

CATHOLIC LEAMINGTON

6th Sunday of Easter: Sunday 5th May 2024

Parish Priest of St Peter's & Our Lady's: Fr Stephen Day

Parish Priest of St Joseph's: Fr David Hartley

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DAY	AT ST PETER'S	AT OUR LADY'S	INTENTION
SUNDAY 5th May 2024 <i>6th Sunday of Easter</i>	4:15-45pm - Confessions 5pm: Vigil Mass	~	Tommy Kavan RIP
	11.15am Sung Mass	9.15am Sung Mass with First Holy Communion With Children's Liturgy	Jamie Fraser RIP Gerry Quinn RIP; May Barker
Monday 6th <i>Easter Feria</i>	~	~	9:30am Mass at St. Joseph's
Tuesday 7th <i>Easter Feria</i>	10am Mass	~	Desmond McLaughlin RIP
Wednesday 8th <i>Easter Feria</i>	~	10am Mass	Sheila Walker
THURSDAY 9th <i>Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. (Of obligation).</i>	10am Mass, with school 6pm: Reception 7pm Mass	12 Noon	Peggy Forde's Recovery Catherine Dineen Mary Duffy RIP Robert Hansowitz RIP
Friday 10th <i>Opt. Mem. of St. John of Avila, Pr., Dr. of the Church</i>	10:30am Funeral Mass 3pm Divine Mercy Devs.	~	Requiem: Mary Duffy RIP
Saturday 11th <i>Easter Feria</i>	9:15-45am - Confessions Exposition until 10am Mss 4:15-45pm - Confessions 5pm: Vigil Mass with First Holy Communion	~ ~	Sr. Frances O'Dwyer RIP Jenny Warr's Recovery
SUNDAY 12th <i>7th Sunday of Easter</i>	11.15am Sung Mass	9.15am Sung Mass <i>With Children's Liturgy</i>	Robert Habgood RIP Bob Heffernan RIP

SUNDAY MASSES AT ST JOSEPH'S, WHITNASH: 10AM & 5:30PM. Details on their website: stjosephs47.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING The Parishes operate in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are: **Our Lady's** Claire Walsh email sg.ccolc.lillington@rcaob.org.uk ; **St Peter's** Theresa Goh or Susan Chan email sg.stpeterapostle.leamington@rcaob.org.uk **The Diocesan Safeguarding Team** can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or at safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.

Anniversaries of the faithful departed: John O'Mahony, Robert Habgood, Philip Murphy, Sheila Pallister, Dorothy Suther, Rosa Castrolillo, John Kundert, Michael Hurley, Geraldine Quinn, Marie Allen, Philip Banholzer, John Long, Stephanie Norton, Bishop Gray, Cn. Bernard Hurrill, Cn. Francis Woodward, Fr. David Duggan, Fr. Michael Byrne, Fr. James Dutton, Fr. Donal O'Connor, Fr. Francis Carr, Fr. Walter Joret, Fr. Patrick Cocklin, Dcn. James Duffy. **The recently deceased:** Mary Dandek, Cissie Power, Mary Duffy, Stephanie O'Sullivan, Daniel Donovan. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.**

- PLEASE FOLLOW THE PARISHES' FACEBOOK PAGES -

Catholic Leamington: <https://www.facebook.com/RCatholicLeamington>

Our Lady's: <https://www.facebook.com/ourladyslillington>

St Joseph's: <https://www.facebook.com/stjosephswhitnash>



MAY IS MARY'S MONTH

'The Rosary is a prayer that always accompanies me; it is also the prayer of the ordinary people and the saints... it is a prayer from my heart' - Pope Francis

WELCOME TO MASS: Christ is risen! Alleluia! Today's Gospel is a radical call for a renewed mission of loving. It is easy to think that love is something that spontaneously arises, especially when we think of romantic love. But the love that Christ calls us to is not something that we must wait to feel and then act on, but clearly, as He gives us a command to love, it is something that we can *will*. The fundamental source of love is of course God, whose reason for creating and redeeming the world is simply love. Christ's love is active and seeks us to love, coming as it does from the very heart of God's Being—the Holy Trinity—Father, Son and Holy Spirit in a loving unity. We may speak of loving many things—our pets, ice cream, cricket, our family for example—and yet the word 'love' means something different in each case. The life-giving love of God is meant to be celebrated, witnessed to and shared by His people. As we begin the month of Mary, there is no better example of human life being utterly transformed by a loving 'yes' to God's plans, transforming not only Mary's love but the lives of all who respond to God's love. **God bless you all, Fr Stephen**



THE QR CODE FOR TODAY'S READINGS: Simply scan on your smart phone. This works for every day.

