

EXTRA

February 2026



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Wednesday 18 February 2026	Ash Wednesday Mass Times
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St Francis, Kenilworth	10.00 am
	6.30 pm
St Joseph's, Whitnash	9.30 am
	7.00 pm
Our Lady's, Lillington	12.00 noon
St Peter's, Leamington Spa	10.00 am
	7.00 pm
St Mary Immaculate, Warwick	9.30 am
	7.00 pm
St Charles Borromeo, Hampton-on-the Hill	12.00 noon
St Francis of Assisi, Baddesley Clinton	9.00 am
Blessed Robert Grissold, Balsall Common	6.30 pm

EXTRA is intended for articles and information from priests and parishioners in all the churches in our local Cluster: St Charles Borromeo, Hampton-on-the-Hill; St Francis, Kenilworth; St Augustine, Kenilworth; St Peter's, Leamington Spa; Our Lady's, Lillington; St Mary Immaculate, Warwick; and St Joseph's, Whitnash.

It is an opportunity to publish longer pieces that cannot fit into the weekly newsletters of each church. Currently produced from St Joseph's in Whitnash, it would be good to forge links between the churches to ensure it becomes a truly Cluster-wide online publication.

Information for the March edition should be sent to catholicclusterextra@gmail.com by 23 February.

Thank you. Canon David Hartley

World Day of the Sick

World Day of the Sick takes place on 11 February, 2026. Every year, on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, the whole church celebrates together and prays for those who are ill.

In his message for this year's World Day of the Sick, Pope Leo invites the faithful to consider the Samaritan's compassion and how we too can offer love by bearing the pain of others. Read in full at [Pope's World Day of Sick message: Love by bearing another's pain - Vatican News](#)

This is also an appropriate time to think about the ways we can best support people who are ill, and make them our VIPs just as much as the pilgrims who are helped to travel to Lourdes.

In each of our parishes some **Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist** enable the sick and housebound to receive Holy Communion regularly. Arrangements differ in each parish but volunteers who can commit to this should talk to their Parish Priest or a Deacon to find out what is involved. Often this, and other visiting and support, overlaps with our excellent conferences of the St Vincent de Paul society. *Fr David Hartley*

The Rite of Reception

We pray for all those in our parishes preparing to be received into Full Communion or be Baptised this Easter. The Rite of Reception is an opportunity for them to meet many others, including our bishops, and realise just how many people are praying for them.

Archbishop Bernard writes: *"I look forward to welcoming those who are preparing for Baptism, Confirmation or Full Communion into the Catholic Church at the Rite of Election at 3.00 pm at St Chad's Cathedral on the First Sunday of Lent, 22 February."* His Grace goes on to thank the clergy *"and your parish catechists for accompanying these men and women on their journey of faith."*

Hollie and David, two St Joseph's parishioners received into the Faith last Easter, share their experience:

Walking into the Cathedral for the Rite of Election was a truly surreal moment for us last year. People from all different backgrounds were gathered there for the same purpose, each of us taking one of the first steps toward accepting the truth of Jesus Christ, and the Church He established into our hearts and lives. As we looked around the beautiful Cathedral and saw the diversity and eclectic mix of people, it became a powerful sign to us that Christianity truly is the one true faith and path to God; a faith that transcends race, culture, individual life experiences and circumstances. All equal, we were brought together as united, beloved children in the eyes of our Creator.

Fr David Hartley

Lenten Family Fast Day

CAFOD's Lenten Family Fast Day is Friday 27 February. This is an opportunity, at the beginning of Lent, for prayer, fasting and giving. An opportunity to come together as parishioners to pray for our neighbours, eat simply, and give to CAFOD's Lent Appeal. In God's eyes we are one global family, called to be neighbours. Around the world – despite farmers' best efforts – crops are failing and families are going hungry. Yet there is hope and there is a solution. In South Sudan and Bangladesh, devastating floods are destroying farmland but - thanks to the extraordinary generosity of the Catholic community at Fast Days - CAFOD's local partners have been helping families to develop ingenious solutions like floating gardens that can grow food above floodwaters. Generous support this Family Fast Day will mean more of our neighbours can put food on the table.

