

# CATHOLIC LEAMINGTON

Website: WWW.CATHOLICLEAMINGTON.ORG.UK

ST PETER'S Dormer Place, Leamington Spa CV32 5AA (01926 423824)

ST JOSEPH'S 47 Murcott Road East, Whitnash CV31 2JJ (01926 772712)

OUR LADY'S Valley Road Lillington CV32 7SJ (01926 423824)

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

**Sunday 29 March 2020**

Fifth Sunday in Lent (Year A)

**The churches are locked until further notice.  
Mass is celebrated each day and all the Intentions will be honoured.  
There is live-streaming from St Joseph's Church (see below).**

**SAT 28 March**

Our Lady's J. & C. Prendergast  
Ann Purfield's Intentions  
St Peter's Bishop David Oakley  
Paddy Dunbar  
Jack Badger

**SUN 29 March  
Fifth Sunday  
of Lent (A)**

Day of Prayer for the  
candidates for the  
Sacraments

St Joseph's Enda McSharry RIP  
Kath Noonan RIP  
Our Lady's Kathleen Donovan's Intentions  
Ron Hall  
St Peter's Bernard Cross  
Thomas Mulligan

**MON 30 March  
Lent feria**

St Peter's Special Intentions (SPAN)  
St Joseph's Deceased members of the Harwar  
& Keating Families

**TUE 31 March  
Lent feria**

St Joseph's Paul Rabone RIP  
St Peter's Montague Pendleton

**WED 1 April  
Lent feria**

Our Lady's David Dimambro  
St Peter's Requiem: Ann Hopkins

**THU 2 April  
Lent feria**

St Peter's Gerry Quinn  
St Joseph's Breda Cleary RIP  
Paul Reszka

**FRI 3 April  
Lent feria  
First Friday. Day of  
prayer for victims of  
sexual abuse**

St Joseph's George Fraser Anniversary  
Our Lady's Peter Dale  
St Peter's Requiem: Michael Hughes

**Sat 4 April  
Lent feria**

St Joseph's Intentions of Mary Rogerson  
St Peter's Portia Brightburn  
David Winter  
Rosa Cruz  
Our Lady's Michael Hartnett

**SUN 5 APRIL  
Palm Sunday (A)  
Day of Prayer for the  
candidates for the  
Sacraments**

St Joseph's Enda McSharry RIP  
Patrick Murphy RIP  
In Thanksgiving (AJ)  
Our Lady's Fr Lawrence Crowe  
St Peter's Tony McAndrew  
Dermot Collins

**LIVE-STREAMING OF WORSHIP**  
(from St Joseph's Church as follows)

**Sunday, Mass, 9.00 am, Fr Andy**

**Sunday, Mass, 11.00 am, Fr John**

*Monday, Stations of the Cross, 6.30 pm*

**Monday, Mass, 7.00 pm**

**Tuesday, Mass, 9.30 am**

**Wednesday, Mass, 11.00 am, Fr John**

**Thursday, Mass, 7.00 pm**

*Thursday, Exposition, 7.30-8.00 pm*

**Friday, Mass, 9.30 am**

**Saturday, Mass, 9.30 am**

**Recently deceased:** Mario Fuchs, Michael Fuchs, Annie Chalk, Mary 'May' Martin, Ann Hopkins, Canon Peter Taylor, Fr Bob Wright, Paul Reszka, Michael Hughes, Percy Fitzgerald, Patrick Gannon, Rosario Lazzara.

**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, Robert Lynn, Catherine Monaghan, Vincent Hanratty, Christina Collins, Richard Payne, Michelle Connolly, Michael McMahon, Brendan O'Regan, Margaret Gannon, Mary-Ann Buckley, Pawel Sowa, Anthony McAndrew, Carmela Samperi, Edward Tierney, Margaret O'Farrell, Dermot Collins, Elizabeth Allcock, Margaret Wheeler, Michael Dillon, Isabel Christobal, Peter Bosworth, Montague Pendleton, Rev Thomas Cockburn, Canon Brian Withers, Rev Matthew Sheridan, Rev John Callaghan, Archbishop Leighton Williams (Third Archbishop of Birmingham), Deacon Raymond Zacaroli, Rev Philip O'Reilly, Mgr Dan Leonard, Rev Lawrence King.

**May they rest in peace.**

## Dear Parishioners

This week I had an answerphone message from one of the Bishops: “I expect you are feeling a bit bored!” he said. Had I been able to reply that wasn’t the word I was thinking of to describe my week. “Very busy” would be a better description. The clergy are on their own because the parish staff are at home, but the work of the church continues. Fr Noel and I are saying Mass in private behind closed doors. We are dealing with various queries as they come to us by email or by telephone.

