



Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

2nd April 2017
5th Sunday of Lent

Parish Priest:
Canon Anthony Dwyer

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Parish Office

Open NEXT WEEK:
Wednesday & Thursday

9.30am – 12.30pm

Office Administrator

Jane Rose

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Also in Residence
Bishop John Crowley
(Retired)

In today's Gospel Jesus is surrounded by a culture of death. The disciples are afraid to go back to Bethany, the Jews want to stone Jesus to death, Mary and Martha are distraught over the death of their brother Lazarus, and Lazarus himself lies bound in the darkness of the tomb. It appears as if there is no hope. Jesus weeps for his friend and for those around him.

Yet, surrounded by a culture of violence and despair, Jesus gives hope, compassion, and resurrection to those in turmoil. It is easy to say that nothing can be done when we are faced with difficult situations in our own lives. Yet Jesus says 'Lazarus, come out' and to the people he says 'Unbind him, let him go.' It is a message for all of us to come away from a culture of death; to help unbind one another and to also allow ourselves to emerge from the tomb. We are called to take away the stone. Today's Gospel is a story of liberation. Jesus gives a new insight into the power of faith over death.

'Hope means to keep living amid desperation and to keep humming in the darkness. Hope is knowing that there is love, it is trust in tomorrow, it is falling asleep and waking to work when the sun rises. In the midst of a gale at sea, it is to discover land. In the eyes of another, it is to see understanding. As long as there is hope, there will also be prayer. And God will be holding you in his loving hands.' Henri Nouwen.

BAPTISM

CONGRATULATIONS

We offer our warmest congratulations to

Tess Caitlin Niamh Kelly, daughter of Kieron & Eleanor and **Laurence Paul Thompson**, son of Paul & Victoria, who were both baptised into the Catholic Church last weekend. We wish them and their families every blessing as they start their new lives in Christ.

WALK IN THE PARK

Spring is officially here! The Rothamsted Park gardeners planted 80,000 spring bulbs last year. Do come and join parishioners on an hour's walk through the Park and surrounds to enjoy the first daffodils coming through! Meet on Wednesday 5th April outside Church at 10am. We go for coffee in a nearby café after (or if the weather is bad – straight for coffee). Look out for future walks held first Wednesday of every month.

REFLECTIONS AT ROSARY PRIORY:

Winter to Spring

with Sr Avril OP.

Tuesday 4th April:

Stations of the Cross with Pope Francis.

11am in the Convent Chapel,
Rosary Priory, Bushey.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 1st April

10.00am Mary Cawley Intentions

6.00pm Frank McConnachie RIP

Sunday 2nd April

8.30am Barney Bradley RIP rec.dec.

9.45am Maria Pia Milo Di Villagrazia
RIP

11.30am Beryl Scorey RIP rec.dec.

Monday 3rd April

9.15am Sr. Amy Intentions

Tuesday 4th April

9.15am Special Intention (NT)

Wednesday 5th April

9.15am Bernard Graham Intentions

Thursday 6th April

11.00am Brian Morris RIP rec.dec.

Friday 7th April

9.15am Annie Conway Intentions

Saturday 8th April

10.00am The People of the Parish

6.00pm Colin King RIP rec.dec.

Sunday 9th April

8.30am Tim & Margaret Gaynor RIP
Anniv

9.45am Anna Whittle RIP rec.dec.

11.30am Ann Martin RIP rec.dec.

CONFESSIONS

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

SEVEN LAST WORDS

Meditation on the Seven Last Words of
Jesus on the Cross.

Monday 3rd April, 2-3pm,

at the Convent, 18 Kirkdale Road.