At St Peter's, Leamington, there will be a **Soup & Roll Lunch** to support this appeal on Friday 27 in the church hall from 12 noon to 1.30 pm. Everyone is welcome to enjoy delicious homemade soups and make a contribution to CAFOD's Lent Appeal. You can make a donation in the envelope at church, the card machine or online if you prefer at cafod.org.uk/envelope

Ann Allison

DIARY DATES

FEBRUARY 2026

8 February: Our Lady's, Lillington. Enrolment Mass for children preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion.

13 February: St Peter's, Leamington. SPAN Quiz. Doors open 7.15 pm. Full information, page 6.

20 February: Our Lady's, Lillington. Bingo Night. Doors open 6.30 pm. Full information, page 7.

22 February: St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham. Rite of Election, first Sunday of Lent, 3.00 pm.

27 February: St Peter's, Leamington. Soup and roll lunch for CAFOD's Lenten Fast Day. St Peter's church hall, 12 noon.

MARCH 2026

6 March: World Day of Prayer. Service at St Joseph's, Whitnash at 2.00 pm followed by refreshments.

7 March: Hosanna! Cantata. St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham. 2.30 pm start. Full information, page 11.

APRIL 2026

4 April: EASTER SUNDAY

MAY 2026

25-30 May: Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Warwick District Foodbank

Thank you for past donations.

Updated urgent needs:

- Squash (small)
- Tinned meat
- Vegetarian meals
- Cooking oil
- Tinned potatoes
- Deodorants (M and F)
- Shaving gel/razors
- Nappies size 6, 7 and 8.

At St Joseph's, Whitnash, donations can be left in the marked box. Thank you in advance.

Jackie Rabone

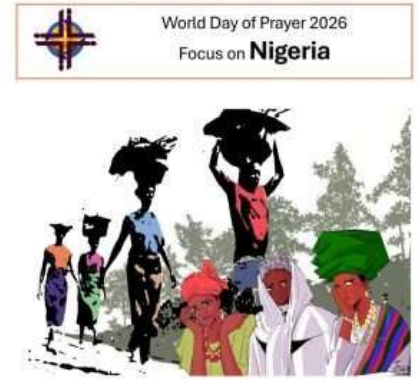
World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer on **Friday 6 March** is themed “Rest for the Weary”, prepared by women from Nigeria. Formerly known as Women’s World Day of Prayer, this ecumenical movement arranges services from across the globe - each year’s service being written and prepared by the women of a different country. This is important particularly in countries where women lack equality with men and may have very little autonomy. The service itself, however, welcomes everyone. Its theme – “Rest for the Weary” – encourages prayer for peace and solace across the world.

Nigeria is a country in West Africa and is the most populous in the whole of Africa with a population of over 200 million. It is rich in natural resources such as oil and minerals, but has been affected by climate change. This has reduced farming land through rising temperatures and lack of rain and threatens coastal communities by rising sea levels. It faces difficulties such as an unequal distribution of wealth and gender discrimination in education and pay. There is a disproportionately high mother and baby mortality rate. The terrorist activities of the militant group Boko Haram are frequently spread across the world’s media.

The World Day of Prayer is a powerful demonstration of global solidarity. It begins in Samoa and moves across over 120 countries of the world finishing 38 hours later in American Samoa, making it truly a worldwide day of prayer. In Leamington, there is a 2.00 pm service at Lillington Free Church, Cubbington Road CV32 7AL and in Whitnash, 2.00 pm at St Joseph’s Church, Murcott Road East CV31 2JJ.

