

CATHOLIC LEAMINGTON: Feast of the Assumption (A)

Sunday 16 August 2020

St Joseph's

47 Murcott Road East,
Whitnash CV31 2JJ
T: 01926 772712



St Peter's

3A Dormer Place
Leamington Spa CV32 5AA
T: 01926 423824



Our Lady's

Valley Road
Lillington CV32 7SJ
T: 01926 423824



Parish Priest, St Joseph's
Fr Noel Breslin
Priest in Residence
Fr Ramunas Gerdauskas

Parish Priest, St Peter's & Our Lady's, Dean of Warwick Deanery
Fr John Cross
Retired Priest Fr Christopher Greaney

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Dear Parishioners,

A former Prime Minister coined the phrase "The People's Princess" to describe how the people of the world viewed Princess Diana. He used this phrase in his brief eulogy following her sudden and untimely death in 1997. Today as we celebrate the Assumption of Mary into heaven we too use a familiar and phrase to describe the special role of Mary to all Christians. We call Mary "Our Mother" because this is who she is for us. In his statement the Pope said, "The Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory."

This doctrine was dogmatically defined by Pope Pius XII on 1st November 1950, in *Munificentissimus Deus* by the exercise of papal infallibility. We believe the glory of heaven spurs us on in our vocation of life and helps us to focus on our eternal reward. In death our own soul begins its journey to God. Mary's prayers sustain us "Pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death." Mary also helps us to pray for the souls of the faithful departed. Mary was assumed body and soul into heaven but we await the Second Coming of Jesus at the end of time when our body will be reunited with its soul.

In many respects this weekend marks a new chapter for the Churches in Leamington. Following the change of personnel St Joseph begins a new chapter in its history under the pastoral guidance of Fr Noel. At St Peter's and the Church of Our Lady in Lillington we begin a time of preparation for the arrival of our new assistant priest, soon to be ordained, Benedict Skipper. With the intercession of Mary our Mother to guide and protect us we look to the future of our churches with expectation and hope.

A very Happy Feast Day to you all.

Every blessing, Fr John.

SP/OL SUMMER MASS SCHEDULE

	<u>St Peter's</u>	<u>Our Lady's</u>
Sat	No Mass	Vigil 12.30 pm
Sun	11.00 am	No Mass
Mon	Priest day off	Priest day off
Tues	7.00 pm	No Mass
Wed	No Mass	11.00 am
Thurs	11.00 am	No Mass
Fri	11.00 am	No Mass

PARISH PICNIC on Sunday 30th August (or Sunday 6th September depending on the weather!) from 12 noon. Bring a chair, bring a picnic, bring yourselves and let's have a socially distanced parish get-together in the open air of the Pump Room Gardens. If it is pouring with rain on 30th August, we shall try the following Sunday and hope for the best!

St Peter's & Our Lady's

Sunday 16 August

Feast of the Assumption

SP 11.00: Margaret Walsh

Tuesday 18 Feria

SP 19.00: McCann & Taffe Families

Wednesday 19 Feria

OL 11.00: John Godwin RIP

The Youth of the Parish 'A' Level Results

Thursday 20 St Bernard

SP 11.00: Kathleen Hannan & Elizabeth Clancy

SP 2.00: Funeral Hannah Falvey (Family only)

Friday 21 St Pius X

SP 11.00: Ann Sayce

Saturday 22 The Queenship of Mary

OL 12.30 Public Mass: Molly and Maureen Thanksgiving

The Youth of the Parish GCSE Results

Sunday 23 August

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time A

SP 11.00: Seamus Martin

St Joseph's

Sunday 16 August

Feast of the Assumption

9.00: Noel McGrath's Anniversary

Monday 17 Feria — Psalter Week 4

19.00: The Intentions of Catholic Leamington Parishioners

Tuesday 18 Feria

9.30: Doreen Burford RIP

Ann & Derrick Bowler RIP

Thursday 20 St Bernard

19.00: Noel O'Sullivan RIP

Friday 21 St Pius X

9.30: Anna Jelonek's Intentions

Saturday 22 The Queenship of Mary

9.30: Gerard Cotter RIP

Malachy Blair

Sunday 23 August

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time A

9.00: Teresa Lynch RIP

St Peter's & Our Lady's

Stewards and cleaners will be needed at every public event in the church for many months and even years to come. Without these key volunteers I will not be able to open the church for Mass. I appeal to those who can help who are over 18 and under 70 to offer some of your free time. It is a worthwhile activity and we are all grateful for your help and support. Full training will be given. Contact Martin Foley on martinfoley73@gmail.com if you can help at St Peter's or, for Our Lady's Church, Helen Monastero at helen.mon@icloud.com.