HOLY COMMUNION: If you are **not a Roman Catholic**, a member of a church in full communion with it, or an Orthodox unable to attend an Orthodox Liturgy, you are *warmly invited to come forward for a blessing* at the time of Holy Communion. Holy Communion cannot be given to all, as it is for us the sign of **unity in the faith**. Communion is **not** bread and wine, but the **Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of God the Son**. Let us pray for true unity among all Christians, as God wills. **Blessed be Jesus in the most Holy Sacrament of the Altar!**

JUSTICE & PEACE GROUP: Card signing for Prisoners of Conscience at Masses at **Our Lady's THIS WEEKEND**. We have a few chosen by ACAT (Action by Christians against Torture) see the web site on <https://www.acatuk.org.uk> **Please stop and sign a card**. We do ask for donations to cover postage if possible. It really makes a difference to those imprisoned with little hope of justice.

LATIN DANCE FIT FOR LADIES: we are starting a **NEW** Dance base exercise class in the hall on Mondays 10am-10.45 please come to a **FREE** taster class on Monday 6th May, this is for all ages and abilities, to book your place please call 07780543976.

COME & PLAY: every Tuesday between 9:30—11am in SP Hall. We welcome mothers and children. There is no charge. If anyone would like to join the rota as a helper please contact Clare Burdett on—07720 887 002. If anyone has toys to donate please bring them to Pastimes on a Tuesday or contact Clare on the number above.

PASTIMES COMMUNITY HUB: Tuesdays 12-3pm. A warm place with company, refreshments (incl soup and rolls), and many activities. **Volunteering**—we need volunteers at Pastimes, please come along on Tuesday and speak with Margaret to find out what's involved.

THURSDAY IS ASCENSION DAY (of Obligation): We celebrate Christ returning to His Father. Where He has gone, may we follow. **Masses at SP 10am and 7pm, at OL 12 noon.**

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LEAMINGTON: Annual meeting 9 May 7pm in Lillington Free Church. The officers will give a summary of CTL activities of the year and elect officers for 2024-25.

STUDY & REFLECTION ON SUNDAY'S MASS READINGS: every Friday in the Davenport Room from 11 - 12 to look at the following Sunday's readings.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS: Fridays 3pm at St Peter's. At the hour of mercy come to implore mercy for the world and praise God for that mercy revealed to us by Jesus on the Cross, pierced for our sins..

OUR LADY'S FUNDRAISER: Liz, the pianist at Our Lady's, has cycled 65 miles on her 65th birthday at the beginning of May, and asks for **sponsors** to support the **maintenance of Our Lady's**. Please ask her for an envelope designating your donation, and give a little extra in it to the 2nd collection. Envelopes will also be in the church porches.

KINDAID: Tickets are now available for **KINDAID's Spring Supper** 6.30pm on **Sat 11 May**. Adults £10 children £5. *Everyone welcome.*

SPAN: At the next SPAN open meeting, Steve, from Global Care, who are one of the beneficiaries of Frank Garvey's legacy, will describe his recent visit to Uganda and their work there. **Mon 13 May 7.30pm.**

FAMILY QUIZ NIGHT AT ST JOSEPH'S: Sat 18 May 7pm

PENTECOST PARTY: Sunday 19 May. To welcome those who were received into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil and to celebrate the birthday of the Church, a shared lunch from 1pm in St. Peter's parish centre. All parishioners invited. Please bring a plate of food for the shared table, savoury or sweet, if possible representing your country of origin. Further details from Margaret on 428399.

MEN'S GROUP for CATHOLIC LEAMINGTON : Next meet **21 May 7.45pm** at the **Benjamin Satchwell** (Wetherspoons). Come along for convivial company, food and drink. So far Fr Stephen has been the only member of St Peter's or Our Lady's to attend! Men, please give it a go!

SUNDAY LUNCH: The next Sunday Lunch will be on 26th May 2024 at 1pm in SP Parish Hall, please sign up on the sheets at the back of Church at SP & OL.

MASS FOR THE SICK: Tues 18 June 11.30am St Joseph's, then lunch. **FUNERAL MASSES** Might weekday regulars come to Funeral Masses to pray for the dead, support the mourners and be a welcoming presence, simply by being at Mass: your presence and prayer are all that's asked.

SVP APPEAL:— does anyone have a child's pushchair they no longer need? For age one plus. Please let David Burton know on 07713 246987

YOUTH GROUP: Volunteer leaders from Catholic Leamington are now undergoing a training course and then will set up a Yrs6-9 group based at St Peter's Hall to complement the Yr10+ group being established at St Mary Immaculate, Warwick.

SERVERS AND SERVING: Thank you to our servers at both churches. **We'd love a few more!** See Bob at St Peter's or Adrian at Our Lady's **ST PETER'S HALL The hall is available to hire.** Please promote it—Email hall.stpeterapostle.leamington@rcaob.org.uk to make enquiries.

