



EXTRA

December 2020

EXTRA is primarily for information that we do not have room for in the weekly newsletter. But we can only publish what you send in; please send notices (100-200 words) to catholicleamington.extra@gmail.com by the end of December. **And we could do with more help, too! Let us know if you can assist us:** Sue Sugars, Brian Austin (same address).

In case you missed it – from the November EXTRA

- **20th December: Leamington Sings by Heartbreak Productions**
A family friendly virtual celebration of carols, songs, readings. www.leamingtonsings.co.uk
- **Trinity School Virtual Open Event**
<http://www.trinity-school.org.uk/virtual-open-event-october-2020>
- **Ethical Charity Cards and Gifts for Christmas**
www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/christmas
- **CAFOD World Gifts**
<https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>



Youth News



Unite Youth group is meeting on Zoom on Wednesdays 6.30-7.30pm. We are following the Chosen course together.

For any families or parishioners who are looking for an outdoor activity we have produced a treasure hunt which can be downloaded here:
https://www.catholicleamington.org.uk/uploads/3/8/6/2/3/8626209/treasure_trail.pdf

We have rescheduled our Youth Mass for Sunday 13th December at 5pm at St Josephs. We are looking forward to playing some of our Advent music at this Mass and thank you to all who contributed towards it. You can read about our youth band in the diocesan magazine the Sower:
<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=7689cc6a-7716-445b-a07a-4f3a7b7b8759>
and listen here:
<https://www.catholicleamington.org.uk/youth-ministry-home.html>

For details on our youth activities contact Emma Rayment at catholicyouth7@gmail.com or join our Facebook group [@UNITEcatholicyouth](https://www.facebook.com/UNITEcatholicyouth)

Young Adults

Young Adults Retreat (16-35's), 2-3rd January 2021.

Youth 2000 are super excited to host the annual New Year's Retreat NEW online! Kick off 2021 in the best possible way, centred in Jesus Christ!

NEWonline is going to be an extra exceptional event this year, with some fantastic content confirmed, including a very special speaker from overseas who will be announced very soon! We will also be celebrating with; Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, inspirational talks, small groups, prayer ministry, rosary and Praise and Worship.

The two-day event will offer you the opportunity to meet new friends, listen to our wonderful speakers and start your New Year in relationship with God.

More information will be released over the coming weeks, but for now head over to our Instagram [@newyearyouth2000](https://www.instagram.com/newyearyouth2000) where we will be releasing all the exciting information you'll need to know in the lead up to the event!
Book your tickets now at youth2000.org/newonline

“You belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God” - 1 Corinthians 3:23

For more information about our parish young adults group please email Rose Pauling at rosemary.pauling@btinternet.com

Advent Prayer Meeting

Following on from our recent successful zoom prayer evening we will be holding Evening Prayer on the **last Sunday of Advent** which will include some Youth Band music, and readings from our young people. Contact maryrouse@rocketmail.com for the zoom log in details.

St Peter's Choir / Our Lady's Singers

St Peter's Choir (with the help from Our Lady's singers) has been busy during the second lockdown and prepared a virtual Christmas concert. I'm hoping it will be played in church on **Sunday 13th December** in the evening. (Father John has confirmed that would be fine.) I'm hoping to sort it all out in the next few days, but I'm working with the parish office to see whether it could be made available to watch or download any time after 13th December and that we will be able to add a "Go Fund Me" page, with the proceeds going to SPAN.

Anne-Claire Bennion

CHRISTMAS VOUCHERS

THANK YOU



A great big THANK YOU to Catholic Leamington. Parishioners from St Joseph's, Our Lady's and St Peter's have responded with such generosity to this appeal.

We have already raised more than our target which was to match last year's £3,300. When going to press we have passed £4,000. That is an amazing achievement at a time when charities are finding it very hard to collect funds. You have all contributed to a better time for our local families this Christmas. We have already ordered £3,000 worth of vouchers and started distribution of those vouchers going via our schools.

See the November EXTRA for full details of our appeal.