Following the re-opening of our churches, parishioners must be aware that our pre-lockdown maximum capacity is now considerably reduced. In order to accommodate the congregation safely, St Peter's Church can only 40 parishioners single-spaced at each Mass. This rises to about 80 parishioners at each Mass where those living in the same household can sit together. In this way we allow for a mix of families and individuals based on the two-metre safety rule. When the church is full, we are not able to "squeeze in a few more".

Please attend any Mass throughout the week. At Our Lady's on Wednesdays and Saturdays (maximum capacity 46 at 2 metres apart) or 76 (where couples or families might sit together at each Mass) or at St Peter's on Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays or Fridays.

However, if there is a funeral at a weekday Mass, we are restricted to 40 mourners only. This will be advertised on the schedule.

Last week there was plenty of spare places at the weekday Masses and on Saturday at Our Lady's but no room on Sunday at 11.00 am. I am sorry if you felt upset by being turned away and of course under normal circumstances we would never do this. Yet, under the guidelines we have received and to which I have given my word to follow, I am bound to consider first and foremost the safety of our parishioners. The same applies to latecomers. Many of us (including me) have become used to arriving on the dot of Mass or a minute or two afterwards. Due to the disruption this might cause to the celebration of Mass, I am afraid that latecomers can no longer be admitted into the church. I know it all sounds very draconian, but it is about the safety of everybody and I am afraid there is no flexibility on this at the moment. The church is opened for parishioners approximately 30 minutes before Mass

begins. Arriving 15 minutes before Mass begins should give ample time for the stewards to check you for admission.

Gift Aid envelopes: There are literally boxes of boxes to be distributed for this financial year. Some boxes will be put out in church before Mass so you could pick them up there. Alternatively collect from the office, but please call in advance.

We are not permitted to pass around collection bags during Mass. Instead, as you leave church, the bucket is the opportunity to contribute to the first and second collections, cash or envelopes. You can also put in Mass Intentions.

The Mass Intention Diary is not as full as it would have been pre-lockdown! There are envelopes available in the churches and, as mentioned above, these can be put in the collection bucket after Mass. Offering a Mass is a loving and thoughtful way of remembering a loved one, celebrating a special anniversary (eg weddings), birthdays and births, get well and many more of your Intentions. If you require a Mass Card please email or call the office and a time can be arranged for you to collect one.

Baptisms are now held on Saturdays, 2.00 pm (Our Lady's) and Sundays, 3.00 pm (St Peter's). There are new guidelines which must be adhered to. If you already had a date booked you will be my first priority. If you have not yet been contacted by the Parish Office, please call Jane on Mondays or Thursdays on 01926 423824.

Weddings, even more so than Baptisms have been disrupted over the lockdown period. Many of you postponed your weddings until next year due to the restrictions imposed by the Government. Please call Jane on Mondays or Thursdays on 01926 423824 to touch base. Thank you.

August Draw 200 Club: this month's winners – first prize Finlay Potter £50.00; second prize Hilary Callow £20.00; and third prize Margaret Russell £10.00. Congratulations to the winners!

Tales of the unexpected: I really miss the game I used to play with Fr Noel. I liked hearing him shout "Be Quiet!!" or "Shut up!!" and I only barked to hear him respond to me!! I also enjoyed helping him do his other cross words in the kitchen when we pitted our wits against the compilers of these puzzles.

Best woofs, Bertie ;-) xx

First reading: *Apocalypse 11:19;12:1-6. 10;* **Response to the Psalm** *On your right stands the queen, in garments of gold.*

Second reading: *1 Corinthians 15:20-26;* **Gospel:** *Luke 1:39-56*

The recently deceased of our churches:

Hannah Falvey, Teresa Lynch, John Henderson, Rose Thurlow, Antonio Rivera, June Moore. **May they rest in peace.**

Anniversaries of the faithful departed: George Mather, Dorothy Harding, Peter Reid, Ann Falvey, Ellen Talbot, Noel McGrath, Derrick Bowler, Gill Titcomb, Colin Dowling, Mary Hewer, Annie Jagusz, John Lucey, Edmund Cunningham, Barry Joyce, Peter Wale, Patricia O'Sullivan, Kathleen Hannan, Helen Bowen, Noel Edwards, Mary O'Connor, Monica Froom, Carina Smith, Cecilia Bates, Bernadette Bradshaw, Catherine Lynn, Annette Hancox, Meg Lewis, Kathleen Couzens, May Kearney, Winnie Moore, Christopher Daly, Mary O'Mullane, Fr Terence Smith, Fr Patrick Cooney, Deacon Douglas Taylor, HE Bernard William Cardinal Griffin (Sixth Archbishop of Westminster), Canon Bernard Cusworth, Fr Alan Smith. **May they rest in peace.**

Our prayers for those ill at home, or in the nursing homes & hospitals of Catholic Leamington: Giovanni Allurlino, Janice Austin, Edward Behan, Mary Craig, Mario Fasi, Edna Hale, Eileen Hiorns, Katie Hobson, Jo Holleron, Estelle Holmes, John Ireson, David Kendall, Mist Johnson, Antonina La Spisa, Nathaniel Manning, Kate Miles, Fr Malcolm Prince, Ann Reilly, Marie Robinson, Patricia Robinson, Peggy Rowlands, Marjorie Smedley, Luke Sweeney, Terena Tam, Terry Tam, George Wall, Elizabeth Weston and Peter Wright. **Lord Jesus, watch over all who suffer and are in pain. Bless all those who care for them.**

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St Joseph's

Welcome to Fr Noel who is saying his first Mass as our Parish Priest this weekend. We also thank Fr Andy for his Ministry here over the last three years and wish him all the very best in his new parish at Our Lady of the Wayside, Shirley.