Anna Godwin



Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage

The Lourdes Pilgrimage with the Diocese is from 25 to 30 May. If you could volunteer as a helper, or if you know anyone who would need care and support to go to Lourdes, please make contact as soon as possible. Bookings for all pilgrims are now open. I will be going as Chaplain to the Sick Pilgrims. I can give you some information if you would like to talk about the way it is arranged, please contact me at St Joseph’s, Whitnash on 01926 772712 or email me fr.david.hartley@rcaob.org.uk. See also this link [Lourdes Pilgrimage 2026 | Home | Birmingham Diocesan Trust](#)

Fr David Hartley

Sacramental Preparation at Our Lady's

Preparation for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion for children not at a Catholic school and for those children in Year 3 at Our Lady's will begin on **Sunday, 8 February with an Enrolment Mass**, followed by the first session. If you wish your child to be prepared for these sacraments, please attend **a meeting for parents** (children also welcome) at Our Lady's Church Hall, Valley Road, Lillington CV32 8JS on **Tuesday, 3 February** at 6.00 pm. Email maryrouse@rocketmail.com, or call Mary on 07540 532785 for more information.

Mary Rouse



© Con McHugh

Hosanna – A Cantata in Song and Mime

The cantata, ‘HOSANNA’, has been written by Anne Ward and is performed in mime, with narrators telling the story. Led by Hand in Hand and performed by an inclusive cast of people with disabilities and diverse needs and friends. It will take place at 2.30pm on Saturday 7 March at St Chad’s Cathedral. Please see the poster on page 12.

Mary Holden

Festival of Catholic Life

WeBelieve - a Festival of Catholic Life - takes place from 24-27 July 2026 at St Mary’s College, Oscott. It brings together the Church in England and Wales. **WeBelieve** is an unmissable opportunity to discover the traditions and charisms that flow through the Church, to experience the joy of community, and to encounter personally the Lord Jesus, our salvation. Please encourage participation for a feast of the True, the Good and the Beautiful. For more information please visit: [WeBelieve Festival](#) .

Tabletop Sale

A Tabletop Sale takes place from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm on Saturday 7 March at St Joseph's Church, Whitnash.

Sell your arts and crafts, books, records, unwanted items and jumble etc for cash. (No livestock, alcohol, or hazardous materials can be sold). Hire a table for a £10.00 donation to Church funds and keep whatever cash you make!

For more information, or to book a table, contact Peter Lawson on 01926 430176.

Peter Lawson



Pilgrimage to Assisi

Fr Patrick & Fr Ryan are running a joint pilgrimage from 2–6 March 2026. The cost is £725 (sharing) or £825 (single). Please see the form on the St Mary Immaculate website (under 'Assisi Pilgrimage' on the left-hand side) for all the details including how to book.

Hospital Chaplaincy

In the hospitals different arrangements are made. I provide six hours each week of visiting (on three separate days) to establish contact with every Catholic inpatient we can find. With my nurse training in the past, I find hospital a familiar environment. Often, the people we visit have been away from their practice of the faith but somehow get referred to us. When you hear of anyone being admitted, please feel free to refer them to me.

In addition to my visits I am also on call, assisted by other local clergy, so that **we can be called in emergencies by the hospital switchboard at any time**. I would like to thank Fr Arul Samy, Fr Kevin Hooper, and Fr Damian Nwanko, all of whom gave very committed service in Leamington and Warwick hospitals when they were in the area. At present Fr Stephen and Fr Patrick are supporting me, and we very much hope that Fr Ryan can begin soon. Thank you from us all to those involved in this.

On the days I can't be in Warwick hospital, visiting is supported by Frances, Nick, and Deacon David Palmer. They volunteer for a few hours and often find new contacts, and also minister Holy Communion to those we know are ready

and able to receive. Those who volunteer undertake training along with other chaplaincy volunteers from other Christian traditions and other faiths. If you might be able to get involved please contact me.

On the first Thursday of the month I celebrate Mass at 1.00 pm in the Warwick Hospital chapel and all are welcome.

Thank you for your support, referrals, and your prayers.

