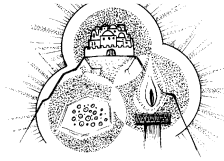




Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

8th February 2015
FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR



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Also in Residence
Bishop John Crowley
– Retired.

Some people may be slightly irritated by Job the whinger. We are encouraged to think of ourselves as living in the best of all possible worlds, or at least that it is within our grasp if we obey certain commercial imperatives. But even inside the comfortable cocoon of a peaceful Western democracy there are some who live in misery and even slavery, which makes today a suitable one for thinking about victims of trafficking. From the point of view of such a person, Job is describing their whole life. Then there are the sick - both in body and in mind (the closest equivalent we can think of to 'those possessed by devils.' Life is pretty grim for some people who may be quite close to us, even in our congregation, our circle of friends and our families. Anything to relieve the pain will be eagerly sought, and once Jesus's abilities as a healer became known 'the whole town' of Capernaum came and besieged the house where he was. They could have said with justification Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted. But what about those who come away from Lourdes still uncured? Who pray for healing and still die? Only God knows the reason, but if there is a God we can trust in him to heal us in the end.

SMILE LINES

A man trying to understand the nature of God asked him ‘God, how long is a million years to you?’ God answered ‘A million years is like a minute.’ Then the man asked, ‘God, how much is a million pounds to you?’ And God replied ‘A million pounds is like a penny.’ Finally the man asked, ‘God could you give me a penny?’ And God said ‘In a minute.’

* * * * *

Answer to prayer

A small boy badly wanted a baby brother, so his dad suggested he pray every night for one. The boy prayed earnestly, night after night, but his prayers seemingly weren't answered. So after a few weeks, he didn't bother to ask anymore.

Some months later, his dad said they were going to see Mum in the hospital and he was going to get a big surprise. When they got to the room, the little boy saw his mother holding two babies. The little boy stood still for a moment, and then cautiously observed: "It's a good thing I stopped praying when I did."

* * * * *

Seen in a church newsheet:

“For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a crèche downstairs.”

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CONFESSIONS

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

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 7th February

10.00am Agnes McKeown (RIP)

6.00pm Kevin Keogh (Special Intention)

Sunday 8th February

8.30am Bernadette Conway (RIP) Rec. Dec.

9.45am Raymond Warne (RIP) Anniv. 1year

11.30am Intentions of Billy & Mary Hammond

Monday 9th February

9.15am Intentions of Stephanie Race

Tuesday 10th February

9.15am Margaret Foulds (RIP)

Wed. 11th Feb. OUR LADY OF LOURDES

9.15am Tessa West (RIP) Anniv.

Thursday 12th February

11am Michael Green (RIP)

Friday 13th February

9.15am Intentions of T.B.

Saturday 14th February

10.00am Private Intention

6.00pm Alan Young (RIP) Anniv.

Sunday 15th February

8.30am People of the Parish

9.45am Barry Aire (RIP) rec dec

11.30am Eddie Quinn (RIP) Anniv.

QUOTE

The Word of God astonishes with its strength and frees all who are enslaved by so many evil spirits in this world: vanity, the attachment to money, pride and sensuality.

Always remember that the Gospel has the power to change life! Do not forget this! That is the good news that transforms us only when we allow ourselves to be transformed by it. Do not forget, read a passage from the Gospel every day. It is the power that changes us, that transforms us, it changes life and it changes the heart,
Pope Francis