I have been in contact with our schools – all are open to look after the children of parents in essential work. I am concerned about some families who might be struggling to make ends meet. A number of people in the parish have been made redundant and are owed money. I have been in contact with St Peter’s Aid to the Needy and they have offered support and are working with the headteachers. I wonder how many parishioners are finding it difficult because they have been told to self-isolate, and those who are sick for reasons other than coronavirus. If there is such a parishioner near you, would you be able to print off a newsletter and post it through their letterbox (perhaps with your own telephone number, or that of the parish, saying please call if you need any help). You might also call the SVP (details further in the newsletter).

All of us are facing many difficulties of one sort or another but these pale into insignificance when we think of the people on the front line who are caring for the sick. The Coronavirus seems to target the weakest and most vulnerable members of our society. It requires all of us to be strong but careful. Keep safe by following instructions.

From my own point of view, I really miss seeing people. It saddens me not to be able to see my parishioners but you can see me and we can pray for each other. I am very grateful to Fr Andy for providing a Live Web Stream. Many people say they have felt supported by it. **Web Streaming allows you to tune in to Walsingham for a very special streamed service today for the Rededication of England as Mary’s Dowry.**

I have spoken to Archbishop Bernard who sends his warmest greetings to all parishioners and his prayers for us at this difficult time.

When we cannot receive Holy Communion we can make a spiritual communion which means being open to the special grace of God in our desire to receive Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Here are two prayers written by St Alphonsus Liguori which we can learn by heart so we can say them at any time or when we are in danger. We could say these prayers especially at those times when we would have been at Mass.

### Prayer of Repentance

*I love You Jesus, my love above all things. I repent with my whole heart for having offended You. Never permit me to separate myself from You again. Grant that I may love You always and then do with me what You will.*

### Prayer for Spiritual Communion

*My Jesus, I believe You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You in the Sacrament of Holy Communion come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.*

Every blessing, Fr John.

## A Reflection for 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent A

By Fr Noel

It is little wonder, when we read today’s Gospel, that it is one of the preferred readings at many funerals. It offers hope, reassurance, comfort and consolation at a time of peoples lives when they need it most.

When someone dies we become acutely aware of the absence they leave in our lives, their death can bring into very sharp focus the unique place they had in our life, and the special qualities they possessed that will be missed in the future. It is a time of regret and sorrow and occasionally a time of reproach. You will regularly hear the bereaved family say, “If only I had, If only I was, If only I could have,” just like Martha, “If only you were here.” Sorrow takes on a wishful form of aspirations which will seemingly now never be fulfilled. We can also close in on ourselves not allowing others any share in our grief, we can be like Mary sitting in the house, yet it was her tears which brought forth the tears of Jesus.

Although we can see how we identify in different degrees with the characters in today’s Gospel. We believe that we will never imitate Lazarus in his resurrection, but his resurrection was unlike that of Jesus, because Lazarus’s return wasn’t permanent. He would die again, when he emerged from the tomb, he was still bound hands and feet and the cloth on his face, when Jesus rose, he left the clothes of the tomb behind him.

Yet we daily or at least regularly identify with Lazarus. We are called daily by God to die to sin, we have opportunities to raise ourselves from our problems, from selfish living, from addiction to pleasure or escapism. Some of the tombs we find ourselves in can be most comfortable, but irresponsible, they can be enjoyable but suffocating, they can lead to an adequate but rarely fulfilling life.

We can all retreat into our shells, which no one but ourselves can break, yet it can only lead to a life of regret we can console ourselves with the “If only syndrome.”

If only I had a happier childhood, If only I had a better education, If only I had the money, If only I had better friends, If only I had better health, If only I had the time, If only the boss would take more notice of me, If only I had family connections. So, you see even if like Lazarus we break out of our tombs there are things binding our hands and feet, there are cloths over our eyes these are the very things that can keep us dead within.

Lent is a time for us to leave our tombs and like Jesus leave our ties and clothes neatly folded behind us. We must hear the voice of Christ calling us out of our exile, and when we leave our worries behind we will celebrate our new life in Christ by helping others to shake off the things that bind them: help them to recognise their own potential and give them the encouragement we ourselves needed to live a fuller, more meaningful, rewarding life. Physical death is a powerful reminder to us for the need of faith in the resurrection. But if we experience a resurrection or two from our own self-imposed graves during our lifetime, then the reality and impact of Christ's resurrection will be even more apparent in our conduct, our prayer and in our care and consideration towards others.

