

# CATHOLIC LEAMINGTON

## St Peter's, Our Lady's, St Joseph's

www.catholicleamington.org.uk

### Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Sunday 5 April 2020



**Masses & Services in Holy Week that will be live-streamed from St Joseph's Church**

**MANY HAPPY RETURNS OF THE DAY TO FATHER JOHN ON THIS, HIS 60th BIRTHDAY!** In lockdown, no party... just one pending celebration !

**SUN 5 April**  
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

9.00 Enda McSharry RIP  
Patrick Murphy RIP  
In Thanksgiving (AJ)  
11.00 Tony McAndrew  
Dermott Collins

**MON 6 April**  
Mon. of Holy Week

6.30 Stations of the Cross  
7.00 Special Intentions (SCL)

**TUE 7 April**  
Tues. of Holy Week

9.30 Catriona Carr  
7.00 Penitential Service

**WED 8 April**  
Wed. of Holy Week

11.00 Fr Bob Wright

**THU 9 April**  
HOLY THURSDAY

11.00 Children's Stations of the Cross  
**THE EASTER TRIDUUM**  
7.00 **Mass of the Lord's Supper**  
Enda McSharry RIP

**FRI 10 April**  
GOOD FRIDAY  
Day of fasting & abstinence

10.00 Office of Readings & Morning Prayer  
3.00 **Good Friday Service**  
7.00 Stations of the Cross

**SAT 11 April**  
HOLY SATURDAY

10.00 Office of Readings & Morning Prayer  
7.30 **Easter Vigil**  
People of the Parish

**SUN 12 April**  
Solemnity of the Resurrection of the Lord  
EASTER SUNDAY

9.00 Nellie Scannell RIP  
Ian Wilshire RIP  
11.00 Michael Hannan

**Mass Intentions from St Peter's and Our Lady's Churches that will be privately celebrated**

**MONDAY 6 April**  
Mon. of Holy Week  
Canon Peter Taylor

**TUESDAY 7 April**  
Tues. of Holy Week  
Adrian Doherty

**WEDNESDAY 8 April**  
Wed. of Holy Week  
Requiem: Paul Reszka

**THURSDAY 9 April**  
HOLY THURSDAY  
The People of the Parish

**SATURDAY 11 April**  
HOLY SATURDAY  
Private Intention

**Recently deceased:** Joy Barry, Doreen Burford, Mario Fuchs, Michael Fuchs, Annie Chalk, Mary 'May' Martin, Ann Hopkins, Paul Reszka, Michael Hughes.  
**May they rest in peace.**

**Anniversaries:** Violet Hawkins, Margaret Carr, Colin Bates, Kathleen Hornsby, Angela Freeman, George Fraser, Simon Hawkins, Tommaso Carciofo, Frank Lane, Eva Ryan, Monty Jenkinson, Stefan Pacitti, Luke Ryan, babies Hayden & Luke Westerman, Siobhan Hannan, Avis Charman, Richard Collins, Joseph McGrath, Ernesta Guerrini, Canon Peter Jones, Michael Hannan, Thomas O'Donnell, Anna-Maria Stoneham, Michael Tierney, Madeline Reading, Gwendoline Bradley, Kate Sturdivant, Sean Martin, Veronica Graham-Bryce, Bishop Anthony Emery (sixth Bishop of Portsmouth), Fr Michael Glynn, Canon William Swift, Fr Kevin Preston, Fr Eamon Clarke, Fr Kenneth Collins, Fr Joseph Barr, Fr Michael McManus.

**May they rest in peace.**

## Dear Parishioners

This weekend, Palm Sunday, we begin the celebration of Holy Week, the most important week in the Church's year. This year we may well feel that the Passion and Crucifixion of Christ is very relevant to our own spiritual lives as, at the moment, we cannot attend mass or go to confession. Many people have shared with us by telephone or email how they feel a sense of spiritual pain and this is quite understandable. However, let us for a moment think about the bigger picture and how this rather different Holy Week can be a time of great prayer and reflection for us. We must continue to place at the centre of all our thoughts and prayers those affected by the coronavirus and all those who are caring for them most especially in our health service. There are two good opportunities during Holy Week for us to pray for these intentions. The first is the watching on Holy Thursday. Watching will be live-streamed from St Joseph's until 10.00 pm. Please do use this time to gather as families for a few moments to pray for an end to the pandemic and for the healing and health of all those affected. The second opportunity is during the Liturgy of Good Friday when during the Universal Prayers we will add an extra formal prayer for those affected by the pandemic.

