



Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

24th April 2016
FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER

Parish Priest:

**Monsignor Canon
H. Turner**

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The first reader today should have a look at the pronunciation guide today as there are many foreign names to negotiate. They may provoke indifference in the hearers today, but we should consider that they were once places of flourishing Christianity. All the places mentioned are in southern Turkey, with Antioch (Antakya today) and Perga being on the Mediterranean. Some people may have visited this region. Christians now make up a mere 0.2% of the population of Turkey and many of Paul's communities are very small or long vanished. The flock of Christ has mixed fortunes, but we must never despair. We are moving towards the new Jerusalem - a new heaven and a new earth; this puts in perspective the fragile state of the planet as a result of our mismanagement, but it does not mean in the slightest that we should not take care of it; as Pope Francis says *we are called to be instruments of God our Father, so that our planet might be what he desired when he created it and correspond with his plan for peace, beauty and fullness.* (Laudato Si 53). He also says something very implicated in Jesus's New Commandment in the Gospel: *we have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.* (49)

Parish Office

**Open Mon, Tues,
Wed & Friday**

9.30am – 12.30pm

Office Administrator

Jane Rose

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Also in Residence

Bishop Emeritus

John Crowley

(Retired)

SMILE LINES

A man was terribly overweight, so his doctor put him on a diet. He said, 'I want you to eat regularly for two days, then skip a day, and repeat the procedure for two weeks. The next time I see you, you should have lost at least five pounds.'

When the man returned, the doctor was amazed to find that he had lost nearly twenty pounds. 'Well done!' he said. 'Did you follow my instructions?' 'Yes,' said the man, 'but I thought I was going to drop dead on the third day.'

'What, from hunger?'
'No, from skipping
* * * * *

A doctor couldn't help noticing that one of his new patients had an extraordinarily ruddy complexion.

'It's caused by high blood pressure,' said the man. It comes from my family.

'Your mother's side or your father's?' asked the doctor.

'Neither. It's from my wife's family. I'm sorry, but I don't see how you can get high blood pressure from your wife's family.'

'You should try spending a weekend with them!'
* * * * *

Seen in a West Country church:

Whenever I see a little church,
I always pay a visit.

So when at last I'm carried in,
the Lord won't say 'Who is it?'

* * * * *

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 23rd April ST. GEORGE

10:00 The People of the Parish

18:00 James Hannafin (RIP)

Sunday 24th April

08.30 Denis Mann (RIP)

09.45 Con Cronin (RIP)

11.30 Bill Ramswell (RIP) Anniv.

In thanks Emmanuel Ogah

Monday 25th April ST. MARK

09.15 Peggy Hamilton (RIP)

Tuesday 26th April

09.15 Vera Lloyd (RIP) Rec. Dec.

Wednesday 27th April

09.15 Joan Gaire (RIP)

Thursday 28th April

11.00 Service of the Word
with Holy Communion

Friday 29th April ST. CATHERINE

09.15 David McIntosh (RIP) Rec. Dec.

Saturday 30th April

10:00 Valerie McGarry (RIP) Anniv.

18:00 Maureen & Peter Hanly (RIP) Anniv.

Sunday 1st May

08.30 Denis Mann (RIP)

09.45 People of the Parish

11.30 Gerald Woodruff (RIP)

QUOTE - Pope Francis

"To cause a loss of jobs means to create serious social damage. When work is detached from the alliance between God and man and woman and is separated from their spiritual qualities, there is a 'degradation of the soul' that contaminates everything, even the air, water, grass, and food.