on the back of the
cheque.*

Or by using our Justgiving page [https://
www.justgiving.com/campaign/
spanxmasappeal21](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/spanxmasappeal21) you can also Gift Aid this
donation at the time.

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

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Pre-Christmas Special

St Vincent de Paul



Christmas Hampers 2021 – this year the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) from all three churches and other parish groups and volunteers, are combining our efforts to make Christmas hampers

We make up a hamper containing some basic food items as well as some seasonal foods like Christmas pudding and mince pies. Where appropriate we also put in some games and jigsaws for children. These are given to families or individuals in difficult circumstances, the hamper helps them practically and shows we are thinking of them. By combining our efforts, we hope to reach even more deserving people

You can help us by donating food items that are non-perishable like tinned, packeted and dried food. Bottled and tinned soft drinks, chocolates, snacks and biscuits. Christmas related foods like mince pies, puddings and selection boxes. Also, crackers, games and jigsaws are welcome

We are collecting donations at all three churches after Mass on the weekends of 21st, 28th November and 5th December. There will be someone in the entrance area to take your donation

Any questions please contact
David on 07713 246987.

We thank you for your support and generosity



Pre-Christmas Special



There has been much recent publicity about the need to help families in difficulties at this time of year

Communities continue to work together all over the country to help as we go into the second 'pandemic' affected Christmas

SPAN is very committed to helping local families who are struggling this Christmas. The giving of supermarket food

vouchers has been a feature of our work in the past and continues to be necessary

You may be wondering how you can help?

We see our role as linking those with a desire to help (and the resources) with those who are having a hard time at present

Last year we raised over £4,500 and helped 33 families referred by local Catholic primary schools. In addition, seven refugee families living locally, and nine parishioners and their families were supported with supermarket vouchers, having been brought to our attention by Church contacts

78 families identified by Social Services Support for Children were also helped by the voucher scheme. Many families received supermarket vouchers for £40 or £50 depending on the family unit

Again, we ask you to support SPAN – whatever contribution you can give, it will make a difference and put food on the table for local families at Christmas and smiles on faces in the forthcoming festive season *Thank you*

**CHRISTMAS
SUPERMARKET
VOUCHERS APPEAL
HELP US GIVE LOCAL
FAMILIES A HAPPIER
CHRISTMAS**

ACTION BY CHRISTIANS AGAINST TORTURE

CHRISTMAS CARD CAMPAIGNS

Each year, J&P have tried to encourage people in the parish to participate in the ACAT Christmas Card Campaign. For this campaign, which is published every year in November, ACAT suggest



that you write a simple card or greeting to an individual saying, for instance, that you are thinking of him/her and/or perhaps urging them not to lose hope (or words to that effect). A picture postcard is always welcome and cheapest to send. You can include your name and address (if you wish) but we ask you - please not to mention ACAT or include a religious greeting (if so advised,) as communication from a foreign organisation can endanger the prisoner and lead to harsher sentences. Several individuals featured in our last Christmas Campaign have been released. Sadly, others are still in prison and it is important not to forget any of them. As usual, ACAT include a selection of rights groups **EXTRA is going to press too early for the ACAT November list, so please go to their website later in the month to get their list of individuals and human rights groups at <https://www.acatuk.org.uk/> > Our Campaigns > Greeting Cards Campaigns. Ideally, cards need to be sent before the end of November.**

Also, Amnesty International run **Write For Rights**, a campaign over November and December where they encourage us to write messages of support to people around the world who have suffered injustice, and show you how to support their campaigns for justice. [You can download their campaign booklet here.](#) All the details of how to write to authorities are in the campaign booklet. Or you can go to their website page <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/write-for-rights#>

And then let's not forget **Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe**. [Click here to update](#) yourself on the ongoing situation. Amnesty International is standing in solidarity with Nazanin and her husband, Richard, to show the Iranian and British authorities that we won't stand for this, since Nazanin continues to be used as bargaining chip at the hands of an authority who have played cruel political games with her life.

