



Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

11th December 2016

3rd Sunday of Advent

Parish Priest:

Canon Anthony Dwyer

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Parish Office

**Open Mon, Tues,
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9.30am – 12.30pm
Office Administrator**

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

Jesus asks the crowd in today's Gospel why they ran to see John the Baptist. Sometimes when we go to hear a famous speaker or go to someone we admire we are looking for answers. Our expectations are often not grounded in reality. Jesus asks the people what did they expect when they went to see John. Were they looking for someone nicely dressed? No, they were looking for a prophet and John was the greatest of these. Jesus's words are almost like a eulogy for John.

John announces and makes way for Jesus, marking the end of one era and the beginning of another. John announces a new time. John names the question we so often ask when a new exciting leader comes on the scene: Is this the one? Is this the person we've been waiting for? And if it is, how will we know? Our expectations can often be so great because we are constantly in need of renewal. Where in your life today do you need to experience fresh hope and newness?

The Gospel ends with a paradox: John is the greatest that has ever been born; yet the people who are considered the 'lowest' or the 'least' in this world are considered even greater than John by God. A statement that no doubt would have left a few people scratching their heads.

We continue to wait, to wait with joyful expectation for Emmanuel to come. May we recognise him when he comes, and may our hearts be ready to receive him and welcome him.

DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP (DWG)

The DWG donated a further £3,500 to the Moyo Babies' Home last week, via the International Refugee Trust. The Home looks after up to 66 orphaned or at risk babies and children under five years of age, from Uganda, South Sudan and the Congo. Our money will refurbish another home that houses the children. The DWG recently received £46.05 from cash donations, £50.20 from several DWG 'Green Boxes' being emptied, £313 in standing orders for November, and £965.92 as a Gift Aid rebate - the highest we have had. Many thanks for your great generosity. See DWG section of parish website - located under Other Groups - for more on Moyo including photos, Gift Aid forms etc.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday 4th February

DWG 's Majestic Wine Tasting at Lourdes Hall: 7.30pm. Tickets £20. Lighten a dark winter's evening and have fun while supporting the work of the DWG. Please contact either Julia Roche 01582 760295 juliaandnigel@gmail.com

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 10th December

10.00am Michael Shenley (RIP) rec.dec.
6.00pm Margaret Fouldes (RIP)

Sunday 11th December

8.30am Angela & Frank Bleakley (RIP) Anniv.
9.45am Ints. of the Conway Family
11.30am Elizabeth Wang (RIP)

Monday 12th December

11.00am FUNERAL MASS
Christine Reason (RIP)

Tuesday 13th December

9.15am William Chiu (RIP)

Wednesday 14th December

11.00am FUNERAL MASS
William Hardy (RIP)

Thursday 15th December

11.00am Bernard Dunne (RIP)

Friday 16th December

9.15am Service of the Word
with Holy Communion

Saturday 17th December

10.00am Intentions of Kin Wang
6.00pm Peter O'Hagan (RIP) Anniv.

Sunday 18th December

8.30am Mary Baker (RIP) rec.dec.
9.45am Steve Waddington (RIP) rec.dec.
11.30am Gerry, Maureen & Geraldine Martin (RIP)

CONFESSIONS

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

Or Betty Hines 01582 843409
elizabeth.hines@gmail.com