



# Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

**4th December 2016**

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

**Parish Priest:**  
**Canon Anthony Dwyer**

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## **Parish Office**

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

**Jane Rose  
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janerose@rcdow.org.uk**

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

As we listen to the scripture readings of Advent it is like a picture being gradually painted. In the Old Testament readings, particularly, from Isaiah, we begin to get a glimpse of the messianic age, today we hear of the lamb lying down with a wolf and having nothing to fear. It is a picture of a time of universal peace – the strong would no longer dominate the weak, or the cunning the innocent.

Advent sets before us the promises of the Kingdom, a new world, and these promises fill us with hope. If things and people were perfect, we would not need hope. Hope is needed precisely because we live in an imperfect world. We may not always trust those in positions of power, but we can always trust God.

Hope is a vital part of life. We spend a great deal of our lives longing, waiting, hoping, for one thing or another. If we didn't have hope how different life would be. Hope is as important for our spirit as bread is for our body. Hope doesn't mean sitting back waiting for things to happen. Hope spurs us into action. It is precisely because we have hope that we work hard, we persevere. We believe our efforts are worthwhile, and that they do make a difference. Our strength, our commitment, depends to a great extent on the degree and quality of our hope.

Real hope is well-founded, it springs from our faith that God will fulfil the promises He has made to us. During Advent our hope can be renewed as we contemplate all that God has prepared for us in His Kingdom.

## **CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARD SHOP**

The Multi Charity Christmas card shop is open now until 17<sup>th</sup> December at Harpenden United Reform Church, Vaughan Road, Harpenden. Mon - Fri 9.30am–4.30pm. Sat 9.30am–3.30pm.

## **CAFOD WORLD GIFTS**

Stuck for a Christmas present?

CAFOD World Gifts offers a great alternative for friends or family who don't need anything, but might appreciate a gift which helps poor communities to access services like basic healthcare, clean water, and education. CAFOD provides you with a certificate detailing a gift that has been given to a community overseas on your behalf. Please take home a CAFOD World Gift Catalogue after Mass.

## **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.

## **MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK**

### **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

10.00am Mary Rafferty (RIP) Anniv.  
6.00pm George Jones (RIP)

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December**

8.30am Pat Ludden (RIP) rec.dec.  
9.45am The People of the Parish  
11.30am Intentions of Fr. Davies

### **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December**

9.15am Graham Platt (RIP)

### **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

9.15am Bernard, Mary & Valerie McGarry (RIP)

### **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December**

9.15am Por Chiu (RIP)

### **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

11.00am Private Intention (EM)

### **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

9.15am Mr Thomas Jose (RIP)

### **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December**

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

### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

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

## **CONFESSIONS**

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

Please contact either  
Julia Roche 01582 760295  
juliaandnigel@gmail.com  
Betty Hines 01582 843409  
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