



Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

20^h December 2015
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



***WHY SHOULD
I BE
HONoured
WITH A VISIT
FROM THE
MOTHER OF
MY LORD!***

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DURING SCHOOL
HOLIDAYS**

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Ephrathah is first mentioned in Genesis. Ephrath, now Bethlehem. It is cited by Herod's advisers as proof of the birthplace of the King of the Jews. It was the town of David, where his grandmother Ruth and father Jesse lived. It was a humble place, a fitting birthplace for a humble Saviour, who is in his mother's womb in the Gospel today. Mary sings her song of praise to God who scatters the proud-hearted, raises the lowly and fills the starving with good things. Mary is not heard until after Elizabeth has spoken, so we do not hear her today.

Does this give a Christmas feel? Mary had barely conceived so the Visitation was in the spring. And the word of God from Hebrews is not the first text to which people turn when they think of the festive season. To appreciate Christmas fully everyone has to be a bit of a theologian. These readings are about Christ taking flesh, but with no mention of cribs and mangers - that is later this week.

SMILE LINES

Santa's sleigh

I remember when Father Christmas nervously went for his sleigh-driving test. He came rushing back in a thunder of reindeer, and pulled up in front of the toy factory. 'Have you passed?' I asked.

Father Christmas pointed to the front of the sleigh. 'See for yourself!' he called proudly.

'No-el plates!'

* * * * *

Arriving home from work, a husband was greeted by his young wife on the doorstep. She gave him a big kiss and smiled. 'You know how we've always said that this house would be better with three people in it instead of two?

Well, soon there will be three of us!'

'Oh, darling!' he cried. 'That's wonderful news. I'm so happy!'

'I'm glad you feel that way,' she said, 'because Mother is moving in tomorrow.'

* * * * *

Two drunks were sitting in a bar. One turned to the other and said, "What's a breathalyser?"

The second drunk said, "It's a bag that tells you when you've drunk too much." 'Oh,' said the first, 'I've been married to one of those for years!'

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MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 19th December

10.00 Rosy & Thomas Jose (RIP)

6.00pm Ints Michael & Theresa McCloskey

Sunday 20th December

08.30 Peter O'Hagan (RIP) Anniv.

09.45 Frank Jones (RIP) Anniv.

11.30 Edmund Chiu (RIP)

Monday 21st December

09.15 Peter MacConnell (RIP) Anniv.

Tuesday 22nd December

09.15 Margaret McCarthy (RIP) Anniv.

Wednesday 23rd December

09.15 Frank & Dorothy Prichard (RIP) Anniv.

Thursday 24th December

11.00 Eddie Quinn (RIP)

12.00 Midnight Philip Carey (RIP)

Fri 25th December - CHRISTMAS DAY

08.30 Bill & Raynah Watson (RIP)

09.45 Gerald McGuinness (RIP)

11.30 The People of the Parish

Saturday 26th December – ST STEPHEN

10.00 Sr. Nora Intentions

6.00pm Private Intention (RB)

Sunday 27th Dec. THE HOLY FAMILY

08.30 Sr. Amy Intentions

09.45 Antonio Delgado (RIP) Anniv.

11.30 Kathleen Porter (RIP) Anniv.

QUOTE - Pope Francis

As we proceed towards Christmas, we embark on a journey of faith and prayer in preparation for our encounter with the Lord. Because Christmas, isn't just a temporal celebration or the memory of a beautiful event. Christmas is something more. Christmas is an encounter with the Lord. And as we make our way towards Him, we must go with open heart and faith, even though this is not always easy.