Jenny Armstrong

To keep in touch with SPAN join our email distribution list here by contacting paulhayden@ntlworld.com

YOU CAN HELP BY DONATING DIRECT TO SPAN via your bank to Sort code 40-27-06. Account 21324004 with reference "Vouchers" Or by putting cash or cheque in the green envelopes available in all 3 Churches from the weekend of 7th/8th November Or dropping a cheque to SPAN to Michael Barker 77, Montrose Avenue, Leamington Spa CV32 7DS

Please write 'donation for Christmas vouchers' on the back of the cheque

Or by using our Justgiving page

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/spanxmasvouchers>

If you can gift aid your donation please request a form from

michaelbarker77@sky.com or print one from our webpage

<https://www.catholicleamington.org.uk/span.html>



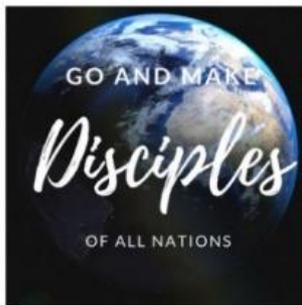
Evangelisation Team

Advent is not far away, and here at the Diocesan Evangelisation Office we believe that the Great Commission is at the heart of this message of the coming of Christ as a child at Christmas.

It's also a time when the Church needs to come together to support each other in this vital mission.

We have arranged an event to help us to respond and think about this more deeply. We will be hosting new monthly diocesan-wide ***Evangelisation Meet-ups***, beginning on **Thursday 10th December, with two options at 1-2pm or 7.30-8.30pm** to give people the opportunity to make one. For more information and meeting links, please contact Natalie at natalie.orefice@rc-birmingham.org

See the ***Evangelisation Prayer Sheet*** on the next page to help us pray for our mission, and with suggestions for how we can begin to reach out to others.



Time: 1pm – 2pm or 7.30pm – 8.30pm
Date: Thursday 10th December 2020
Place: Zoom (contact Natalie)
Email: natalie.orefice@rc-birmingham.org

ADVENT 2020

ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM EVANGELISATION ZOOM MEETING

Natalie and Paul at the Evangelisation Office are gathering those with a heart for mission this Advent, to **PRAY, SHARE & REFLECT** on how God is calling us to build **missionary parishes and missionary disciples** in this challenging new context.

Yours in Christ, Paul.

PERSONAL PRAYER FOR EVANGELISATION

Apostle's Prayer *(from www.cco.ca)*

Lord, when you called Abraham, he responded, "Ready."
When you called Isaiah, he answered, "Here I am Lord."

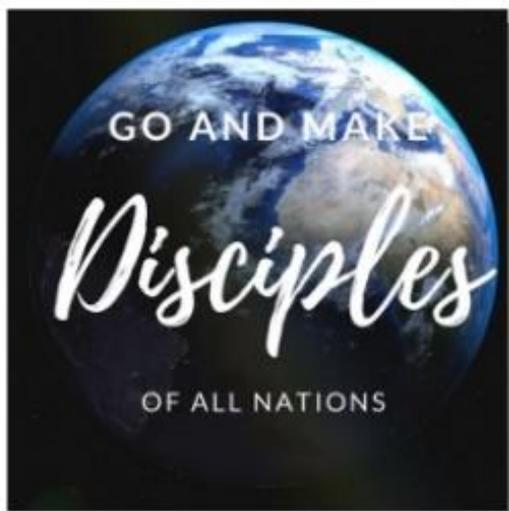
When the angel Gabriel called out to Mary, she responded, "I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me according to your word."

Lord, I hear you calling my name. I hear you entrusting me with the task of building your kingdom. Like those holy men and women who have gone before me, I give you my 'yes'!

I will go anywhere you want me to go.
I will do anything you want me to do.
I will say anything you want me to say.

Holy Spirit I welcome you and ask you to guide me. Form in me an apostle's heart filled with love for Christ and zeal for souls. I will commit myself with courage and generosity to the New Evangelization. I will build brick-by-brick, the city of God inside the city of man.

Amen.