Fr David Hartley

Coventry Newman Circle

Coventry Newman Circle will hold one of its regular talks on Tuesday 24 February at 7.30 pm at the Margaret Roper Room, St Thomas More, Watercall Avenue, Coventry, CV3 5DE. The speaker will be Fr Peter Conley on 'A Tale of Two Pastors: The influence of Newman on Mgr. H. Francis Davis'. Fr Peter is a respected authority on St John Henry Newman. This will be followed by discussion and refreshments.

Stephen Ferguson

Leamington Peace Festival 2026

The Leamington Peace Festival organisers are promising to “bring back a festival like it used to be”. The organising team includes previous festival directors Tom Mead and Dave Steele, and Gian Clare. Mr Clare is one of the founder members of the Peace Festival in 1978

It takes place in the Pump Room Gardens on the weekend of 13/14 June. If you are an officer of a Community/Church/Campaigning group we would love to have your organisation participating in the Peace Festival in June by applying for a stall.



Further information on the new website: <https://leamingtonpeacefestival.org/>

DARE TO QUIZ

on Friday 13th February

Doors open: 7.15pm – Quiz starts: 7.45pm
Bar will be open all evening



Friday 13th:
Unlucky for some,
Lucky for charities

Tickets are available after Mass on 1st & 8th
February / piety / jenarmstrong17@gmail.com
Adults £5, Children £1

The proceeds go to two local charities:

Young People First: A charity supporting disadvantaged
and vulnerable young people in our local community.

New Chapters: Rehabilitation programme,
giving people another chance in life.

Join us at:

St. Peter's Hall, Dormer Place, Leamington Spa

SPAN – St. Peter's Aid for the Needy
Registered Charity No.: 1040252



SPAN Supporting People Across Nations 
www.catholicleamington.org.uk/span.html

IN AID OF OUR LADY'S CHURCH ROOF

BINGO NIGHT

PRIZES / PRIZES / PRIZES



PRIZES / PRIZES / PRIZES

FRIDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2026

Our Lady's Church Hall at 6:30 pm for 7:00pm start
Prizes / Raffle / Hot Drinks & Refreshments

£5 Per Book – Cash Prize for Full House

Additional prizes for lines and the raffle

Thank you for your support for the

SPAN Catholic Leamington Lenten Appeal 2026



for Local families AND both Friends of the Holy Land in Gaza and House of Light and Hope in Lebanon.

LOCAL families are finding the cost of living very challenging!

We are appealing again to obtain supermarket food vouchers to be distributed to local families. Thank you for that support; it has helped many families in recent years. We start with the families identified by our five Catholic Primary Schools and SVP; we include refugee families and those mentioned by parishioners. We then split further funds raised between two Holy Land charities:

The House of Light and Hope in Lebanon is looking after the needs of young people involved in delinquency and drug addiction; some are homeless, sometimes illiterate, sexually exploited and often victims of poverty and violence. It annually serves hundreds of boys and girls throughout Lebanon without discrimination of race, colour, or religion. See Annual Report link on www.catholicleamington.org.uk/span

Friends of the Holy Land in Gaza. See the 'News' section on their website

<https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk>

To give: Please consider Gift Aiding your donation.

- via gold envelopes in our churches, return via collections or boxes
- via bank transfer: account name SPAN, bank code 40-27-06, account number 21324004 or send to Michael Barker: 77 Montrose Avenue, Leamington Spa, CV32 7DS

All cheques should be made out to SPAN, so that Gift Aid can be added for these causes. If you wish to just nominate one cause, this can be done by cheque, bank transfer or gold envelopes through our churches, and writing on the transfer reference, or back of a cheque, or envelope, either Local or FHL or HLH.