Following on from Holy Thursday we will celebrate the Easter Vigil. This year the Easter Vigil, in fact all the Triduum ceremonies will be much simpler, but the moment when we light the Paschal Candle is a moment of huge significance this year. This year despite the dark effect that the coronavirus has had on our lives we can rejoice that the light of Christ continues to shine in that darkness. The light of that candle shines for us all to see, it reminds us of our baptism, it reminds us of the precious gift of our faith, it reminds us that Christ is risen from the dead, he is the light of the world.

At the moment we are in a passion experience but as each day passes, we come closer to the resurrection. We pray that in the months ahead our world will be free of the coronavirus pandemic and we all truly experience a resurrection centred on Jesus Christ, the light of the world who is risen from the dead. May God be with us all this Holy Week.

Every blessing, Fr Andy.



## A Reflection on Palm Sunday

A Palm Sunday without palms! A strange introduction to our usual Holy Week. Perhaps we might still have a palm from last year, tucked behind a picture or crucifix at home. Why not have that to hand when you watch the live-streamed Mass this Sunday?



This year we are called to receive Jesus with nothing in our hands, with none of the usual familiar practices as we share our virtual Liturgy, that normally involves us as Church, comforting, strengthening and feeding us spiritually. This time we are to meet Jesus on his Way of the Cross, uncluttered by our usual preoccupations, starkly enforcing us to concentrate on Jesus, and called to walk with him on his Way.

The absence we feel now is in fact a deep sense of Jesus' presence with us. He identifies with us through his own Incarnation, suffering and death. But he underwent that to bring us eternal joy and redemption.

We trace this journey already knowing where it will take us, since Jesus has already won the victory for us. We should keep that in mind as we travel through difficult times. Jesus walks with us always.

Palm Sunday begins with the joyful welcome of Jesus into Jerusalem. We need to hold on to that joy for the difficult days ahead. We should

invite Jesus into the city of our hearts as we proclaim: "*Hosanna to the King, the Messiah who has come amongst us.*" This is more than just recalling past events but re-awakening and celebrating in the present Jesus who humbly entered Jerusalem on a donkey.

Later we shall read the Passion narrative, with its menacing, growing darkness. Yet we will see there Jesus' example of service, of self-giving, of sharing that we are all called to imitate, in so many different ways at this time. That is how we make Jesus vividly present in lives so much in need of comfort and support.

So, let us walk with Jesus on this never ending journey that will lead us to glory with him, as he has promised.

Fr Christopher

## Holy Week and the Easter Triduum under lockdown!

Surely this will be a very strange experience for those of us so used to heading off to church in Holy Week. The good news is we can watch on the live web-stream from St Joseph's. Spiritual Communion is what we are aspiring to and perhaps it helps us to understand how it feels for those of our community who cannot receive Holy Communion for one reason or another. Due to the circumstances of this lockdown we can receive God's blessing from the comfort of our armchairs. It is, I suppose, a little like the TV programme *Gogglebox*. You might make comments about what you see and hear but those on the other side of the camera cannot see you!

Fr Andy was, thankfully, quick to anticipate the need and get cameras installed for live-streaming and I am grateful for his generosity, allowing me to celebrate Masses in his church. As he and I celebrate the Triduum together we invite the parishioners of St Joseph's, St Peter's and Our Lady's to gather as a community united by our Catholic Faith.

In Holy Week we can walk the steps of the Via Dolorosa with Jesus at the Stations of the Cross on Monday, Thursday and Friday. There is daily Mass (bar Good Friday). There is a Penitential Service on Tuesday at 7.00 pm. The Easter Triduum is a three-part service spread over three days. We step away on Holy Thursday and Good Friday knowing that the story is unfinished. But we have time to think and reflect. The third day is our Day of Joy. We can participate fully in the Triduum with invention and imagination.



**The Mass of the Lord's Supper:** In a family where you are not distancing you could wash feet. One person to wash, the other to dry. The washer can kiss the foot. It is very meaningful.

