EXTRA

September 2026

FORTY HOURS FOR CHRIST

Come and rest in the presence of the Lord Himself and experience the power of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament! The presence of Jesus on the altars and in the tabernacles of our churches is an immense act of love that we can all too often take for granted. Yet, having come among us in the flesh and being born of the Virgin, Jesus cannot keep away from us even though He has returned to the Father. Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament is therefore a trusting response to that loving presence. The practice of Forty Hours is an ancient one that offers the maximum opportunity for Christ's people to come to Him. So on 17,18 and 19 of September St Peter's will open at 7.00 am and remain open all day. During this extended period there is much silence, as well the celebration of morning, noon and evening prayer of the Church, guided meditations, rosary, and Mass. And finally, the time ends with Solemn Benediction as Christ blesses His people. Please do come along at any time and simply sit with the Lord; that's the whole idea. There is much to pray for in our world, nation, parishes, and lives, whether to thank God for His blessings and mercy, or to pray for the needs of others and ourselves. Blessed be Jesus Christ in the most Holy Sacrament of the Altar!

Fr Stephen

EXTRA is for articles and information from parishioners and clergy in the churches of our local Cluster: St Francis of Assisi, Baddesley Clinton; St Charles Borromeo, Hampton-on-the-Hill; St Francis, Kenilworth; St Augustine, Kenilworth; St Peter's, Leamington Spa; Our Lady's, Lillington; St Mary Immaculate, Warwick; and St Joseph's, Whitnash. It is an opportunity to publish longer pieces that cannot fit into the weekly newsletters of each church. ***Information for the October edition should be sent to catholicclusterextra@gmail.com by 23 September. Thank you.***

WHAT'S ON, WHEN AND WHERE

BLESSING OF ICONS: The parishes of St Gregory and Holy Trinity in Stratford-upon-Avon have commissioned icons for their churches. To mark the icons' completion, there is a day of celebration on **Thursday 3 September**, 1.00—4.30 pm. From 1.00 pm in Stratford Town Hall there will be keynote speakers Dr Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, and Abbot Jeremias Schröder, Abbot Primate of the Benedictine Order. Full details on page 4.

MASS FOR THE SICK WITH ANOINTING: At St Joseph's Church, Whitnash, **Friday 11 September** at 11.00 am. Full details on page 5.

QUIZ, OUR LADY'S, LILLINGTON: Kindaid's Autumn Quiz will take place on **Saturday 12 September** at 6.00 pm. Entry £5.00 per person. Come as a team, or join up with others when you arrive. See page 6.

BINGO, ST JOSEPH'S, WHITNASH: Doors open at 7.00 pm on **Saturday 12 September**. Eyes down at 7.30 pm. The admission is £6.00 which includes ten games of Bingo for cash prizes. There will be a raffle in aid of Church Maintenance. Tea and coffee is provided. Please bring your own food and alchol.

ST FRANCIS CHURCH, KENILWORTH: A flower festival in honour of St Francis based on The Canticle of the Creatures. Open in the week **12—19 September** from 1.00—5.00 pm in the church.

ST MARY IMMACULATE, WARWICK: The church will be open from 1.00—5.00 pm on **Sunday 13 September** as part of Heritage Open Days. Come and visit Edward Pugin's decorated English Gothic church with its beautiful interior which was completely refurbished in 2025 and contains nine icons written by St Luke's Icon Group. There will be a talk about the church at 2.00 pm on that day. Also, See the marriage certificate of JRR Tolkien who was married in this church in 1916.

OUR LADY'S CHURCH, LILLINGTON: Open on Heritage Open Days (**Sunday 13 and Sunday 20 September**). Full details on page 7.

EUCHARISTIC FESTIVAL: **Thursday 17 to Saturday 19 September**, there are daily schedules of Exposition alongside Mass, Rosary, Prayers and a guided Holy Hour at 11.30 am on Thursday and Friday (on Saturday, the guided Holy Hour will be at 3.00 pm). See page 8 for full details.

TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE: The next Prayer Service will be on **Friday 19 September** at Our Lady's Church, Lillington at 7.00 pm. This is a lovely reflective ecumenical service, open to all.

CURRY NIGHT: **Saturday 26 September** at Our Lady's Church, Lillington starting at 6.00 pm. Delicious Asian cuisine with entertainment and quizzes. Tickets cost £15.00 (adult) and £8.00 (children). Tickets available after Mass or call Mary on 07540 532785. See page 9.

DO STUFF THAT MATTERS! Informal sip and socialise hosted by SPAN on **Friday 2 October** in St Peter's Church Hall at 7.30 pm. Bring a friend! Full details on page 10.

ADORATION AND BENEDICTION: The National Eucharistic Congress takes place on Saturday 10 October in London. Parishes are invited to mark this with their services. At Our Lady's Church, Lillington, on **Sunday 11 October**, there will be a short Eucharistic procession around the church grounds, followed by Holy Hour. Further details to follow.

TEA DANCE: **Sunday 18 October** at St Peter's Church Hall. Doors open 2.15 pm. A mix of Ballroom, Latin, Sequence and Line Dances. Beginners are very welcome. Full details on page 11.

FR KEVIN HOOPER

Fr Kevin Hooper: In mid-August, Fr Kevin fainted and fell during Sunday Mass at Our Lady's. He broke two bones in his leg, and thanks to the immediate care of doctors in the congregation, was safely packed off to A&E at Warwick. Many people have supported him at home from at least three parishes, but Fr Kevin is now continuing his convalescence at St Joseph's in Coleshill. Here he is receiving some respite care which means that his recovery should go as smoothly as possible. He is very grateful for all the support, visits and good wishes he has received since his accident. He will be away for about six weeks. Please keep him in your prayers. It is of course possible to visit him or to send him a card. St Joseph's Care Home, Off Coventry Rd, Gerards Way, Coleshill, Birmingham B46 3EA

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MARTYRS WALK 2026

Every year local Catholics walk as pilgrims from Leamington, Warwick and Whitnash Catholic churches to Gallows Hill to meet there for a time of prayer to commemorate three brave men who were put to death for their faith in Elizabethan times. They, like many others, were killed at the top of Gallows Hill, an area which is being rapidly redeveloped, so we are never sure where will be the best place to assemble.

Pilgrims from Leamington, Warwick and Whitnash churches, gathered to pray.

The icon of Blessed William Freeman and Fr Patrick Mileham with the new street sign.

This year it took place on a very hot Sunday 16 August, the nearest Sunday to 13 August, the day when Blessed William Freeman was put to death in 1595. He was a priest working in the area. The other two martyrs were killed there in July 1604, another priest Blessed John Sugar and a local man Robert Grissold from Rowington, who had been helping him, and refused to give up his faith when offered the chance to avoid the death sentence.

COVENTRY NEWMAN CIRCLE

Coventry Newman Circle pursues St John Henry Newman's desire to have an "educated laity", with monthly talks by experts in their field – clergy, academics and lay people - mostly on themes of Catholic faith, history and related culture but also on other faiths. All talks are on Tuesdays at 7.30 pm in the Margaret Roper Room at St Thomas More Church, 112 Knoll Drive, Coventry CV3 5DE. The Open Talks series for 2026-27 starts on Tuesday 29 September on "*Priestly Formation for a Changing Church*" by Fr Pat Kilgarriff. All are invited.

CELEBRATION OF THE YEAR OF ST FRANCIS

St Francis of Assisi Church in Baddesley Clinton is fortunate to possess a First Class Relic of its Patronal Saint. This is displayed for veneration after weekend Masses: Saturday 6.00 pm and Sunday 11.00 am. In this Jubilee Year of St Francis there will be a talk and a video on St Francis from Mgr. Danny McHugh on Saturday 3 October. Time to be confirmed. There will also be a Patronal Mass on Sunday 4 October. St Francis Church, Rising Lane, Baddesley Clinton B93 0DD.