Follow SPAN on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1DCfZ4yYgP/paulhayden444@gmail.com>

Vision for Our Lady's Church Lillington

Talents Challenge

Last November we launched our 'Talents Challenge' as a way of putting 'Our Vision for Our Lady's' into action. Parishioners have been asked to pray, complete and return yellow Talents Challenge Cards which contain 3 *personal* challenges, namely:

- 1) Using our God-given skills/abilities/interests by joining one of 5 *Vision & Action* groups: Buildings & Premises; Communication & Admin; Fundraising; Grant-Funding; or Parish Life & Mission.
- 2) Review or consider setting up a standing order.
- 3) Pledge an amount we can raise, individually, over the next year towards our Vision's number one priority - making the Church water-tight.



We're thankful for the response so far and will be collating the cards at the beginning of February. Through the Talents Challenge we are all being encouraged to put our faith into action by using our talents, time & treasures to build up the Church - both physically and in its Mission.

Voluntary Information to help us plan to implement the Vision

I would not like to be kept informed of Our Lady's Parish Vision events, activities & updates.

It would help to know what age group you are in (optional):

Age Group: Under 18 18-30 yrs 31-45yrs 45-65yrs Over 65

Are there any ideas/comments you would like to share?

..... to help implement our Vision for Our Lady's Church (Please see Data Protection Info overleaf)

Vision for Our Lady's

We will be:
A vibrant community of faith
Visible through our worship, our welcome and our outreach
Co-responsible for all aspects of parish life
A friend to neighbouring parishes and the local community
Messengers of the good news of the Gospel
Our Lady, pray for us!

TALENTS CHALLENGE:

Join V&A Group:

Buildings & Premises
 Communication & Admin
 Fundraising
 Grant-Funding
 Parish Life & Mission

2nd Collection Giving Review:

Standing Order
 Gift Aid
 Review Amount

Vision Pledge: £.....

Vision for Our Lady's: TALENTS CHALLENGE!

JOIN A VISION & ACTION GROUP

Buildings & Premises
 Communication & Admin
 Fundraising
 Grant-Funding
 Parish Life & Mission

Name:

Address:

Tel No:

Email:

SECOND COLLECTION REGULAR GIVING REVIEW

If you haven't, could you

Set up a Standing Order?
 Gift Aid you contributions?

If you already give, could you

Review the amount?

VISION PLEDGE

Can you challenge yourself to personally raise an amount before Advent 2026?

I Pledge £..... (optional)

Idea(s) how:

(Please see Data Protection Info overleaf)