DONATING TO ST PETER'S: A **card machine** is at the back of St Peter's. You may also give online via the website OR by scanning this QR code on your smart phone, or by standing order, or in the collection. **Please Gift Aid your donations** so that the parish can reclaim from the tax man—it then becomes **worth 25% more at no cost to you**. See Jim Insley. There are forms at the back of church.



DONATING TO OUR LADY'S: It is possible to donate to the parish via the Diocesan website (there is a red donate button towards the top right on every page), or click [here](#), or use the QR code or by standing order, or in the collection. **Please Gift Aid your donations** so that the parish can reclaim from the tax man—it then becomes **worth 25% more at no cost to you**. See Jim Insley or Fr Stephen. There are forms at the back of church.



Thank you! Each parish has always had its own bank account and continues to do so!

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTIONS: SP: 1st Coll—£558.85, 2nd Coll. (Ch. Maint.) - £307.65. OL: 1st Coll—£292.80, 2nd Coll. (Ch. Maint.) - £174.95. Standing Orders in April—Approx. £875 per week. This weekend the second collections at St. Peter's is for **Church Redecoration** & Our Lady's is for **Church Maintenance**. **Thank you** for your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS: Please be aware that the earliest availability for

INSTEAD OF THE HAIL MARY AT SUNDAY MASSES WE SING:

OUR LADY'S EASTERTIDE ANTHEM

REGINA COELI, laetare, alleluia! Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia!
Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia! Ora pro nobis, Deum, alleluia!
(Translation: Rejoice, Queen of Heaven, for He whom you were fit to bear,
has risen as He said. Pray for us! Alleluia!)

Our prayers for the Sick: Giovanni Allurlino, Marie Clare Banner, Edward Behan, Sarah Bonnalie, Pam Brambles, Portia Brightburn, Norman Byrne, Mario Fasi, Wilfrid Feely, Barbara Gekoski, Joe Graham, Eileen Hiorns, Sandra Hunt, Jean Hurley, Sheila Ireland, Mist Johnson, David Kendall, Una Maddocks, Nathaniel Manning, Deborah Meades, Kate Miles, Fina Monastero, Michael Mulcahy, Jo Murphy, Andrew Murray, Ahmed Musa, Paula Newton, Gill Parker, Fr. Malcolm Prince, Fr. Tony Rohan, Nell Smyth, Christine Tam, Terena Tam, Terry Tam, Elizabeth Weston, Peter Wright, Mary Yapp & all those at home, or in the nursing homes & hospitals of the Parish, or who receive Holy Communion at home. **Lord Jesus, watch over all who suffer and are in pain. Bless all those who care for them. Our Lady, help of the sick, pray for them.**

Sunday 11:15am Mass is 15 May onwards.

7 DAY CANDLES at ST PETER'S: If you'd like to have a Sanctuary candle lit for your intention please complete an envelope titled 7-day candles, at the back of Church together with your donation of £10.

ST PETER'S SPRING CLEAN: Anyone willing to help physically clear the space around and behind the Church Hall please contact Roger on 07983 869 092.

PARKING AT OUR LADY'S: The new Health Centre car park next door is open and Our Lady's congregation may use it. **Great news!**

ARRANGING A BAPTISM

Congratulations on the birth of your baby! First, parents must begin the process by seeing Fr Stephen *in person* at a Sunday Mass. He can then check a few simple facts and give out a baptism application form. We do not deal with initial arrangements by phone, email or through other members of the family, but face to face. Parents need to attend a preparation session before the baptism can take place.

ARRANGING A WEDDING

Congratulations on your engagement! To arrange a wedding, an initial meeting with Fr Stephen is vital so that the canonical and civil processes can be correctly followed. Please give at least six months' notice.

PLEASE PRAY FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

LORD GOD, your Son Jesus Christ took flesh and trod the soil of His homeland. We pray for all who live on that same soil today that hatred and violence may be replaced by justice and peace. Turn savage hearts from the way of death and let Your message of peace and life be heard once again as it was on the hills of Bethlehem at Jesus' birth. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**- SPECIAL INFORMATION SECTION -
2024 IN OUR LADY'S & ST PETER'S
THE DIOCESAN VISION, THE PARISHES, FINANCE AND
BUILDINGS**

Archbishop Bernard has called us to engage with shaping the practical outworking of the Diocesan Vision. He writes:

'We are called to be a Catholic diocese which is: faithful to the mission entrusted to us by Jesus Christ full of missionary disciples who work together co-responsibly in vibrant communities of faith, joyful in their service of God and neighbour.'

The parishes of Catholic Leamington, with our neighbours, are currently engaging with this through the formation of Parish Pastoral Councils and the Deanery Pastoral Council which meets for the first time this month. At Our Lady's and St Peter's, I have gathered a small group of people to begin to create a Parish Pastoral Council. We are at the very earliest stage and are considering numbers needed, a constitution, as well as a general understanding of the state of the parishes. Although this is a consultative body (in Canon Law, the buck always stops with the parish priest, so he has any final say) it *is vital that lay faithful and clergy work together*. I would never want to be making serious decisions without the help and support of the congregation, who will be given access to the facts and figures that shape any decision.

