



Kate Hannan's funeral pall by Hand-in-Hand group

Introducing **EXTRA**

EXTRA is, as its name suggests, a larger newsletter, published four times a year both online and in print. There is so much going on in *Catholic Leamington* that there is insufficient space in a weekly newsletter for anything more than one or two lines per subject or event.

This first 'taster' edition has been collated and produced by Brian Austin to get the ball rolling but it is very much hoped that other people would like to make up a small editorial / design team to produce this in the future.

Get in touch for example if you are arranging a forthcoming event in *Catholic Leamington*, or if there a particular topic you would like to submit an article for. There is a dedicated email address catholicleamington.extra@gmail.com and news and views are sought from anyone in our three churches: Our Lady's, St Joseph's and St Peter's.

Season's Greetings,

Brian Austin

catholicleamington.extra@gmail.com

Winter 2018

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

LEUVEN LIFE

A Canon Lawyer's story

POPE FRANCIS

An important letter to each and every one of us from Pope Francis

p.3LIVE SIMPLY PARISH

Not just about plastics!

YOUTH U@uk'

The next steps

J&P NEWS

ECUMENISM

Churches Together in Leamington

SATURDAY FRIENDSHIP GROUP

4 EVANGELISATION

Reaching out

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Christmas at our churches

PEACE SUNDAY



u=yko) ° ' ') -#-U"-k
u=- 'V° u@' #
u # o h

oyV) ° ' ') -#-U"-k
O o h
h #
o h
o h

TUESDAY 18TH DECEMBER

PENITENTIAL DAY at St Peter's Church 9am-8pm

CHRISTMAS EVE MONDAY

24TH DECEMBER Masses at
3:00 SP; 5:30 at SJ; 9:00 at SJ;
10:00 pm at SP and Midnight at
OL

SATURDAY 22ND

DECEMBER Christmas
Family Disco at St Joseph's
Church Hall 7:30pm

Leuven Life...a Canon Lawyer's story.

I was very surprised when my Bishop emailed me in 2015 to ask if I would consider some further studies in Canon law at the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium. Having a couple of degrees under my belt already in theology and philosophy I thought my days of studying were well and truly over.

The course I was to undertake was a distance learning programme consisting of twice-yearly intense lesson weeks and coursework done from home. My eyes were certainly opened to the great beauty of Canon Law and also the lovely town of Leuven.

In the course I explored all the books of the Code of Canon Law 1983 and there was a particular focus on marriage law, as often Canon Lawyers work for Diocesan Tribunals assisting those seeking marriage annulments. From studying at the Catholic University of Leuven I gained an MA in Society, Law and Religion and the Pontifical Degree, Licentiate in Canon Law or JCL for short. This degree means I am able to work in the tribunal and also teach Canon Law to Bachelor's Degree level.

At the moment I work as a Canonical Advocate for the National Tribunal of Wales and am a Judge on the Birmingham Metropolitan Tribunal. Studying as a mature student was a great experience. It has enabled me to make lots of new friends and to experience the lifestyle and culture of a different country. Often people scoff at Canon Law and say it's not necessary and not pastoral, but I have found it to be both essential to the life of the Church and, through it, my own pastoral ministry here in Catholic Leamington has been deeply enriched.

Maybe sometime in the future we might have a Canon Law study group across our three churches?! Who knows? Until the next edition, God bless,

Fr Andy



Photo by Ashwin Vaswani on Unsplash

The Pope is exhorting us to be holy in today's world. He says "My modest goal is to re-propose the call to holiness in a practical way for our own time, with all its risks, challenges and opportunities.

For a 'letter' it is rather long, but here are a few extracts:

"We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves. Are you married? Be holy by loving and caring for your husband or wife. Do you work for a living? Be holy by labouring with integrity and skill in the service of your brothers and sisters. Are you a parent or grandparent? Be holy by patiently teaching the little ones how to follow Jesus. Are you in a position of authority? Be holy by working for the common good and renouncing personal gain. Are you called to the consecrated life? Be holy by living out your commitment with joy.[14]

"The important thing is that each believer discerns his or her own path, that they bring out the very best of themselves, the most personal gifts that God has placed in their hearts. [11]

THE POPE SPEAKS

A CALL TO HOLINESS IN TODAY'S WORLD

Did you know that there has recently been a new letter to us all from Pope Francis "Rejoice and Be Glad"

(Officially it is called "Gaudete et Exsultate" the first words of his 'Apostolic Exhortation')

"Jesus' words ... clearly run counter to the way things are usually done in our world. ... Let us allow his words to unsettle us, to challenge us and to demand a real change in the way we live. [65/66]

"We may think that we give glory to God only by our worship and prayer, or simply by following certain ethical norms.... But we cannot forget that the ultimate criterion on which our lives will be judged is what we have done for others.... The best way to discern if our prayer is authentic is to judge to what extent our life is being transformed. [104/105]

In Chapter 4, he highlights five signs of holiness, which are great expressions of love for God and neighbour:

- Perseverance, patience and meekness [112+]
- Joy and a sense of humour. [122+]
- Boldness and passion [129+]
- In community [140+]
- In constant prayer [147+]

You can access the whole of the document online at w2.vatican.va, select English and click on Apostolic Exhortations; hopefully it is also available in booklet form in the church shop..

NOT JUST PLASTICS!

LED lighting has now been installed at St Peter's! After this was identified as a potential energy saver when the environmental audit was carried out in the early days of being a LiveSimply Parish, it is now good to see the LED lighting installed at St Peter's. It is 'instant switch-on', brighter, more economic to maintain and the power consumption has fallen considerably. And we use Green Energy too! That's a win-win situation.