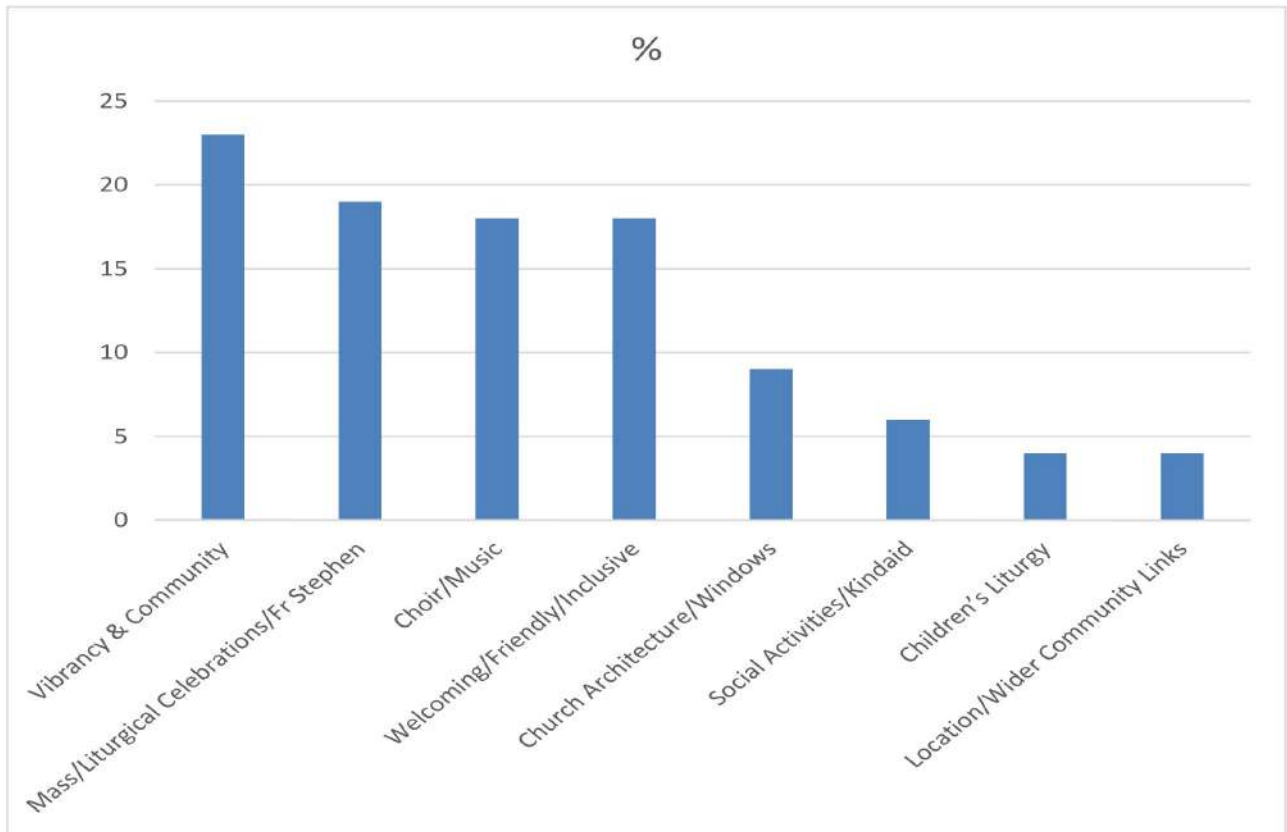
Postcode:

Mobile:

PTO

Please pray for the success of this exciting, ambitious initiative -
Putting Our Vision for Our Lady's, Lillington into Action.

What I Value About Our Lady's Church



Just a few of the many lovely comments Parishioners made:

Our Beautiful Church – Inspiring Me Every Weekend

The Wonderful, Welcoming & Inclusive Community

The Choir is amazing. I especially enjoy the harmonies and smiles on their faces when they sing so passionately.

The Place of the Church within the wider Lillington Community

The Excellent Liturgical Celebrations

It is Alive!

Sense of Belonging

Liturgy Brought to Life through Music

The Beauty of the Church

A Very Warm & Welcoming Christian Community

The Beautiful, Joyous Choir

The Dedication from so many of our Wonderful Parish Community

The Deeply Embedded Faith in Action

Fundraising Ideas for Our Lady's Church

Auction – Promise/Talents & Skills/Gifts & Services*
Bollywood Night
Book Club – pay to borrow book
Breakfast Sale
Bring & Buy Sale/Car Boot Sale
Buy a Roof Tile*
Car Wash
Eco-Friendly Fashion Show
Family Disco*
Fashion Show
Foods of the World Event
Fundraising Talk After Mass & Standing Order/Gift Aid Form
Giving Campaign
Heritage Funding
Hire Hall Out ie Polling Station, Martial Arts, Keep Fit
Indian Dance Workshop
Inter-Parish Festival
Inter-Parish Football Tournament/Sports Tournament*
It's a Knock-Out Games (Link to Highland Games re: Scottish Road Names)
Music Nights/Karaoke with Hymns
Plant Sale*
Race/Water Fight
Raffle
Sell Presbytery (or rent at market price)*
Silent Disco*
Sip & Paint Sessions
Solar Panels
Tactful Encouragement to think of OL in Will.
Talent Show
Treasure Hunt around Lillington
Volunteering in Homes

** Denotes suggested more than once.*

An invitation to join Hand in Hand in a performance of



HOSANNA!

A story for Easter in song and mime

Together, we will relive the events of Holy Week from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, to the devastating crucifixion on Good Friday, with a hint of what happened next...