CHRISTIAN AID CHEESE & WINE

A return of last year's successful event in Leek Wootton Village Hall. Again the event will feature wines from countries that need our support including Ukraine and, it is hoped, Bolivia. This year the Cheese & Wine is on Friday 30 October from 7.30—9.30 pm. Tickets cost £25.00 and can be purchased via TicketTailor using this link https://www.tickettailor.com/events/leekwoottonchristianaid/ or contact Jonathan Cox by text 07443 866314 or by email jonathan.cox12@outlook.com.

CONFERENCE & BLESSING OF ICONS

The Parishes of St Gregory & Holy Trinity in Stratford-upon-Avon have commissioned icons for their churches and are marking the completion of these icons with this day of celebration

Thursday 3 September 2026

13.00 - 16.30

Stratford Town Hall

13.00 **Dr Rowan Williams,** former Archbishop of Canterbury

Love, Prayer and Management: the spiritual world of Gregory the Great

14.00 **Abbot Jeremias Schröder**, Abbot Primate of the Benedictine Order

Benedictine Mission: a contradiction in terms?

followed by discussion, an opportunity to meet the iconographers and refreshments

Guild Chapel

16.00 Ecumenical Service & Blessing of the Icons

After the service the icons will be taken to their respective churches

The Icons and the Iconographers

St Gregory's
St Benedict & St Gregory
Fr Alex Echeandia OSB

Holy Trinity
Christ Pantocrator
Rev. Susan Mobberley

All welcome, no charge but please register with St Gregory's Church Office
01789 292439 or stgregorytg.sua@rcaob.org.uk

SVP in the parishes

We are blessed with an SVP conference in each of the five local churches, here are some of our recent and future activities -

At Our Lady's in July –

The SVP had a stand at the Lillington Fun Day on the Holt Recreation ground. Here we told passersby all about the SVP and what we do for all in Lillington, and not just our own congregation.

A great way to show we are here to help

Christmas Hampers for 2026 (SVP at St Peter, Our Lady, St Joseph) – we are hoping to run this project again this year but are just running through the logistics of where and how we can store food and make

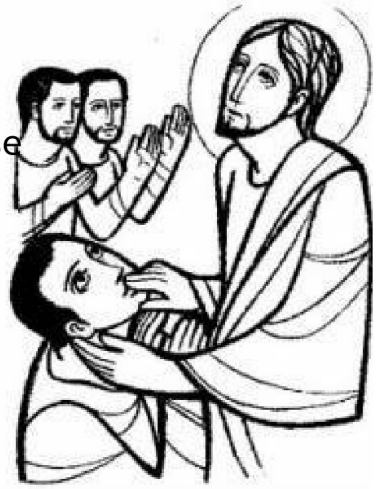
Mass for the Sick with anointing – Friday 11th September, 11am, St Joseph's church.