By the way, if anyone else is interested in getting their energy from a green supplier, email cl.jandp@gmail.com for help.

YOUTH PROJECT

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

As we all know, Erin, our wonderful Youth Worker last year, has now left us for bigger and better things at Soli House. We wish her every success in her new venture.

But what about us? Fr John called a meeting in September and it took place at St Joseph's with a good crowd of parents and parishioners gathering, including 11 young people, too. We had Fr Andy with us and also Fr Patrick from Warwick joined us too.

There was a consensus of opinion that this is a most important initiative for the parishes and that we should do everything in our power to keep the momentum going and ensure continuity of the project into the future. Fr Andy is ensuring that what was already in place will be continued in the short term.

It has been decided to proceed with the appointment of a new Project Worker and a team has been set up under Fr Andy of Caroline Graham, June Palmer and Sarah Vaughan to take this forward. Unfortunately, these things take time, so we won't see a new worker before the new year at the earliest. Please continue to pray for the continued success of this project.

In the meantime, do continue to keep your Standing Orders going!

JUSTICE & PEACE

News from J&P - email group

Although there is an open meeting most months for anyone in the parish to share in what J&P do, there is also an **email group for you to get occasional notifications of J&P, CAFOD, LiveSimply news.** To join, ask to be put on the circulation list by sending an email to cl.jandp@gmail.com

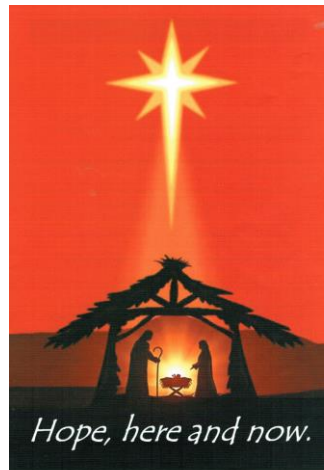
ECUMENISM

WORKING WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS

Thanks to **Jenny Warr** for maintaining the important work with **Churches Together Leamington**, which is now being taken on by **Ira Winter** for the future.

Have you picked up your copy of **HOPE** from the back of the church? It's free! Please take one. It tells you all about Churches Together in word and action - about The Well, Street Pastors, the Learning Centre, Walking Group, Thrive Ministry, Flourish, Thirst, Christians Against Poverty, Christian New Hope Counselling, Nightlight, Pathway, Helping Hands, The Foodbank, the Night Shelter, Crossteach, Christian Resource Centre and the Way Ahead Project

Together in December



Have you put this poster up in your front window? If not, would you be happy to do so. There are copies of the poster for you to pick up at the back of the church.

Then, during December, visit people who are displaying the poster. Knock on the door, say hello, and get to know your Christian neighbours.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

18th – 25th January 2019

www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer

sfg

Catholic Leamington
Saturday Friendship Group

NOTHING EVER STAYS THE SAME!

We are unfortunately saying goodbye to Lisa, who has been our Project Worker on Saturday as she is 'moving on' to Walsgrove House. Her replacement is already being sought.

This will mean, though, that Saturdays will not be running during December and until a new worker is in place. But, in the meantime, we will continue to support the Way Ahead Project as always.

Also, we have new leaders at Salvation Army Church, Lts. Kelsey and Jessica Pearce, who have recently met with Fr John to sign a new Partnership Agreement between us. So, we are now **Catholic Leamington sfg**, with a new email, too: cl.sfg1@gmail.com and visit our page at www.catholicleamington.org.uk/parish-activities

EVANGELISATION

REACHING OUT IN LOVE

WHY COME BACK? AN INVITATION is a leaflet that was given out in our churches on **Home Mission Sunday** in September – *(there are some at the back of church).*

They are for you to pass onto Catholics who no longer (or only rarely) come to church.

This is a new initiative of our **Evangelisation Team**, who are sadly aware of the large number of Catholics who are missing out attending Mass, receiving the sacraments, receiving the graces and being outside our community.

Please pray for the non-churchgoers in our parish, bringing to mind someone you know who doesn't go to Mass, this could be a family member, a friend or neighbour.

When you get the opportunity give them the leaflet and speak to them about how your faith, the Sacraments and the Church community help you in your daily life.

Finally please do encourage them to pray and to return to Mass and the sacraments and, if possible, accompany them to church.



“Look, I am standing at the door, knocking”: Book of Revelation 3:20

Information and contacts about parish outreach can be found on the website:-

www.catholicleamington.org.uk > parish-activities > parishlife > Evangelisation / Visiting / Welcoming

PEACE SUNDAY

20TH JANUARY 2019

“Political responsibility belongs to every citizen, and in particular to those who have received the mandate to protect and govern. This mission consists in safeguarding the law and encouraging dialogue between the actors of society, between generations and between cultures... Political commitment – which is one of the highest expressions of charity – brings concern for the future of life and the planet, of the youngest and the weakest, in their thirst for fulfilment.”

PD

DON'T FORGET

- **CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL**

Sorting and wrapping at Our Lady's Church Hall on Monday 3rd and Wednesday 5th for delivery on 6th.

- **SPAN FOOD VOUCHER SCHEME**

Please put your green envelope in any collection at any of the churches.

- **WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE FOR CHRISTMAS?**

Do take a **CAFOD World Gifts** catalogue and when someone asks you “What would you like for Christmas?” you can say “One of these, please!”.