



# Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

**3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017**  
**1<sup>st</sup> 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  
email:**

**harpenden@rcdow.org.uk**

## **Also in Residence**

**Bishop John Crowley  
(Retired)**

Today, this first day of the Church's new year, so we begin the great Season of Advent. There are two messages that we will hear over the next four weeks. One message will come to us from the media and the shops, as we are encouraged to spend on those 'must have' presents. There is a very different message however offered to us through the gospels, and of Advent. We are being asked to prepare a way for the Lord, to stay awake, to make a straight path for the Lord and to get ourselves ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus. This is most definitely 'Good News!'

The message of Advent is an invitation and it also a challenge to us. We are called to be looking forward, to be ready, to be prepared and we are asked to wait in joyful hope. Waiting is not something that comes naturally. We live in the age of the instant with our smart phones and emails. However Advent asks each of us to do the very opposite. During these days of preparation, we are being asked to take some time to be still and silent as we prepare ourselves deeply for Christmas..!"

If we get too caught up in the shopping and spending, there is the danger that we will miss what Advent is really about. This is what the call to 'stay awake' means. We are asked to prepare and get ready as best we can as followers of Jesus. It would be so sad, that if after the shopping and all the other preparations we missed Advent and its joyful and hopeful message.

**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!

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 2<sup>nd</sup> December Advent feria**

10.00am Special Intention

6.00pm Lisa King & Maurice Purtill (RIP)

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**

8.30am People of The Parish

9.45am Susan Jennings (RIP) 1<sup>st</sup> Anniv

11.30am Mary Rafferty (RIP) Anniv

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December Advent feria**

9.15am Giulio Borgatti (RIP)

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December Advent feria**

9.15am Josie Calnan (RIP)

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December Advent feria**

9.15am Special Intention

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December**

**St Ambrose**

11.00am Por Chiu (RIP)

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

**The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin  
Mary**

9.15am Special Intention (ED)

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December Advent feria**

10.00am Joe Griffiths (RIP)

6.00pm People of The Parish

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

8.30am Margaret Fouldes

9.45am Peter Padgett

11.30am Gerry, Maureen & Geraldine Martin (RIP)

**CONFESSIONS**

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