J&P at Catholic Leamington: cl.jandp@gmail.com

Website Page of the Month

[LISTEN TO ARCHBISHOP BERNARD'S PASTORAL LETTER: THE SYNODAL PATHWAY](#)

<http://www.catholicleamington.org.uk/the-church-blog>





WHAT SORT OF CHURCH DO WE WANT TO BE?

It is not every day that you receive an invitation from Pope Francis. But he has invited us all to start a journey with him and the whole church. The two-year accompaniment has begun. We can recall from the gospels the stories of Jesus accompanying disciples on the journey to Emmaus. We are being asked, by Pope Francis, to accompany Jesus: To pray for the Holy Spirit to work afresh in our day, and for us to listen to each other's experiences, where the church has accompanied us well, in our faith journey. We are also asked to ponder how the church in our day could

grow in expressing Christ's love, to help us all act in communion, as a community to embrace the needs of others we meet, in the way Jesus would. What would help the church become a beacon of the Light of Christ? What would make us proud and able to share our faith better?

This first listening phase (to ourselves and others) must go outside of ourselves. What would our children say? Ask them to give their views or with their permission, report their feedback using their words (not your words). What about neighbours or friends / people at work. This can all be anonymous. As a parish we will try to find ways for us to make this possible, for now, this month, jot reactions down on an A4 sheet for you to reflect and pray upon. Say the Synod prayer every day:



Prayer for the Synod

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name
With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts
Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it
We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions
Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth and what is right
All this we ask of You who are at work in every place and time
in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen

The church has had countless synods, but this is hopefully a worldwide one that truly listens to the laity. As Christians we have our common baptism and wish to share it. Let us participate in this unique and direct invitation from Pope Francis. Let us make a successful start to this Synod. The laity part will only last a few months

If you have any questions leading from this article, please contact paulhayden444@gmail.com



Warwick District Foodbank has had a busy summer and with increasing energy and food prices along with the reduction in universal credit, we are expecting an influx of new clients this winter. So, although we have been blessed with so many generous harvest donations and our warehouse is currently well stocked again, we do need those regular contributions coming in, week in and week out. Thanks to everyone who does this for us

For anyone interested in donating items regularly, please refer to our list on www.warwickdistrict.foodbank.org.uk which is updated monthly*

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who supports us. Without help from our local churches we couldn't provide our service to the most needy in our community."

Every blessing
Miriam Bowen, Warwick District Foodbank

*Our Catholic Leamington contact is Marie Willington. Call her on 01926 336688. Hopefully, we will soon have a box at the back of the churches again.

Something Greater



In August Catholic Leamington started an important initiative called 'Something Greater' for parishioners of St Peter's and Our Lady's.

Thank you to those who have already completed the **Catholic Leamington Parish Update** form. If you have yet to fill one in, they are at the back of church and can be posted in the boxes provided. It can also be completed from the Catholic Leamington website.

The Something Greater Team are starting to take follow-up action and will be contacting those who have indicated an interest where shown.

We are, however, asking **all parishioners** to help in some way by supporting the initiatives over the coming months, even if only by saying the prayer below regularly.

Our Something Greater Team meet monthly and we need more people to join us to help and guide us, with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, in how we can all build up our parish community now most coronavirus restrictions have eased.



If you would like to join our next meeting by Zoom on Monday 8th November 7.30pm please contact mdimambro@hotmail.co.uk for the link.

Something Greater Prayer

Loving Father, as Covid restrictions ease, we pray for our 'Something Greater' initiative

As we reach out to others, give us the wisdom to know how to communicate in a way that will attract them to our parish community in worship and fellowship.

May we be alert to ways of encouraging them in their faith journey.

We make this prayer through Our Lord Jesus Christ Your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen

If you do not have a prayer bookmark please pick one up at the back of church

Your Something Greater Team.

