



Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

17th December 2017
3rd Sunday of Advent

Parish Priest:
Canon Anthony Dwyer

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Last week we were introduced to John the Baptist as part of our Advent journey. We hear his story again today, and in this account, from the fourth gospel, we hear John's voice and his testimony about Jesus. Light and darkness is a key theme of the fourth gospel and its opening verses proclaims that this light has always shone in the dark; the darkness cannot overpower it. The evangelist goes on to tell us that John the Baptist's mission is that he has been sent by God to 'speak for the light'. John is a light-bearer, he is not the light, but he points to the light. He is a witness to the light of God in our world, a light that cannot be put out.

We celebrate this light today on Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means 'rejoice'; we light the pink candle and we celebrate with joy. It might be a good opportunity to ask today: 'who have been the light-bearers on your own faith journey'? Who testified to the Light of God and passed the torch on to you? We thank God for them.

" Lord there is much darkness in society and in our church ... We become cynical and settle for mediocrity. We thank you that someone always comes on the scene, sent by you as a witness to speak for the light ... teachers, community leaders, grandparents, children, a friend ... they bear witness to the rest of us that somewhere in the dark a light shines that darkness cannot overcome".

Michel de Verteuil

Parish Office

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

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

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

**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

WALK IN THE PARK

Do join us for a bracing New Year's walk in our special Rothampsted Park! Meet outside Church at 10am on Wednesday 3rd January for an hour's walk and then a coffee in a nearby cafe. If weather is bad, it's straight for coffee! Look out for future walks held first Wednesday of every month.

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 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 (RIP)

Monday 18th December Advent feria

1.15pm Funeral Mass Anne Grace Murray Lawson

7.30pm Penitential Service

Tuesday 19th December Advent feria

9.15am Sister Loretta (Special Intention)

Wednesday 20th December Advent feria

9.15am Edmund Chiv (RIP)

Thursday 21st December Advent feria

11.00am Ian Swanson (RIP) Anniv

Friday 22nd December Advent feria

9.15am Sister Nora (Special Intention)

Saturday 23rd December Advent feria

10.00am Tina & Michael (Golden Wedding Anniv –
Thanksgiving Mass)

6.00pm Peter O'Hagan (RIP) Anniv

Sunday 24th December

4th Sunday of Advent

8.30am Denis Mann (RIP)

9.45am Sister Eileen (Special Intention)

11.30am Margaret Kenyon

11.30pm Carol Singing

12.00pm Midnight Mass

CONFESSIONS

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

