

**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**

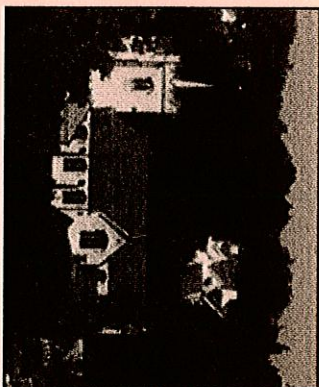
Noah's Ark Playschool in Harpenden is looking for part-time maternity cover for 3 days a week. NVQ Childcare Level 2 or 3 qualified or previous experience working with young children. Hours are 8.45am-1.30pm, 3 days a week, term time only. The children are aged between 2-4yrs old. For more details call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

**MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK**

<b>Saturday 18th February</b> 10.00am 6.00pm Frank McConnachie RIP Anniv
<b>Sunday 19th February</b> 8.30am Noel Higgins RIP Rec Dec 9.45am People of the Parish 11.30am
<b>Monday 20th February</b> 9.15am Fr Tom Culreavy RIP
<b>Tuesday 21st February</b> 8.00am Private Intention
<b>Wednesday 22nd February</b> 9.15am Harry Davis RIP Anniv
<b>Thursday 23rd February</b> 11.00am Michael McCloskey RIP Anniv
<b>Friday 24th February</b> 9.15am Service of the Word with Holy Communion
<b>Saturday 25th February</b> 10.00am Noel Higgins Rip Rec Dec 6.00pm Eileen O'Reilly RIP
<b>Sunday 19th February</b> 8.30am People of the Parish 9.45am Denis Mann RIP Anniv 1yr 11.30am Bridget Flanagan RIP Anniv
<b>CONFESSIONS</b> <b>Saturday 10.30-11.00am</b> <b>and after the 6.00pm Mass.</b>

**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.



**Our Lady of Lourdes**  
**Harpenden**

**19th February 2017**  
**7th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Today's Gospel will be well familiar: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. It is a radical text and not so easy. How can we be expected to love those who have hurt us or done harm to us? Anthony de Mello, an Indian Jesuit who wrote many books on spirituality, spoke often about the concept of 'loving enemies'. When someone hurts us, when someone triggers emotional pain in us, he suggests that we need to try and grow in our understanding of them. The situation is a reminder that we are still to grow and we are hurt because someone has not met our expectations. It is these expectations that we must let go of: We can learn from the other who has wronged us: how has this affected me? What do I need to let go of?

The teachings in this passage are radical and go against what we hear around us in our world like calls for retribution and revenge. However, Jesus has high expectations of his followers, to go against the grain. Jesus is not encouraging passiveness. He is inviting people to a 'third way': to make a non-violent stand when faced with persecution. By 'offering the other cheek' we allow for the potential of conversion of the other to a realisation of what they have done. The easy option is to retaliate, to not see our brother or sister standing before us. We can offer them an opportunity to see our own sacred humanity. 'Loving our enemies' is a call to constantly move towards restoring relationships, offering mercy and peace.

**Parish Priest:**

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**Parish Office**

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 9.30am - 12.30pm  
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**Also in Residence**

Bishop John Crowley  
 (Retired)