**Some suggestion
about how to
pray for others.**

Choose 5 people to pray for each week:

- to grow in faith;
- to speak to about my faith;
- to bring into the community of faith;
- to recognise opportunities to share.

**How can I prepare myself to evangelise?
Consider having:**

*Something to read, something to pray,
something to do...*

What can I do for others? Think of:

*Something to say, something to give,
something to invite them to.*

Pope St JP II's Prayer to Our Lady of the Evangelisation

We ask you, Mary, to help us to fulfil this mission of evangelization which your Son has given to his Church and which falls to us.

Mindful of your role as Help of Christians, we entrust ourselves to you in the work of carrying the Gospel ever deeper into the hearts and lives of all the people. We entrust to you our missionary mandate and commit our cause totally to your prayers.

To Jesus Christ your Son, with the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit be praise and thanksgiving forever and ever.

Amen.

For further ideas, visit our webpage and blog
www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/evangelisation
www.spiritualkiss.wordpress.com
or contact us directly at
Paul Northam fieldevang@maryvale.ac.uk
Natalie Orefice natalie.orefice@rc-birmingham.org

Archdiocese of Birmingham Evangelisation Office

COVID behind bars or Saughton Sonnets,

being the old name for Edinburgh Jail

Prisoners in Edinburgh were invited to turn to poetry to make sense of their period of difficulty.

“Well it’s all got a bit too real,
Now the rest of the world knows how we feel.”



The organisations First Time Inside and Writing it all down, were a godsend to prisoners.

As one poem put it:

Crook your arm if you cough,
This virus is serious, it’s no laugh.
Social distance is the one
Even sat in the sun.
Two metre spread is the way
To help this spreading every day.

And then again,

“Life in prison can make you intolerant, but also
How we see our own suffering in others’ pain and fear.”

Found a Friend in Lockdown.

Sitting here in lockdown I got lost inside a book
Not much in way of comfort, chocolate was all it took
I was sitting reading in my cell but got rudely interrupted
I flew up to my sweetie stash which was terribly corrupted
I counted all my sweets but one? How could this be?
A mouse was running wi the last Mars bar! He’d made an enemy
I pounced, but flounced and saw him scurry over the floor
I had to grab him in a hurry before he reached for something more
I held him in a vice like grip then saw a tear jerk from his eyes
It didn’t matter what he had done, I couldn’t bring his demise
‘Gone then Miss Convict tak my life’
‘Being a prison mouse is naught but hell and strife’
‘Ah was born and bred in Saughton ma daddy was a rat’
‘He used to beat me badly but ell no go intae that’
With that he reached and pulled the fur from his paw
There tattooed was a skull and crossbones I saw.
‘oh man that’s grim’ I said. ‘You can come stay wi me
As long as you behave yourself I’ll not charge any fee’
I made a wee pal in lockdown an saved him from myself
Now all that’s left is to protect him from everybody else!

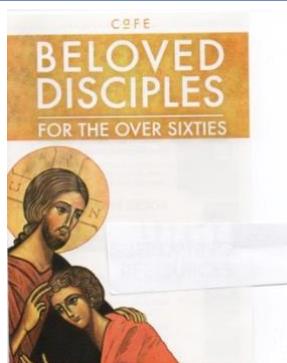
It’s opened my eyes to the need to help and pray for prisoners.

Michael Smedley

Taken, by permission, from an article by Joanna Moorhead in Bible Alive Daily Reflections.

Michael Smedley

Comment by editor: Although there are 15,000 Catholic prisoners out of the total of 85,000 in England and Wales, and we do have a Prison Ministry, there doesn’t appear to be a writing ministry. The nearest I could find was the Prison Fellowship’s Letter Link at PF Rugby serving HMP Rye Hill and Onley. See <https://prisonfellowship.org.uk/> Does anyone know more?



Over the past few months, we haven't been able to hold any social functions due to the pandemic situation, but thanks to generous donations from parishioners and 2 virtual quizzes by zoom we have been able to support the following charities: Kirrua Orphanage £500; Helping Hands £550; Warwick Food Bank £250, plus two regular donations to SPA supporting trainee Priests.