There are many challenges that we need to address. Certainly, with smaller congregations, less money and fewer priests, we cannot simply carry on in the same old way that we are used to. How best to deploy a reduced number of priests? How do we maintain our buildings in the face of rising costs? Are there going to be costly issues about our buildings? How can we as priests and lay faithful work together to promote the mission of the Church and free ourselves of concerns over maintenance and utilities bills?

These are firmly practical questions the answers to which will shape our children's and grandchildren's experience of the Church. It is tempting to think that because 'my church' has always been there for me it will always be, no matter what. We all hope that is true, but we are entering a time of change: it is up to the lay faithful and the clergy to work together to forge that change positively and fruitfully. There may be grants for listed buildings but there are **no** financial bottomless pits to cover expenses that we can't cover ourselves.

Our forebears had the vision and energy, the faith and commitment to work hard to provide us with the buildings we have today. Together, may we find the way of keeping the best of that for those who will come after us. Change can always feel daunting, but change does not have to be bad nor dictated from 'on high'. To grow in faith and love is to change, for example, and to change for the better. May that be the hallmarks of whatever is to come so that we are indeed vibrant and joyful communities of faith.

Over the coming months, architect's five yearly inspections of our buildings at St Peter's, Our Lady's and St Joseph's will reveal what needs to be done to maintain them, and the financial costs of that. Our Lady's inspection happened last Tuesday and it will be a few weeks before the have the report itself. But the architect has identified serious problems with the roof which go beyond rotten facias and soffits. There is a possibility of needing to pay very large bills (with all the need for fundraising). Our annual accounts state the financial health of each parish and the final report of the deanery Visitation (which will reflect not just on individual parishes but possible ways forward for the deanery as a whole) will provide facts and suggestions that will shape the future direction of every parish. There will be much for us to absorb, reflect on and discuss. These are not abstract documents that don't really change anything: they are practical and factual statements that will determine so much. They may be easy, or they may be challenging in what they reveal, but they will give us a basis for much of our consideration. May the Holy Spirit give us wisdom and our patron saints pray for us as we go forward. We proceed, therefore, in the very best of company!

While we await the detailed presentation of the 2023 accounts here are some broad figures from Our Lady's and from St Peter's over recent years.

	St Peter's	Our Lady's
Total Expenditure 2021	£188,855	£39,670
Total Expenditure 2022	£199,277	£43,280
Total Expenditure 2023	£243,248 <i>incl boiler payment of £50,000</i>	£61,489
Total Income 2021	£133,890	£66,137 <i>incl £44,000 transfer from reserves</i>
Total Income 2022	£208,829	£38,383
Total Income 2023	£252,076 <i>incl part of boiler fundraising and £50,000 transfer from reserves</i>	£51,603
Fundraising for parish 2021	£0	£0
Fundraising for parish 2022	£3,900	£0
Fundraising for parish 2023	£109,000 <i>incl boiler</i>	£1,497

NB The figures do not include any money given to SPAN or Kindaid as they are independent charities, financially completely separate from the parishes.

- The heating of St Peter's Church, presbytery and hall in the winter costs about £3,000 a month, or £750 a week. That's without counting electricity...
- The hall running and maintenance costs are so high that although St Peter's Hall Group are doing great work in increasing outside bookings, the hall has been a loss-making enterprise for three years, running now at a reduced deficit of about £150 a week. This problem has been widely publicised in the parish, and the hall's availability widely advertised to the town. Expenditure on the hall was £22,236 in 2023
- A total of £125,000 was spent on maintaining St Peter's hall, church and presbytery in 2023.
- Heating Our Lady's Church is about £500 a month.
- In 2023 £25,000 was spent maintaining Our Lady's church, hall and presbytery. The presbytery is rented out to Our Lady's benefit.
- The average weekend congregation at St Peter's is about 300. The average at Our Lady's is about 145. These figures are highly variable, both up and down. **Thank you** to all you faithful parishioners!

Costs have been cut as much as possible. The big savings have been not having to support a curate and unfortunately having to declare the hall caretaker's job redundant. Other contracts have been reviewed. Rented properties are now managed by a commercial agency. All the sizeable cost cutting is done. It is income that needs to rise.

Much food for thought and indeed prayer: more is coming over the next few months.

Thank you for your support, your giving, your ideas and your commitment. St Peter's and Our Lady's really are great places to be a priest. May God bless us and the Holy Spirit guide us as together we work to serve Him in our parishes. Our Lady and St Peter, pray for us.

Fr Stephen