

St Peter's & Our Lady's: Part of Catholic Leamington

2nd SUNDAY of LENT Year C: Sunday 16th March 2025: Holy Year



SCAN TO DONATE

Parish Priest: Fr Stephen Day 3a Dormer Place, Leamington Spa, CV32 5AA Tel: 01926 423 824.

Office: stpeterapostle.leamington@rcaob.org.uk **Parish Priest:** fr.stephen.day@rcaob.org.uk

Website: catholicleamington.org.uk **Facebook** RCatholicLeamington and ourladystillington

Working with: St Joseph's, 47 Murcott Road, Whitnash CV31 2JJ **Parish Priest:** Fr David Hartley Tel: 01926 772712

Office: stjoseph.whitnash@rcaob.org.uk **Parish Priest:** fr.david.hartley@rcaob.org.uk **Website:** stjoseph47.org.uk

Facebook: stjosephswhitnash **Sunday Masses** 10am and 5.30pm

DAY	AT ST PETER'S	AT OUR LADY'S	INTENTION
SUNDAY 16th March 2nd Sunday of Lent	4:15-45pm - Confession 5pm: Vigil Mass	~	Dominic Maher RIP; Eileen O'Sullivan RIP
	11.15am Sung Mass <i>Children's Liturgy</i>	9.15am Sung Mass <i>Children's Liturgy</i>	Neil McCarran RIP Josephine Grant RIP; Molly McDermott RIP Anv.
Monday 17th Feast of St. Patrick, Bp., Patron of Ireland	9.30am Mass St Patrick's sch 10.30am J&P Stations of the Cross 12 noon Mass	~	Private Intention The People of the Parish
Tuesday 18th <i>Opt. Mem. of St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bp., Dr. of the Church</i>	10.30am Funeral Mass	~	<i>Requiem: Charles Brocas RIP</i>
Wednesday 19th Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the BVM	~	10am Mass, Stations of the Cross Follow	Michael Gaffney
Thursday 20th <i>Lent Feria</i>	10am Mass 7.00pm Confirmation Mass	~	Ahmed Musa RIP The Confirmandi & families
Friday 21st <i>Lent Feria</i>	7.00am Mass 12:30pm Funeral Mass 3pm Divine Mercy Devs.	~	Luke Sweeney RIP <i>Requiem: James Cleary RIP</i>
Saturday 22nd <i>Lent Feria</i>	Pilgrimage to Littlemore: no morning worship today 4:15-45pm - Confession 5pm: Vigil Mass	~ ~	~ Colin Dunphy RIP; Stefan Grosseckettler RIP & Mark Elliott RIP
SUNDAY 23rd 3rd Sunday of Lent	11.15am Sung Mass <i>Children's Liturgy</i>	9.15am Sung Mass <i>Children's Liturgy</i>	Rev. Fr. Laurence Crowe RIP Martin Lowry RIP; Slawek's Intentions

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 sg.ccolc.lillington@rcaob.org.uk ; **St Peter's** Theresa Goh or Susan Chan email sg.stpeterapostle.leamington@rcaob.org.uk **These emails are for safeguarding matters only**

Anniversaries of the faithful departed: Dennis O'Neill, Eileen O'Sullivan, James Ballantine, Katherine Colenso, Mary "Molly" McDermott, Mary Martin, Martin Ahern, Daniel Byrne, Luke Sweeney, Mary Geraghty, Michael Maxwell, Vesna Dokleja, Francis Charters, Archbishop Ullathorne OSB, Archbishop Grimshaw, Fr. Michael Crumpton, Fr. William Madden, Fr. Andrew Brennan, Dcn. Thomas Ashcroft. **The recently deceased:** Jean Saville, Evelyn Stephens, Bridget Freeman, George Pearson, Liz Leddy, James Cleary, Ahmed Musa, Charles Brocas, Paul Docherty. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.**



SCAN TO SEE THE MASS READINGS

TEA & COFFEE

After Sunday Morning Masses in the hall
All Welcome!



