



Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

9th August 2015
19th SUNDAY of the YEAR



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Bishop John Crowley
– Retired.

We are among those crowds as Jesus's words continue to be a challenge to us today. The words 'were complaining to each other' recall the 'murmuring' of God's people in the desert when they felt their wanderings there were pointless and dangerous. They want Jesus to say who he is and why he can claim to be 'the bread that came down from heaven' This comes at the end of today's passage. He does not answer directly, but assumes an authority and a status as one sent by God the Father, the kind of statement that later led to his death. At the end of these verses he returns to words he has used earlier about the Bread of Life and the manna – this circularity of narrative is a feature of Jewish literature and preaching. At the very end, though, he takes it one step further, talking of the bread as his 'flesh'. Next week we miss the further reaction of the listeners, which gets more heated; and because verses 6:52-58 contain some of the most familiar words of this chapter, some way should be found of acknowledging them today.

SMILE LINES

The local priest was driving down a country lane in his Fiat 500 when a Mercedes careered round the bend, spun out of control and crashed into the Fiat. Both cars landed in the ditch. The driver of the Mercedes staggered over to the priest. 'By all the saints in heaven!' said the priest, 'you nearly killed me!' 'I'm sorry, Father,' apologised the man, taking a flask of whisky from his pocket. 'Here, have a drink of this, it'll calm your nerves.'

'Why there's more than an ounce of goodness in you, my son,' said the priest, taking a generous swig, 'to be sure, a drop of the old stuff won't go amiss at a time like this.' He took another gulp. 'Here,' he handed the flask back, 'have a swig yourself.' 'Oh, no, Father,' said the man, calmly, 'I'll just wait here till the police arrive.'

* * * * *

The old lady who was leading the meeting bent over to pray, and her wig fell off. She picked it up and put it back on, hoping that no one had noticed. However, after the prayer was over, everyone was staring at her in amazement. She had put her wig on back to front and she was smiling at them all, unaware that a large grey bun was sticking out of her forehead.

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MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 8th August

10.00 Private Intention (LW)
6.00pm

Sunday 9th August

08.30 Patricia Joy Hagan(RIP)
09.45 The People of the Parish
11.30 Stanley Whittle (RIP)

Monday 10th August

9.15 Margaret Foulds (RIP)

Tuesday 11th August

9.15 Geraldine (RIP)

Wednesday 12th August

9.15 Brenda Tyzack (RIP)

Thursday 13th August

11.00 Service of the Word

Friday 14th August

9.15 Private Intention

Saturday 15th August

10.00 Private Intention
6.00pm

Sunday 16th August

08.30 The People of the Parish
09.45
11.30 Private Intention

CONFESSIONS

Saturday: 10.30am - 11.00am and after the 6.00pm Mass.

QUOTE - Pope Francis

If only we could view our neighbours and society in the same way we consider members of our family, and then reflect that in our actions society would greatly benefit.

In an age when basic values are often neglected or distorted, the family merits special attention on the part of those responsible for the common good, since it is the basic cell of society.