

SVP REPORT FOR PARISH AGM 2026

There are currently 11 members in St Joseph's Conference and we continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month. We visit the elderly either in their homes or in Residential Care Homes as well as families with particular needs, vulnerable individuals and/or people with mental health issues. The total number of beneficiaries currently stands at 28.

In the 12 months since the last AGM, Members will have made some 1,560 visits. Financial and other support has been provided where required, particularly to those struggling with the rising cost of living.

St Joseph's Conference continues to support its twinned Conference in India and a SVP Project in Birmingham which provides accommodation for vulnerable migrant women who are in need of protection and support. This year at Easter, the Conference also helped to supply Easter Eggs for prisoners in a Midlands Prison.

Last Christmas, we collected food donations for some 85 Christmas Hampers. We made up special Hamper boxes (donated by The Box Factory) and 5 members delivered the Hampers to needy families at our Primary Schools, other families and single people across Catholic Leamington. This coming Christmas, we will have to cut back on the scale of this project due to lack of secure and dedicated storage facilities as well as demand outgrowing supply!

In March this year, we continued our Strawberry Plant Project. One the members grows and provides in the region of 150 strawberry plants which are given to all Year 3 pupils at our 5 Catholic Primary Schools. The pupils either take the plants and grow them at home or in the school garden. The plants are intended to produce new plants each summer for the next Year 3 group to take over and grow but we also continue to provide new plants each year. With the support of the pupils' teachers, the idea is that by tending the new plants and seeing the new growth, pupils are encouraged to reflect on the regeneration and continuation of God's life.

A Mass for the Sick is due to be held at St Joseph's on 11th September supported by the SVP and fellow Parishioners at St Jpseph's.

St Joseph's Conference sold 100 books of Raffle Tickets for the SVP Nation Raffle last Summer and plan to do the same this year, raising funds not only for the wider SVP needs but also for the Conference.

Brian Malone