Online news [here](#)

MORE SERVERS ALWAYS WELCOME

Young or old—see Fr Stephen, or Bob at St Peter's, or Adrian at Our Lady's

FACE BOOK PAGES

CATHOLIC LEAMINGTON is [here](#)
OUR LADY'S is [here](#)
Links from website too

MARCH—MONTH OF ST JOSEPH. Pray for us, Protector of the Holy Family

The greatness of Saint Joseph is that he was the spouse of Mary and the foster father of Jesus. In this way, he placed himself, in the words of Saint John Chrysostom, 'at the service of the entire plan of salvation'. Pope Francis in Patris Corde 2020

WELCOME TO MASS, especially any visitors joining us to worship, today as we make our journey through Lent, seeking God's love and mercy, full of hope.

God's choosing of Abram (to be renamed Abraham) is an act of love. Through him, a great people will come into being and a great promise is made by God to give them lands as their own. This is sealed in by the sacrifice offered which is accepted by a fiery manifestation of God Himself.

Jesus' divinity is manifested in the glory of the Transfiguration. The three disciples are privileged to receive a glimpse of the glory of Christ that is His as God the Son. Overcome, Peter wants to stay put, making three tents for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah but a cloud overshadows them and voice declares 'This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to Him!'. It is time to move on, for Jesus must now travel to Jerusalem to face His passion and death. The ultimate sacrifice that seals God's declaration of love for all who strive to be His people today.

God bless us all this hopeful spring that is Lent Fr Stephen

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 unity among all Christians**, as God wills. **Blessed be Jesus in the most Holy Sacrament of the Altar!**

CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT ST PETER'S: St Peter's Children's Liturgy group invite all children up to year 3, to join in the **NEW** age appropriate Liturgy of the Word during Term Time. Please register via this QR code. Pre-school children should be accompanied.



PRAYING FOR ST PETER'S PARISH: As we shall have some big decisions to consider, it is necessary that we pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us in all that we have to do. Clearly, God's will is always right and so we need to ask Him to reveal it to us. Then, whatever we are to do will be clear and will be right. This will happen from today, Sunday, so at 10:45am an offering of the Rosary for this intention take place. We may of course pray anywhere at any time so please do unite yourself with this intention.

LENT STATIONS OF THE CROSS Mondays 10.30am at St Peter's, using the Jesuit refugee Centre resources. **At Our Lady's, Wednesdays after Mass**

COME & PLAY: Tues 9:30—11am in SP Hall. We welcome parents and children, no charge. Contact Clare Burdett—07720 887 002.

PASTIMES COMMUNITY HUB: Tuesdays 12-3pm. A warm welcome awaits you at this lively weekly gathering in St. Peter's Hall.

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH FEAST DAY: Tuesday evening St Joseph's celebrate the Vigil of their feast day with a holy hour for vocations and Mass. Holy Hour from 6pm. Mass at 7pm with a talk by Luke Theobald, seminarian studying in Rome, on his path to priesthood.

ST PETER'S PARISH SCHOOL'S CONFIRMATION: This **Thurs (20 March) at 7.00pm** Bishop Richard Walker will visit to confirm children from St Anthony's and St Patrick's Schools. Please pray for them as they prepare.

LENT STUDY GROUP: Getting more out of the Mass for allcomers, informative with a time for questions and discussion St. Joseph's Parish Hall, Murcott Road East, Whitnash. **Thursdays 7:30pm after the 7pm Mass** up to 10 April. liz.mottram@ntlworld.com for info

LENT FRIDAY MASSES AT ST PETER'S There is a **7am Mass** throughout Lent as an extra opportunity for worship.

STUDY & REFLECTION ON MASS READINGS: every **Friday 11am** in the Davenport Room.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS: Fridays 3pm St Peter's. At the hour of mercy come to implore mercy for the world and praise God!

BINGO NIGHT: This **Fri (21 March)** in SP hall for parish funds. Get your lucky dabber out... Eyes down at **7pm**.

JUBILEE YEAR DEANERY DAY PILGRIMAGE TO LITTLEMORE - This Sat (22 March) Pilgrimage to a Diocesan Jubilee church in Oxford, the College of St John Henry Newman and Blessed Dominic Barberi Church, OX4 4JX. **10.30. Arrival and Mass**, coffee and a talk, guided visit of the College, BYO packed lunch, Exposition, Indulgence prayers and ending with tea at 3pm. Ample car parking at Church. No charge but a collection will be taken for the Sisters and the Parish. Confirm attendance by 17 March to peter.rand@btinternet.com . Fr Stephen will be going and so has room in the car for some fellow pilgrims, but booking must be done first. Meet 9am SP car park.