A note from Fr Andy: My sincere thanks for the cards and gifts that I have received over the last few weeks. St Joseph's will always have a special place in my heart. I will offer Mass for your intentions. With my love and prayers, Fr Andy.

The Parish Office is open on Wednesdays from 10.00 am until 2.00 pm.

Standing Orders/PayPal. Thank you to all the parishioners who have set up standing orders or made PayPal donations. These have been a great help to the parish during recent times. However we have had several unidentified payments into our account. If you have set up a direct payment, please ensure you have given the details to the Parish Office so that the details can be set up on the parish banking system. Thank you. Hazel.



This week Our Lady's Seven Day Candle burns for
Brendan O'Connell & Jennifer Fennell

The remaining **Gift Aid envelopes** for this year commencing 12th April are available from the office. Please call before coming.

Exposition and Devotions are suspended for the time being so as to prioritise the safe celebration of Mass.

Requests for the Seven-Day Candle intentions (£5.00) are available from 15th November onwards. Please put requests through the Presbytery door.

St Joseph's SVP is collecting any outgrown school uniform to pass on to families in need (especially school blazers that can be expensive), but any uniform in good condition can be helpful. There will be a collecting box in the church entrance or call 07713 246989. Thank you.

E-news: Sign up for the Newsletter and to receive e-news updates via the parish website (stjosephs47.org.uk) or www.warwick-catholicdeanery.org.uk/newsletter-sign-up/

Confessions: Social distancing is observed at all Churches. The priest hears confessions in church.

Our Lady's: Before Mass, at call.

St Peter's: Saturdays from 4.00-5.00 pm. Please wait outside the West Doors until you are called in.

St Joseph's Saturdays from 10.00-10.30 am. Please wait in the Narthex until you are called in.

The Salvation Army's Way Ahead Project in Leamington needs some basic food items to help it help the homeless. Bacon, sausages, eggs, cheese, fresh fruit, fruit squash, pot noodles, chocolate biscuit bars and bread for the takeaway breakfasts and food parcels they provide. As these are perishable items, they are best taken direct to the Salvation Army building at 1A Chapel Street, Leamington Spa CV31 1EJ. Tel 01926 883613. This is open 9.30 am to 11.30 am on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

EXTRA newsletter can be downloaded from catholicleamington.org.uk I hope you enjoy reading it. It might however be the last edition ... our small editorial team needs some extra help! Please email to find out more catholicleamington.extra@gmail.com. Thank you. Brian Austin.

The Justice and Peace Group's Rosary Intention for August is:

'We pray that our government may be generous in helping poorer nations protect their peoples from COVID-19'.

Prayer Group devoted to Our Lady meets every **Tuesday** at 7.30 pm via Zoom. Everyone welcome. Find out more or join the group, contact 428399.

Warwick Deanery Mother's Prayer Group is being run online via Zoom on Thursdays at a family-friendly time of 8.30 pm. All are welcome to join. Claudia Pallister leads the group with prayers, song and scripture: *"Join us for some moral support, friendship and a spiritual lift."* Details claudiaverag@gmail.com

Novena to St Francis: for a world under threat

To mark the Season of Creation J&P is highlighting a different prayer for each of the nine Sundays up to the Feast of St Francis; brief reflections asking St Francis of Assisi to pray for us and our world, based on his beautiful Cantic of the Sun.

This novena is a song of penitence and praise, guiding us to care for the earth and for our most vulnerable sisters and brothers, especially the Amazon peoples. They are currently under grave risk from coronavirus, given their fragile situation, often in remote locations far from government services.

Communities with whom we work are reporting a sharp increase in predatory attacks on land. People smugglers are also active and those being trafficked are in more danger than ever, having no access to healthcare.

The pandemic shows us that "we have not heard the cry of the poor and our seriously ill planet," warns Pope Francis, describing this as "a time to choose what matters and what passes away". (*Urbi et Orbi*, 2020)

Today's prayer: Night sky

Creator God, your night sky offers rest and stillness, yet we flood our cities with light. Forgive us for our wasteful ways.

Brother Francis, you chose poverty not plenty, walking lightly on the earth. May we follow in your path and reduce the trace we leave.

St Francis, pray for us.