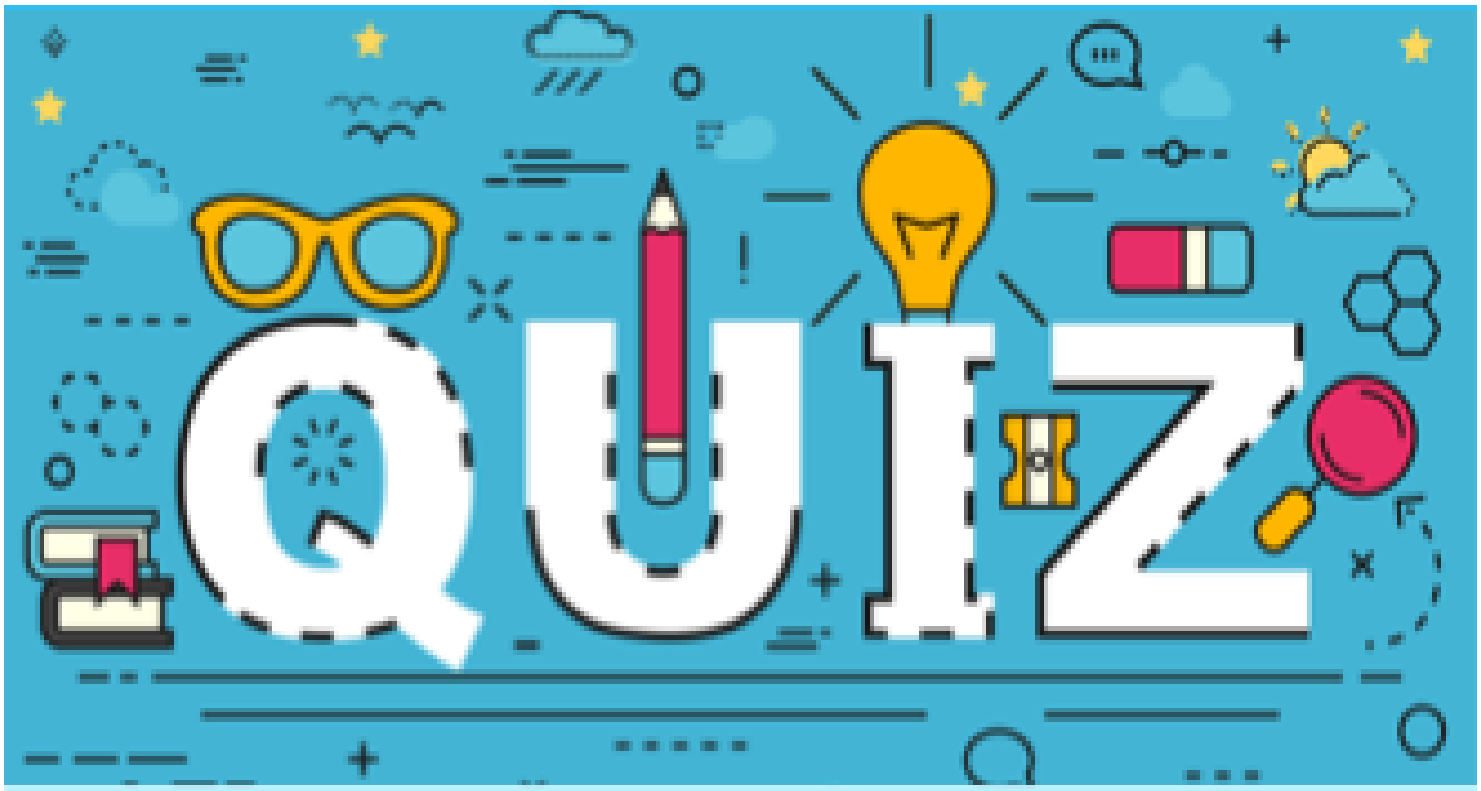
A reminder – if you want a lift to this Mass, please contact our SVP members -

Our Lady's, Lillington – Richard Gordon, 07974 455732

St Peter's, Leamington – Peter May, 07890 938806

St Joseph's, Whitnash – Brian Malone, 01926





Kindaid's Autumn Quiz will take place on
Saturday, 12 September at 6pm
in Our Lady's Church hall.

£5 per person. Come as a team, or join up with others when you arrive.

Church of Our Lady, Lillington

Scan the QR code to discover Our Lady's history, architecture, stained glass, and its meaning.