We need you!

The cantata, 'HOSANNA', has been written by Anne Ward and is performed in mime, with narrators telling the story. We are really enthusiastic about performing HOSANNA, but we can't do it alone. So we hope that you will join in.

We are particularly inviting people with learning disabilities and diverse needs, and friends, to join us in performing this Easter story

There is a part for everyone - whether you love the limelight or are happier as part of the crowd, whatever your age or experience - we need you! The place where we will be rehearsing and performing the cantata is fully accessible. **As this is a musical story, we are also looking for people to sing or can play musical instruments like guitar, flute, drums....**

HOSANNA is on Saturday 7 March 2026

We will rehearse and then perform at

**St Chad's Cathedral, St Chad's Queensway,
Birmingham B4 6EU**

There will be a morning rehearsal for everyone involved from 10.00 am, and then in the afternoon we will perform the cantata in front of an audience at 2.30 pm.

How to book or find out more

**Phone Julia: 07947 191352 or email
handinhandbirmingham@gmail.com**

Hand in Hand are adults with and without learning disabilities, based in Birmingham and Arundel & Brighton Dioceses, who meet to socialise and to pray using drama, music and sign language

The People of God on a journey, together, led by the Spirit.

This is Synodality – it should be a familiar word.

Synodality should not be reduced to a series of techniques for managing meetings, but it is a spiritual and ecclesial experience that involves growing in a renewed way of being Church with a view to more confidently / effectively carrying out our mission of evangelisation.

We recognise that the People of God have diverse views but are all equal in the eyes of God. The views of everyone should be listened to with openness, as all are co-responsible and nobody should shelve that responsibility. Hopefully we will ask “What can I do?”

Pope Francis called us all to listen to each other in our parishes, asking us what we loved or thought about our faith. This was the **Consultation Phase** of the Synod, started in October 2021 giving hope to many for a renewed and regenerated Church. The **Discernment Phase** followed with two gatherings (Synods) in Rome over two years. A *Final Document* was published in October 2024 and became part of the Church’s authoritative teaching. See www.catholicleamington.org.uk/synod for links to various documents.

Pope Leo emphasises synodality—walking together, listening, and discerning—as the proper reception and implementation of Vatican II, seeing it as a way to bridge divides (including ecumenical ones) through shared participation, while addressing concerns about authority by stressing that true synodality fosters mission and collaboration rather than diminishing leadership.

Where are we now? Did you know that this year, 2026, we are in the **Implementation Phase of a Synodal Church** for all Catholic Parishes in the world, with a review expected to start from January 2027! Parishes will be asked about their progress on Synodality during future Diocesan visitations. For some parishes this will be quite a challenge in just one year, but also doable!

What is being called for in this year and how is Catholic Leamington progressing?

Fundamentally we are being asked to listen better to each other and have spiritual conversations where at all practical. Ordained and Laity should collaborate together with transparency and openness.

Much of this is already happening across our churches – but we need more practice in incorporating spiritual exercises into our plans. A bigger challenge is engaging all parishioners, particularly those on the fringes for whatever reason.

There are practical examples of using synodal techniques that people could observe e.g. Christian Life Community meetings, the Friday 11-12am group studying the following Sunday Readings at St Peter’s. There will also be opportunities in your own meetings.

“among the requirements for a good discernment process, a clear definition of its objectives is essential, ensuring that they are realistic and proportionate to the time available, the spaces that can be used, and the number of participants involved... it is crucial that each participant arrives adequately prepared and that the context foster a climate of prayer and an inner openness to listening and dialogue... avoiding abrupt disruptions and allowing participants to focus more decisively on the issues under discernment.” 4.1: Pathways for the Implementation Phase of the Synod – i.e. good planning is so important.

Trust is at the heart of synodality; developing this only happens when there are opportunities for us all to listen to each other and have dialogue. Trust is won through positive experiences.

paulhayden444@gmail.com