



Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

13th December 2015

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Parish Priest:

**Monsignor Canon
H. Turner**

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**Open Mon, Tues,
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Also in Residence

Bishop Emeritus

John Crowley

(Retired)

The chorus of joy and happiness rises in volume today. This is not Advent as a penitential season, as it was often described by members of the congregation in times past. To be fair, this was mid-Advent or Gaudete Sunday, from the first words of the Introit. Zechariah is similar in character to many prophecies - a denunciation of the sins of the chosen people, followed by a promise by a loving and forgiving God to make all things well. The Gospel is once more about John the Baptist. Note who comes to see John: not the priests or religious authorities, but 'the people', followed by tax collectors and soldiers - representing people on the margins or even outcasts. All of them ask him questions about their own lives and he gives answers which are rather like what Jesus himself will preach, and he talks about 'many other things' which he announced as the Good News. No wonder people wondered if he was the Christ. The Baptism of the Lord takes place just after this. passage.

SMILE LINES

Keep it a surprise

Three-year-old Lily was helping her mother wrap a present for her father. While wrapping, her mother told Lily about keeping the present a secret so it would be a surprise. After the present was wrapped, Lily proudly put it under the tree.

When her father asked her if he could shake it and guess what's inside, she said, very seriously, "No, T-shirts don't rattle."

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A man went to confession and admitted that for years, he had been stealing supplies from the timber yard where he worked 'What did you take?' asked the priest. 'Enough to build my own house, a house for my son, houses for my two daughters, and a country cottage by the river.'

'This is a very serious matter,' said the priest. 'I shall have to think of a suitably severe penance. Tell me, have you ever done a retreat?'

'No, I haven't, Father,' said the man.

'But if you can get the plans, I can get the wood.'

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Footballer's carol

A football supporter's favourite Christmas song?

'Yule never walk alone'.

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MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 12 December

10.00 Special Intention

6.00pm George Jones (RIP)

Sunday 13 December

08.30 Intentions of Ruth and Kevin

09.45 Intentions of DohertyMarks families

11.30 William Chiu (RIP)

Monday 14 December

09.15 Patrick Kavanagh (RIP)

Tuesday 15 December

09.15 Paul Foster & Imelda Weafer (RIP)

Wednesday 16 December

09.15 Corneluis Dennehy (RIP) Anniv.

Thursday 17 December

11.00 Service of the Word

Friday 18 December

09.15 Richard Finch (RIP)

10.00am Funeral Mass - Mary Rafferty RIP

Saturday 19 December

10.00 Rosy & Thomas Jose (RIP)

6.00pm Michael & Theresa McCloskey Ints.

Sunday 20 December

08.30 Peter O'Hagan (RIP) Anniv.

09.45 Frank Jones (RIP) Anniv.

11.30 Edmund Chiu (RIP)

QUOTE - Pope Francis

The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus.

Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew. In this Exhortation I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come.