



Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

12th February 2017
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Parish Priest:

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Parish Office

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

This Sunday we have a third extract from the Sermon on the Mount. It can appear at first glance to be a series of moral statements and rules from Jesus. On closer reflection we can see Jesus' message here is the call for each of us to 'go deeper'. The Scribes and the Pharisees followed the letter of the law but without depth. Jesus is clear that he has not come to demolish the law, rather, this whole passage is a call to a more profound reflection on our lives; not ticking boxes but moving towards a deeper change of heart in dealings with others. Jesus gives many examples of how people might do this: warning against the hypocrisy of offering gifts and rituals at the altar when we may have huge anger and resentment towards another. Is the real sacrament not in reconciling that relationship first? Which offering is more life-giving? It is not enough to 'not murder', but we must watch our anger which can lead to violence. Jesus is calling on people to watch their thoughts which can lead to serious actions like murder and adultery.

When we encounter Christ, the grace that this experience brings can make us aware of what is not ok in our lives. We are called to a radical conversion, a change of heart. And so we read today's passage with our hearts, not our heads. It may help to recall a time when you felt God's grace bringing you to a deeper realisation about your life.

(From a reflection in 'Intercom' by Jane Mellet.)

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT Weekend on 11-12th March in Harpenden.

Pope Francis says *“Love needs time and space; everything else is secondary. Time is needed to talk things over...to listen to one another...to appreciate one another and to build a stronger relationship.”*

The weekend is practical and aimed at encouraging couples to reflect on their relationship and improve the quality of their communication at all stages of their married life. It is an opportunity to stop, and in a safe place reflect on your marriage relationship so as to transform it into a thriving and joy-filled encounter. The weekend is an all-round experience unlike any other and there is no group sharing. Activities are individual and couple based.

For further information pick up a leaflet from back of the church or visit the Diocesan Website:

<http://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/marriage-and-family-life/>

MATERNITY COVER

Noah's Ark Playschool in Harpenden is looking for part-time maternity cover for 3 days a week. NVQ Childcare Level 2 or 3 qualified or previous experience working with young children. Hours are 8.45am–1.30pm, 3 days a week, term time only. The children are aged between 2–4yrs old. For more details call Denise on 01582 469308 or email info@noahsarkharpenden.co.uk

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 11th February

10.00am Margaret Fouldes RIP

6.00pm Alan Young RIP Anniv 5yr

Sunday 12th February

8.30am Derek Grimshaw Intentions

9.45am Mary Taylor RIP Anniv 1yr

11.30am Mike & Joan Gaire RIP

Monday 13th February

9.15am Bernard, Mary & Valerie McGarry RIP

Tuesday 14th February

9.15am Sister Dympna OP RIP

Wednesday 15th February

9.15am Eddie Quinn RIP Anniv

Thursday 16th February

11.00am Stephen & Alan Lunders RIP

Friday 17th February

9.15am Service of the Word
with Holy Communion

Saturday 18th February

10.00am

6.00pm Frank McConnachie RIP
Anniv 9 yrs

Sunday 19th February

8.30am Noel Higgins RIP rec.dec.

9.45am

11.30am The People of the Parish

CONFESSIONS

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

SISTERS OF ST CLARE

The next Solitude Saturday will be held on 25th February at St. Clare's Convent, 3 Abigail Close, Luton LU3 1ND. Tel 01582 424518. The day begins with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 10am and ends at 3pm.