



# Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

February 28<sup>th</sup> 2016  
THIRD SUNDAY of LENT

## ***THE HOLY YEAR OF MERCY***



**Parish Priest:**  
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## **Parish Office**

**Open Mon, Tues,  
Wed & Friday  
9.30am – 12.30pm  
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**Also in Residence  
Bishop Emeritus  
John Crowley (Retired)**

Today we have one of the essential passages of the Hebrew Scriptures. God appears to Moses, and commissions him to lead the people out of Egypt; and finally reveals the divine Name. This is really the beginning of the chosen people following the Lord Yahweh, a name so sacred it is never said aloud. Having seen the burning bush, Moses is afraid to look at God, who tells him to take off his shoes 'for this is holy ground.' Paul describes some of the life of the chosen people after Moses had led them out of Egypt - they did not heed the holiness of God, and many of them died in the desert. This is to be a warning to us, who live 'at the end of the age'. The Gospel is another warning, using two real events and a parable to shake us out of complacency. Jesus is not saying that the people who died in the disasters were killed for their sinfulness; what he means is that disaster can affect us at any moment and we need to be prepared, repentant. It may not be what we have done but what we have failed to do - the man with the fig tree will cut it down if it does not produce fruit.

## SMILE LINES

A man in a fish restaurant had waited forty-five minutes for his meal. Eventually, the waiter, sensing the customer's growing impatience, came over and said 'I do apologise, sir. Your fish will be with you very shortly'. 'Very well' said the customer, 'but if you don't mind my asking: what sort of bait are you using?'

\* \* \* \* \*

A customer was bothering the waiter in a restaurant. First, he asked for the air conditioning to be turned up because he was too hot, then he asked for it to be turned down because he was too cold. This went on for about half an hour, but although the waiter kept rushing to and fro he remained surprisingly patient. Finally, a second customer asked him, 'Why don't you just tell that pest to leave?' 'I really don't mind smiled the waiter. 'We don't have an air conditioner.'

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## DID YO KNOW

In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes, the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase...'Goodnight, sleep tight'!

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## CONFESSION

Saturday: 10.30am – 11.00am.

Saturday: 7.00pm after Mass.

## MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

### Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February

10am Special Intention

6pm Norma Owen (RIP)

### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February

08.30 Jimmy & Anne Brophy (RIP)

09.45 People of the Parish

11.30 Bridget Flanagan (RIP) Anniv.

### Monday 29<sup>th</sup> February

09.15 In Thanksgiving for a new birth.

### Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March ST. DAVID

09.15 Patrick Gaffney (RIP) Anniv.

### Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

09.15 Teresa & Patrick Kelly (RIP) Anniv.

### Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

11.00 Gerald Woodruff (RIP)

### Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March

09.15 Josephine Sara (RIP) Anniv.

### Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March

10am Robert Dare (RIP)

6pm Teresa King (RIP) Anniv.

John Cheevers (RIP)

### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March

08.30 Ralph Langshaw (RIP)

09.45 Matthew Delaney (RIP)

11.30 Dennis Francis (RIP) Anniv.

## BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS

We offer our warmest congratulations to **EMILY THERESA CASH**, daughter of Edward & Kathleen, and **LUELLA BRONTE DEEGAN**, daughter of Brian & Joanna, whom we welcomed in to the Catholic Church last fortnight at the sacrament of Baptism. We wish them and their family every blessing as they begin their new life in Christ.