



Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

**10th December 2017
2nd Sunday of Advent**

**Parish Priest:
Canon Anthony Dwyer**

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Parish Office

**Open Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday & Thursday
9.30am – 12.30pm**

**Office Administrator
Ellen Hughesman
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harpenden@rcdow.org.uk**

**Also in Residence
Bishop John Crowley
(Retired)**

Again and again we hear it said that Advent is a time of waiting. That may sound as if there is nothing for us to do during this season, no part for us to play in the drama that is unfolding. That is far from the truth, for Advent does not demand that we be passive, that we simply stand by waiting for God to “do his part”. It is a time of eager anticipation, a time of preparation in which we do all that we can to open ourselves up to everything the Lord is offering us, his love, his mercy, his joy, his guidance, his very self.

The readings for this week do not say, “Prepare the way of the Lord so that he can make straight paths.” It is an invitation to each of us to “make straight his paths”. That should tell us something about the spiritual life and this season in particular. God always does his part, not once, or once in a while, but always. We are the ones who must also do our part, opening ourselves up to the transforming love of the One who is Love.

That’s what we are preparing to celebrate, a God who is willing to do anything and everything for us, even going so far as to become one of us. The celebration is not simply for something that happened in the past, nor is it for something that will happen down the line. It’s a celebration of gratitude for what God is doing right now, in this time and place, in every human heart and in every situation. That is the God we are preparing for, our God whom we are waiting for.

**BOOK THE DATE BARN DANCE
20TH JANUARY 2018**

We invite you to join us for an evening of fun, exercise, an excellent caller and the best fish & chips in town (Godfrey's)!

Tickets will be £12.50 and it will be a, 'Bring your own drinks and nibbles event.'

It's early notice but we know what a busy lot you are! Tickets are selling fast.

Please could we have all bookings and money by 15th January.

Enquiries to Julia 07891083251

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

If you are thinking about a different Christmas gift you might appreciate some of the items available from CAFOD. Catalogues with their products are available in the church porch.

COMPANION/CARER

For elderly lady parishioner, ideally 4 hours in the evenings. In central Harpenden.

Please contact Catherine on:
07701 086 104

**NB. Entries for the Newsletter
must be sent into the office by
Wednesday at the latest.**

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 9th December Advent feria

10.00am Joe Griffiths (RIP)
6.00pm People of The Parish

**Sunday 10th December
2nd Sunday of Advent**

8.30am Margaret Fouldes
9.45am Peter Padgett
11.30am Gerry, Maureen & Geraldine Martin (RIP)

Monday 11th December Advent feria

9.15am Josie Calnan (RIP)

Tuesday 12th December Advent feria

9.15am Sanctity of Life

**Wednesday 13th December
St Lucy**

9.15am William Chiv (RIP)

**Thursday 14th December
St John of the Cross**

11.00am Peter MacConnell
12.00 noon Funeral Mass Marie O'Sullivan (RIP)

Friday 15th December Advent feria

9.15am Bridie Kenny (Special Intention)

Saturday 16th December Advent feria

10.00am People of the Parish
6.00pm Sister Amy (Special Intention)

**Sunday 17th December
3rd Sunday of Advent**

8.30am Frank & Angela Bleakley (RIP)
9.45am Sister Regina (Special Intention)
11.30am Norris Egan

CONFESSIONS

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