The Passover meal was one eaten in a hurry. We've all had to eat a meal against the clock. What was the Passover? Perhaps a parent might explain it to their child or children. Doing this together is what matters and of course the words of Jesus to his Apostles: "Do this in memory of me". Just writing these words I can feel the tears of sadness that we cannot be together in church. It will be the first time for so many of us not to be in church. So let us

try to spend a little time thinking about what that meal meant for Jesus and, in lockdown, what it means for us.

**Good Friday.** Why Good? This is the question asked by all children. It is a difficult answer at the time of death. This pandemic has seen so many deaths across the world.

Good Friday requires us to be mindful that on this day Jesus was crucified. It is hard to see any good in this process of barbaric cruelty. To help us to understand the sadness and emptiness of sadness and mourning we fast, we reduce our intake of food (refraining from meat and luxuries of any sort). It is a day to reflect how the death of Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.

The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross is the perfect sacrifice. Those sacrifices in the Temple, the sacrificial animals, the lambs, or birds, in atonement for their sins, were a sign of repentance but the crucifixion is the perfect offering. Jesus is the sacrificial lamb who takes away the sins of the world. His was a once and for all sacrifice which we remember at every Mass. In memory of what Jesus did for us we eat his body and drink his blood. It is his command that we remember him in this way. His body and blood is the bread of angels, the food that gives us eternal life. Good Friday is the stark memory of the sacrifice of Christ. It is a sacrifice which saves us, a sacrifice which takes away the sins of the world.



**Holy Saturday** will be very strange day for priests this year. Usually we see a busy day with many helpers preparing the church. Spring flowers, yellow and white, the colour of new life, take over as the purple drapes are removed from the statues and altar. Our churches seems to come alive with a vibrant glow of expectation and hope. The Easter candle is removed from its box. Into it the priests will press the five incense grains which signify the five glorious wounds of Christ. There are also the symbols Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. Jesus was there at the beginning of time, He will come in Judgement at the end of the world. *Lumen Christi* the priest sings three times (The Light of Christ). *Deo Gratias* the people reply (Thanks be to God). The Easter Vigil is not a quick Mass but it is the most meaningful. It begins with the light of Christ entering the darkness of the world. You can re-enact this moment at home. Sit in darkness (or low light) and then lighting candles to welcome the light. It is a very visual moment. Listen to the readings as they tell the story of our salvation and feel the sense of joy welling up inside.

Share the service, it won't be quite as long as usual. Share in the communion. Have glass of wine after Mass. And don't forget the Easter eggs. This Holy Week is a great opportunity for us to get back to God in a way that perhaps we haven't done for years. Opportunities like this don't come along very often. Of course there will be competition from films and TV favourites but these can be watched in playback. This year we must profess our faith in lockdown. Show it matters by giving it the time. Faith is like that mustard seed which grows into something enormous when the conditions are right. We never regret the time we give to God. *Deo Gratias!*

**Fr John**

# CATHOLIC LEAMINGTON

St Peter's, Our Lady's, St Joseph's

[www.catholicleamington.org.uk](http://www.catholicleamington.org.uk)

Parish Priest, St Peter's & Our Lady's,  
Dean of Warwick Deanery: Fr John Cross  
Parish Priest, St Joseph's: Fr Andrew Franklin  
Assistant Priest: Fr Noel Breslin  
Deacon: Rev David Palmer  
Retired: Fr Christopher Greaney

**The Easter Offertory is, by custom, a gift to your priest. We are grateful for this.**

A Standing Order form which can be used for any of the churches in Catholic Leamington can be found at the end of this newsletter. Please remember that this does not have to be a binding, long-term commitment – you can start and stop and change the amount at any time you wish by informing your bank. There is also a [link](#) from the Catholic Leamington website [www.catholicleamington.org.uk](http://www.catholicleamington.org.uk)

## St Joseph's

**Live Streaming in Holy Week:** Do join us for some if not all of the Triduum services this week.



This week  
Our Lady's  
Seven Day  
Candle  
burns for

**Katie Hannan**

**Thank you:** For your continued support of the parish at this uncertain time. Your generosity is much appreciated. Offertory envelopes or contributions can continue to be placed through the Presbytery letterbox if you are safely able to do so. Also, Mass Intention requests or 200 Club subscriptions. (Hopefully neither Monty or Oak will eat them!) Offertory by Paypal is also available (follow the link on the website [www.stjosephs47.org.uk](http://www.stjosephs47.org.uk)).