Lazarus means "God to the rescue." Bethany means "House of Affliction." May we all be rescued from our afflictions this Lent.

## Our Lady's & St Peter's

**A huge thank you to all our parishioners who have filled out new Standing Orders to help support the churches at this critical time. These have amounted to SP £1,022.50 per month; and OL £20.00 per month.**

**I am ever grateful to those who have supported their respective churches in this way for many years.**

Can you join them and make such a commitment for your offertory? This could be a weekly, fortnightly, monthly or annual amount. You remain in control for as long as you want. At this time though it makes a 'sink or drown' difference to your church.

Last week we received about a third of our usual weekly income (£20,000). Without that money coming in, we will hit the buffers in three months. The outgoings remain mostly the same. One example that springs to mind is insurance, £4,500 per year paid by monthly Standing Order = £375. Our staff are working from home if they can but can their salaries be sustained? This needs to be reviewed as per government and Archdiocesan advice. I have waived my Diocesan remittance to help in a small way. We continue to pay Council Tax; Water; Electricity; Gas. We don't need to heat and light the churches at present, but there are standing charges, and essential maintenance continues (see below).

We are all in uncharted territory, an uncertain future, but I urge you to think of your churches and help in any amount you can afford. Thank you.

**This week, among other things, was one of gutters and drainpipes.** At Our Lady's Church there was half a brick in one of the downpipes causing a serious blockage. The canopy over the front of Our Lady's church is supported by thin poles. Each of these is a drainpipe and all were blocked with moss and gunge. They need to be cleared regularly. At St Peter's a huge cherry picker lorry (driven from Southend and overseen by a builder) cleared all the gutters, gulleys and drainpipes. Many of the lower ones on the side of St Peter's Road were blocked with bottles. The combined cost runs into thousands.

**200 Club:** The March Draw winners are First Prize (£50.00) Lucy Potter; Second Prize (£25.00) Mrs Graham; and Third Prize (£10.00) Mary Cashman. Congratulations to the winners!

**Tales of the Unexpected:** I have some good news and some bad news. Bad news first. When the clocks go forward the boss will lose an hour of sleep. Good News: I will get my dinner an hour earlier than usual. Best woofs, Bertie.  
Xxx

## St Joseph's

This week Our Lady's Seven Day Candle burns for **Sally & Cyril Lamont**

**Thank you** to all who have followed the online streaming. Please do avail yourselves of the Mass and Devotions during this time of spiritual uncertainty.

**Offertory.** Any Offertory envelopes or contributions can be placed through the Presbytery letterbox. Hopefully neither Monty or Oak will eat them! Thank you for your continued generosity at this time. Offertory by Paypal is now available. Please follow the link on [www.stjosephs47.org.uk](http://www.stjosephs47.org.uk). Mass Intention requests or 200 Club subscriptions can also be put through the door.

**Gift Aid** Envelopes for year commencing Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April (Easter Sunday) are available for collection in the

Narthex, when the church is allowed to re-open. If you are a Tax Payer and would like to sign up for Gift Aid, so that the Parish can claim back the Tax you have paid on your offering then please contact Patrick Murphy, 07711 346405.

**The Parish Office** is now closed until further notice. For anything Urgent please either 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.

**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/>

Offertories: £368.08. Money for CAFOD: £5.00.

## General News

**SPAN – St Peter's Aid for the Needy –** are holding

everyone in their prayers at this time. Please get in touch if you would like a chat, particularly if you are isolated.

SPAN will be in touch with the local charities that we support to see if we can help them address their concerns at the moment. We will also be communicating with our friends that we support around the world to see how their communities are getting on, offering our prayers.

All our core beneficiaries will continue to be supported during the Coronavirus outbreak. This is possible due to the generosity in Catholic Leamington of people who have made out Bank Standing Orders and where possible associated Gift Aid, so we are not dependant

on collection box donations. Updated Standing Order and Gift Aid forms are on the parish website [catholicleamington.org.uk/span.html](http://catholicleamington.org.uk/span.html)

Do get in touch if you have particular concerns. Our prayers and good wishes to you. To hear the feedback we receive you can be added to our email distribution list by contacting [paulhayden@ntlworld.com](mailto:paulhayden@ntlworld.com)

**The SVP** has a support network. The Diocesan Safeguarding team advises that parish volunteers who are going into people's homes will still need to have a DRB check. These are not necessary, though, for those delivering shopping to outside the door. Helpers are needed. Any parishioner aged 18 to 69 who is wondering how to be useful, please contact Richard Gordon 07974 455732 (Lillington) or Fr John or Fr Andy for signposting to other support available.