



Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

6th December 2015
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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Also in Residence
Bishop Emeritus
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The book of Baruch is a short book of very late date, any time between 300 BC and 70 AD. It is in two halves, the first half being taken up by laments for Israel's sins and the exile that befell them as a result, the second half being quite the opposite, as today's passage shows. The rejoicing over the return from exile explains the choice of the psalm, in which 'streams in dry land' sounds like the wilderness/desert where John preaches. This psalm is the only scripture passage we hear on Sundays that mentions laughter, so cherish it. Paul is still looking forward to the Day of Christ Jesus, and he doesn't mean 25th December. Luke situates the first coming of Christ precisely in history, with his careful dates. The fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar would be AD 28 -29. The other evangelists don't have this level of detail. Some of the people named - Pilate, Herod, Caiaphas, will be involved in bringing about Jesus' death. Note that this passage comes, in the Gospel, after the stories of Christ's birth. John the Baptist announced, not a little child, but an adult Christ. Luke makes John a preacher; like him, we proclaim the salvation of God.

SMILE LINES

11 PEOPLE ... ON A ROPE

Eleven people were hanging on a rope, under a helicopter.

10 men and 1 woman.

The rope was not strong enough to carry them all, so they decided that one had to leave, because otherwise they were all going to fall. They weren't able to choose that person, until the woman gave a very touching speech.

She said that she would voluntarily let go of the rope, because, as a woman, she was used to giving up everything for her husband and kids or for men in general, and was used to always making sacrifices with little in return.

As soon as she finished her speech, all the men started clapping

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A patient who had just undergone a complicated operation kept complaining about a bump on his head and a mysterious headache. Since the operation had been for an intestinal condition' there was no reason for him to be experiencing headaches. Eventually the nurse, concerned that the man might be suffering from post-operative shock spoke to the doctor about it.

'Don't worry,' said the doctor. 'He's not imagining it. He really does have a bump on his head. You see, halfway through the operation \Me ran out of anaesthetic!'

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MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 5 December

10.00 John Barrett (RIP)

6.00pm Mike Brien (RIP)

Sunday 6 December

08.30 Frank & Angela Bleakley RIP Anniv.

09.45 Special Intention

11.30 Peter Budd (RIP)

Monday 7 December

09.15 Por Chiu (RIP)

Tuesday 8 December

09.15 Intentions of HS

Wednesday 9 December

09.15 Kathleen Doyle (RIP)

Thursday 10 December

11.00 Margaret Foulds (RIP)

Friday 11 December

09.15 Intentions of Vincent Breheny

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 Doherty/Marks families

11.30 William Chiu (RIP)

QUOTE - Pope Francis on the Holy Year

'The Jubilee Year has always constituted an opportunity for great amnesty, which is intended to include the many people who, despite deserving punishment, have become conscious of the injustice they worked and sincerely wish to re-enter society, and make their honest contribution to it.

May they all be touched in a tangible way by the mercy of the Father who wants to be close to those who have the greatest need of his forgiveness.