Heritage Open Days

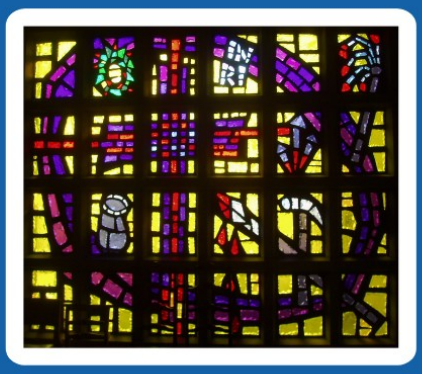
Discover Our Lady's Church

Sunday 13th & 20th September 2 - 4pm

Exhibition

Refreshments

Children's activites



- Grade 11 listed building
- Has one of the best exmples of dalle-de-verre glass in the country

WITH EUCHARISTIC MIRACLE
EXHIBITION IN THE HALL

40 Hours

EUCHARISTIC FESTIVAL

Experience the Power of Eucharistic Adoration

THURSDAY 17TH TO SATURDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER

DAILY SCHEDULE

Thursday 17th

7:00am Mass
7:30am Exposition
8:00am Morning Prayer
9:30am Rosary
9:55am Reposition
10:00am Mass
10:30am Exposition
11:330am Guided Holy Hour
1:00pm Midday Prayer
6:00pm Evening Prayer
6:30pm Rosary
8:00pm Repositon

Friday 18th

7:00am Mass
7:30am Exposition
8:00am Morning Prayer
9:30am Rosary
9:55am Reposition
10:00am Mass
10:30am Exposition
11:330am Guided Holy Hour
1:00pm Midday Prayer
3.00pm Divine Mercy Devotions
6:00pm Evening Prayer
6:30pm Rosary
8:00pm Repositon

Saturday 19th

7:00am Exposition
9:00-9:55am Confession
9:30am Morning Prayer
9:55am Reposition
10:00am Mass
10:30am Exposition
1:00pm Midday Prayer
3:00pm Guided Holy Hour
4-4:55pm Confession
4:55pm Reposition
5:00pm Mass
5:45pm Exposition
6:30pm Rosary
9:00pm Repositon

Scan for more info and to volunteer for an hour

St Peter Apostle **Leamington Spa CV31 3AA**

At Our Lady's Church Hall
Saturday, 26 September at 6pm
Delicious Asian Cuisine
With entertainment and quizzes

Tickets £15 adults, £8 children
Available after Mass at Our Lady's, or call Mary 07540 53785

SPAN

Supporting People Across the Nations

Because of your support great things happen

Life is Short...

DO STUFF THAT MATTERS

We need to future proof SPAN NOW!

It's a BIG ask but can you help?

JOIN US FOR AN INFORMAL Sip & Socialise

and please bring a friend!

Friday 2nd October at 7.30pm

St. Peter's Church Hall, Dormer Place, Leamington Spa

CAN YOU GIVE SPAN A COUPLE OF HOURS A MONTH?

HELP IS NEEDED WITH SOCIAL MEDIA, EVENTS AND FUND RAISING, ADMIN SUPPORT

COME ALONG & CHAT TO THE TEAM TO FIND OUT MORE

Please RSVP to: secretary@span.org.uk

Thank you for being such an important part of SPAN's mission

A mix of Ballroom, Latin, Sequence and Line Dances

Want a brief intro to Waltz, Slow Foxtrot, Rock & Roll with other Sequence and Line Dances?

Text Paul 07907 452235
Paulhayden444@gmail.com

Beginners welcome

Some dances will be taught, others you might like to follow

Come just to watch or have a go on your own or with a friend

Dancing should be fun

TEA DANCE

Sunday 18th October

Doors open 2.15 for 2.30 start until 4.45

St Peter's Church Hall

Dormer Place, Leamington, CV32 5AA

Admission £8 (£4 youth) including tea / coffee and cake please let us know you are coming so we can manage tables and catering paulhayden444@gmail.com

Have you danced before and want a reminder or practice?
You are welcome to come to our sound check and run through on Sunday 11th Oct from 3-4pm at St Peter's

Tea Dance and raffle in aid of roof repairs at Our Lady's Church, Lillington - Grade II listed