



# Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2015  
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



**Parish Priest:**  
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## Parish Office

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

Office Administrator  
Jane Rose  
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Also in Residence  
Bishop John Crowley  
– Retired.

Noah's Flood is so familiar. For most people, though, the story ends when the waters recede, the sun comes out and the animals come out of the ark, seven pairs of 'clean' animals, not two. What not everyone knows, unless they have sung in Britten's *Noyes Fludde*, is the next stage, the covenant made by God with humanity and symbolised by the rainbow. It's thought of as a comic story a bit of a joke, but it is of immense significance. Creation could well have been destroyed, but instead God purifies it and promises not to punish it by flood again. God in effect is promising to tolerate humanity in its sinfulness and violence. This is reassuring and the antidote to some hell-fire preaching, especially in Lent. It could be summarised thus: Christ died to lead us to God, and the waters of baptism are the means to do this. The Gospel says: Christ was tempted but came through, and straightaway began to preach the Kingdom - we must change our hearts and believe.

## SMILE LINES

### Mother's reward

A man was decorating his new den and decided it was a good place to display all the awards he and his two sons had won at various athletic competitions. When he had filled two whole walls, he remarked to his wife that it was a shame she had no awards to contribute.

The following day, she produced, neatly framed, the birth certificates of their two sons, and added them to the display.

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### Seasick

It was discovered on a cruise that a clergyman was a bad sailor. Another passenger, a judge, found him leaning over the rail of a ship as it swayed to the heavy roll of the sea. "Can I do anything for you?" asked the judge, with sympathy. "Yes," pleaded the clergyman. "Overrule the motion."

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### Helping

If it's true that we are here to help others, what are the others doing here?

\* \* \* \* \*

## CONFESSIONS

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

## QUOTE

**First, to not get angry, there is no need to get angry; be calm. Then, look**

## MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

### Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February

10.00am Private Intention (H.S.)

6.00pm Eddie Quinn (RIP) Anniv.

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

8.30am Frank McConnachie (RIP) Anniv.

9.45am Private Intention

11.30am Bridget Flanagan (RIP) Anniv.

### Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February

9.15am Intentions of Trish & Gordon Lewis

### Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February

9.15am Harry Davis (RIP) Anniv.

### Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February

9.15am Nicholas & Betty Heffernan (RIP) Anniv.

### Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February

11am Service of the Word

### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February

9.15am Service of the Word

### Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February

10.00am Intentions of Aoife Morris

6.00pm Maria Au Yeung (RIP) Anniv.

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

8.30am Kathleen Doyle (RIP)

9.45am Intentions of Margaret Marriot

11.30am Patricia & Patrick Scanlon RIP Anniv.

**for a way to overcome it (the difficult situation), to surpass it. And if I cannot surpass it, then I must withstand it until the ability to surpass it comes along. There is no need to be afraid of difficulties, ever. We are capable of overcoming them all. We only need time to understand them, the intelligence to look for the right path, and the courage to move forward. But never be afraid.**  
Pope Francis