Would you like to listen to a lovely collection of music which was played at the online Mass each weekend? The choir have put together a CD of some of the songs which you can purchase. The CD costs £5, If you would like a copy please email maryrouse@rocketmail.com

50/50 club. Due to the present situation it has been decided that the 50/50 draw will be put on hold for the time being. Thank you so much for your past support. Hopefully things will get back to normal in the not too distant future.

Date for your diary. There will be another zoom quiz on **January 23rd. The last couple of quizzes have been very successful by zoom and raised over £800 for Kindaid. Please email maryrouse@rocketmail.com if you would like to take part in our fun online quiz.**

Thank you for all your support. Hopefully it won't be too long before we can start socializing once again. The Kindaid committee wish you all a very happy and Holy Christmas. Stay safe, stay positive.

Sue Sugars

Over 60?

An inspiring DVD course for the over sixties in four 30 minute sessions:

- The Autumn of Life
- Changing your World
- Thy will be done
- The best is yet to come!

Presented by David Wells and David Payne with engaging testimonies from older people around the UK.

Couples in the parish are invited to borrow the DVD's and then pass on to another couple on the list kept by Peter and Margaret Dimambro. Contact mdimambro@hotmail.co.uk or 01926 428399

Margaret and I really enjoyed the DVD's. I am sure you will too....

Peter Dimambro

A personal commitment to act,

I vow to myself [and to each of you]:

To commit myself daily to the healing of our world
and the welfare of all beings.

To live on Earth more lightly and less violently in the food,
products, and energy I consume.

To draw strength and guidance from the living Earth,
the ancestors, the future generations,
and my brothers and sisters of all species.

To support others in our work for the world
and to ask for help when I need it.

To pursue a daily practice that clarifies my mind,
strengthens my heart,
and supports me in observing these vows.

A Buddhist Prayer read by Annie Curran
at Warwick Parishes J&P online interfaith prayer meeting

Youth 2000

Youth 2000 have been running 'The Culture Series' online, considering today's culture from a Catholic perspective. With guest speakers on the topics of: Reading the Signs of the Times, Race & Diversity, Pro Life, Human Dignity, Social Justice, Mental Health and The Environment. This is a great opportunity to learn more about what Culture is saying, what the Church says, and to consider how you might respond. Anyone can catch-up with the series here: <https://www.youth2000.org/the-culture-series>.



Justice and Peace

There is a **Justice and Peace circulation list** and everyone is welcome to receive the notifications about **J&P, Live Simply and CAFOD** etc; but you do have to **ask** to be put on the list – that's the law (GDPR) – so please email cl.jandp@gmail.com to receive them.



October 25th

Today at the United Nations history has been made! Honduras has confirmed the ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which will now come into force on 22 January 2021. Jamaica and Nauru had joined the Treaty on Friday.

Christians have played a huge role in this success. The Vatican was one of the first states to join the Treaty in 2017; the Pacific Council of Churches urged states to join, many did so; and the Church of England called on the UK government to respond positively.

This means that nuclear weapons will be banned in the same way as chemical and biological weapons have been banned, because of their indiscriminate nature and humanitarian consequences.

Source: Christian CND

Pope Francis, in *Fratelli Tutti* writes: "... when we consider the catastrophic humanitarian and environmental consequences that would follow from any use of nuclear weapons, with devastating, indiscriminate and uncontrollable effects, over time and space ... the ultimate goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons becomes both a challenge and a moral and humanitarian imperative ..." [262]

Brian Austin (J&P)

FOOD BANK

Thank you to all those who continue to support the Foodbank. Your contributions are greatly received.

Donations can be given to the collecting point at the supermarkets: ASDA, both Sainsbury's or either Tescos.

Go to: <https://warwickdistrict.foodbank.org.uk/>

If you need donations to be collected please phone Marie on 336688



Marie Willington

From everyone at
Newsletter EXTRA we
wish you a very happy,
safe and blessed
Christmas