EVENING PRAYER FOR LENT: 23 March, 4.00pm at Our Lady's.

CATHOLIC YOUTH GROUPS IN THE CLUSTER: For **Years 6,7,& 8 at St Peter's** meets next **27 March**. The **Youth group for years 8-13** this term is 7:30-9pm on 1/4 at **St Mary Immaculate** church Hall, Warwick.

SUNDAY DINNER: Sunday Roast Dinner at St Peter's. **30 March**. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of Church.

MUSICAL EVENTS AT ST PETER'S: Two concerts coming up—**Saturday 5 April 6.30pm** by Anne Claire Charrier and friends, featuring Pergolesi's Stabat Mater and more

Sunday 6 April 4.30pm Warwickshire Singers joined by a French choir La Villanelle de Sceaux, featuring Dubois' Messe de Breve and more. Proceeds from both to parish funds

LENT DAY OF CONFESSION AT ST PETER'S: Much closer to Holy Week there will be a day of confessions at St Peter's as usual. The date is yet to be confirmed as we need to be able to have as many priests as possible.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: Sat 24—Fri 30 May. Details on diocesan website [here](https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/) https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/

CONGRATULATIONS TO FR DAVID HARTLEY OF WHITNASH: He is to be installed as a Canon of St Chad's Cathedral on 3 June.

COULD YOU BE A SERVER?: 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.

HELP WITH FUNERALS: If you could be a **funeral welcomer**—mainly handing out service cards, helping people find the loo and generally greeting those who come, we'd be very grateful. Please speak to Fr Stephen. **It is also good** to have parishioners **simply come to funerals** to pray and be a supportive presence. Something for Lent?

SP 200 CLUB: The March draw. The winners are 1st Prize (£50) - 129. J. Brash, 2nd Prize (£20) - 66. J. Holleran and 3rd Prize (£10) - 26. J. Murphy. Congratulations to the winners. To join the 200 Club please speak to Bill after the 11:15am Mass or at Pastimes

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP: If you're within the age group (18-35 years) and would like to join or continue the group (we have a group chat) do get in contact with Rose on 07484 127253.

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTIONS: SP 1st – £822.85, 2nd (Church Maintenance) - £360.73, OL 1st—£341.06, 2nd (Church Roof Repairs) - £206.73. This weekend the Second collection at both Churches is for **CAFOD. Thank you.**

Our prayers for the Sick: HH Pope Francis, Bill, Giovanni Allurlino, Marie Clare Banner, Edward Behan, Sarah Bonnalie, Pam Brambles, Lee Burbury, Norman Byrne, Mario Fasi, Wilfrid Feely, Sheila Freeman, Barbara Gekoski, Joe Graham, Eileen Hiorns, Mist Johnson, David Kendall, John Kiernan, Peter McCarthy, Una Maddocks, Nathaniel Manning, Deborah Meades, Kate Miles, Fina Monastero, Michael Mulcahy, Andrew Murray, Paula Newton, Marcella Nicholls, Gill Parker, Fr. Tony Rohan, John Sawyer, Gilly Schweigert, Nell Smyth, Christine Tam, Terena Tam, Terry Tam, Elizabeth Weston, Uta Winter, Peter Wright, & all those at home, or in the nursing homes, & hospitals of the Parish, 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.

LEAMINGTON HERITAGE OPEN DAYS: 12-21 Sept. Would a volunteer or two co-ordinate St Peter's participation this year? We can't be part of it if we don't get involved! We need to be registered and involved by the end of April. Please contact Fr Stephen.

7 DAY CANDLES: This week the **St. Joseph** Sanctuary candle burns: for: **Konrad Joseph E. Migraso**. The **Sacred Heart** Sanctuary candles burns for: **The Repose of the Soul of Billy Manning RIP**. Envelopes for these at the back of church.

SPAN: Our March meeting agreed to support Friends of the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf in Salt, Jordan, Let the Children Hear for clinics in Uganda, SPICMA for toilets in Kataboi Dispensary in Kenya and CAFOD in Darfur, Sudan.

ARRANGING A WEDDING

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

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 facts and give out a baptism application form. We do not deal with initial arrangements by phone, email or through friends or other members of the family, but face to face. Parents need to attend a preparation session before the baptism can take place.