Contact: Peter, mdimambro@hotmail.co.uk
01926 428399

christians
against
poverty

CAP

The **Cap Money Course** is a free course designed by Christians Against Poverty (CAP) which will teach you budgeting skills so that you can get to grips with your finances. You will be able to budget, save and prevent debt. Whether you feel pretty organised or whether you take a lucky dip with your Bank Account the Cap Money System will help you to get in control of your finances

The three week course starts on

**Wednesday 17th November, then
24th November and
1st December starting at 1.30 till 3pm**

so it finishes in time to collect children from school. It will take place at **7 Guys Close, Warwick, CV34 5JH** but may change to Zoom.

For more info and **to book a place** please contact Beryl Chisholm from St Marks Church on 07796615235

berylchisholm@capmoneycourse.org

Elaine Barker

Secretary - Churches Together in Leamington

www.churchestogetherinleamington.org.uk

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 (up to 250 words) to

catholicleamington.extra@gmail.com

by the **end of November** for the December edition. **And we could do with more help, too! Let us know if you can, or if you know someone who can:** Brian Austin, Martyn Hathaway (same address as above)



Our Recycling for Good Causes is at St Peter's at the moment – please check your drawers and cupboards for old mobile phones / tablets / cameras/ coins / stamps and jewellery

We have already got a cheque for £87 to go to CAFOD! - so many thanks to those who have already had a clear out and keep up the good work. The more we get the more CAFOD can help those in need

Join the team!

email cl.jandp@gmail.com to tell us you're interested – everyone is welcome

Louise Hathaway



LET'S KEEP UP TO DATE

Update live from Glasgow COP26

Tuesday, 9 November 7:00pm-8:00pm

Join CAFOD to hear a live briefing from inside COP26 with Neil Thorns, Head of Advocacy, and a representative from the Vatican delegation. Neil will report on the progress made so far from the UN climate change conference and whether the needs of communities around the world suffering the worst effects of climate change are being addressed. [Register to join](#)

What did COP26 achieve?

Wednesday, 17 November 7:00pm-8:00pm

Join CAFOD to hear Neil Thorns, Head of Advocacy, and Robin Mace-Snaith, Policy Analyst for Climate and Energy, discuss the outcomes of COP26 and the impact on the world's most marginalised communities. [Register to join](#)

The Laudato Si Action Platform and LiveSimply

Tuesday, 30 November 5:00pm-6:15pm

Join CAFOD to find out how the new Laudato Si Action Platform will work and how we as livesimply communities can be part of this global Catholic journey of ecological conversion being promoted by Pope Francis and the Vatican. With Monica Conmee, CAFOD's Head of Education and Maria Elena Arana, livesimply Award Coordinator. [Register to join](#)

See CAFOD Online Talks at <https://cafod.org.uk/Volunteer/Online-talks>

Posted by Brian Austin, CAFOD Campaigns Volunteer



World Gifts are a range of virtual charity gifts that will delight the people you give them to and help transform the lives of families living in poverty

worldgifts.cafod.org.uk

How it works:

Choose – Receive – Give - Transform



1. **Choose:** Browse the range, choose your gifts, add them to your basket and check out!

2. **Receive:** Receive a beautifully illustrated card of your chosen gift, together with a presentation gift envelope, which explains how your gift can help people fighting poverty in poorer countries

You can also choose one of our gorgeous ecards or to print at home to receive your gift immediately! And you can now send a personalised card directly to your loved one, by choosing "post direct" and typing in your message

3. **Give:** Personalise your posted card and give it to your friend or loved-one

4. **Transform:** The money you spend on your gift helps us transform the lives of poor families in the developing world

New World Gifts this year!

- The Real Advent Calendar £4.50
- Our new World Gifts Tote bag
- Energy Saving Stove £9
- Fight fires in the Amazon £18
- Forest school £40
- Fantastic fisherfolk £73
- Safe place to call home £175
- Restore the rainforest £719



Don't forget! As well as the new gifts, there are lots of your old favourites to choose from.

And remember you can now send personalised cards direct to your loved ones, or choose to send an ecard!

You can now type in a personalised message online and they'll send the gift straight to your loved one. Just select "post direct" when you're choosing your gift.

CAFOD ensures that every virtual gift you give this Christmas will make a real difference to people in countries where they work.