**Thank you:** To Mr Con McHugh of St Gregory's Parish, Stratford, for his invaluable help in setting up our live streaming service.

**The Parish Office** is closed until further notice. For anything urgent please leave a message on the answerphone 01926 772712 or email [st.josephs47@outlook.com](mailto:st.josephs47@outlook.com) for Fr Andy or [secretary.st.josephs@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.st.josephs@gmail.com) for Hazel.

**Gift Aid envelopes** for year commencing Sunday 12 April are available to collect in the Narthex when the church is allowed to reopen. If you are a taxpayer and would like to sign up for Gift Aid (so the Parish can claim back the tax you have paid on your offering) then please contact Patrick Murphy on 07711 346405.

**200 Club Draw** takes place on Sunday 5 April with an extra Easter prize of £25.

**E-news:** Please do sign up for the Catholic Leamington Newsletter via Mailchimp on Twitter, Facebook, the parish or deanery website <http://warwick-catholicdeanery.org.uk/newsletter-sign-up/>

## Our Lady's & St Peter's

**Your continued support** of the parish is much appreciated. Thank you for those of you who have been able to fill in Standing Orders. This gives us some stability to plan ahead and budget. Offertory envelopes and other contributions can continue to be placed through the Presbytery letterbox if you are safely able to do so. If you have not yet received/collected your envelopes for the new year starting on Easter Sunday, you are able to make your contributions in a plain envelope with your name and/or Gift Aid number on it. Mass Intention requests can also be posted through the door. (Don't worry, Bertie can't reach the letterbox!)

**The Parish Office** is operating a limited service. Please leave a message on the answerphone [01926 423824 ext 0](tel:01926423824) and I will get back to you as soon as possible. St Peter's / Our Lady's have a new email address: [stpeterapostle.leamington@rcaob](mailto:stpeterapostle.leamington@rcaob) which is accessible by myself and the other office staff. Please use this address for all future email enquiries to ensure maximum efficiency. The address for any entries to the weekly newsletter – or items for the website – remains [newsletterstpeters@gmail.com](mailto:newsletterstpeters@gmail.com). This is monitored by Jane Rebika who can be contacted on this address while she is working from home.

## Rosary intention

The Catholic Leamington Justice & Peace Rosary intention for April is:

**'We pray for all those who are isolated and lonely at this extraordinary time, that they may be supported by our prayers and practical help'.**

**SAFEGUARDING:** St Peter's & Our Lady's Claire Walsh 01926 430070; St Joseph's Honor Hynes email [safeguarding.stjosephs@gmail.com](mailto:safeguarding.stjosephs@gmail.com). The Archdiocese Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240. An independent support group for survivors of abuse free tel. 0808 801 0331.

Parish Name & no:

Please complete using BLOCK CAPITALS

**THIS DECLARATION MUST BE IN ONE NAME ONLY**

Title Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms / . . . . . (Please delete as appropriate)

First Name

Surname

Full Home Address

Post Code

Signature

Date

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**\*PLEASE COMPLETE.**

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1. You can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying your parish.
2. If in future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and capital gains equal to the tax that the Charity reclaims, you must cancel your declaration.
3. As any tax refund received by the Archdiocese of Birmingham will be made at the basic rate, higher rate tax payers will benefit through additional tax relief if they declare their Gift Aid Declaration on their Self Assessment tax return.
4. This Declaration refers to all donations for which the above parish has record of receipt.
5. Please notify your parish if you change your Name or Address.

I intend to give my contributions by: Weekly Envelopes

Please tick appropriate box. Standing Order\*

\*Please complete Standing Order Mandate overleaf

**Protecting your privacy**

General Data Protection Regulations- the Archdiocese will process the information you supply in accordance with its privacy notice on its website. The legal basis for that processing will be that it is necessary in the legitimate interests of the Archdiocese to do so, and your information will be shared only with HMRC under the legal obligation which the Archdiocese has to do so. The Archdiocese will retain your information until the end of the sixth tax year after your last donation and then delete it securely.

**Edn. June 2018**