- PARISH BUILDINGS: THE LATEST -

Last Tuesday the Combined Pastoral Council of the two parishes met with Eric Kirwan, the CEO of the diocese, being present too. The CPC will be meeting again this week to discuss what he said, having taken it in. He knows our fundamental problems. Many parishes are facing similar problems, not just in our diocese but in *all* dioceses. The declining number of priests is a real issue (50% of priests in our diocese reach retirement age within ten years: the diocese has just five men training for the priesthood). Numbers of Mass goers have reduced and their average age has got higher. Dioceses too have their own central budget constraints. The Arch-diocese of Birmingham *has no spare funds simply to give to parishes*: we must accept this. We are in short asset rich (lots of buildings) but cash poor (not much in the bank account). The diocesan vision wants to see parishes liberated from financial worries and be 'joyful, vibrant communities of missionary disciples'. This is impossible while we spend so much time and effort trying to juggle maintenance needs, cut costs and manage in what will soon become sub-standard buildings. It doesn't *have* to be like that!

Just to be clear, our issues are—

At Our Lady's:

- A roof that needs £150,000 spending on it
- Other vital works of £50,000 on crumbling side steps, failing retaining wall, far from level slabs, minimum fire safety regulations work in the lower hall, and creating a safe step free access.
- Halls that are not compliant with current fire safety legislation
- Much dated and worn out lighting, heating and other fittings
- The need for a footpath alongside the drive so that the step free access may be accessed away from cars
- We have funds that would go a long way to paying for a lot of this but we cannot simply empty the account for obvious reasons.

At St Peter's:

- Very limited funds indeed—hand to mouth meeting of basic running costs only

- A large hall complex that is too expensive to run (it *lost* £10,000 last year), because it is not designed to meet the needs of today, is impossible to let profitably like it was pre-Covid, and has mounting maintenance needs we can't afford
- A huge Victorian presbytery designed for three priests and a house keeper that is also too expensive to run and maintain and has mounting maintenance needs we can't afford. The parish will not have three priests for a very, very long time indeed
- A large and beautiful church of architectural importance that is now obviously well-overdue interior refurbishment costing a least a million pounds.

So, we have been asked to think very carefully about the future.

What we *need* rather than what we *want* is to be key. Just like all other areas of life, parishes cannot have what they cannot afford. It would be unwise for us simply to carry on hoping for several seven-figure gifts to the parishes, so we must change things so that they are affordable, and remain so.

At St Peter's there is now the bare bones of a proposal that needs more fleshing out before a decision is possible. **Remember: no decision have yet been made about anything.** It is proposed that the presbytery be sold with the money raised going to build a new presbytery and a new hall on the present car park and hall site. These new buildings would be more modern and more modest, with massively lower running costs: we could save as much as £40,000 a year simply by doing that. Clearly, the current presbytery needs to be accurately valued and the construction costs properly estimated. A full feasibility study would explore all those issues before any decisions could be made.

At Our Lady's things are very challenging. As has already been spoken about, the issue of spending large sums on any building is now more difficult than ever. We will be asked to demonstrate that Our Lady's is a building that is needed and it has to be financially sustainable in the long term. We may well want it to be, but aspiration is not enough any longer.

To repeat, no decisions have been made. But they will have to be taken sooner rather than later.

Therefore, we need to pray that the Holy Spirit may speak to us clearly. Many of us will feel that the loss of any parish building is bad, but if it leads to growth, renewal and confidence then the Church will benefit. We simply can't carry on as we are, but we must go forward with the Gospel for future generations. There are many, many capable and lively people in our congregations. We have inherited much and have much to pass on. So, because the Church is people not simply buildings, our buildings must not hinder our mission, but must actively serve it.

If you have any questions please speak to Martin Foley, the chair of the Pastoral Council, or to Fr Stephen. Any alternative idea that involves simply spending money is just not possible.

And we must pray!

PLEASE TAKE THIS SHEET HOME OR RETURN IT TO THE BACK OF CHURCH FOR OTHERS TO SEE, OR TAKE IT HOME, OR BEST OF ALL GIVE IT TO A PARISHIONER UNABLE TO COME.

Please don't leave in the pew!

Information and evangelisation... Thank you