



Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

26th February 2017
8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Parish Priest:

Canon Anthony Dwyer

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Parish Office

**Open Mon, Tues,
Wed & Friday**

9.30am – 12.30pm

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Also in Residence

**Bishop John Crowley
(Retired)**

Once again the season of Lent is almost upon us! Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday when we begin our Lenten Journey, 40 days of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. By making some extra space for prayer we make time to be with God, to be in communion with Him. Through fasting we deny ourselves in order to support, and show solidarity, with others, especially those in need. And by Almsgiving we show an awareness of the needs of others, and support them out of our resources. The prospect of fasting and almsgiving may not necessarily be an attractive one for us, it's not without challenge. Lent though is an opportunity to say 'no' to ourselves, in order to say 'yes' to God, and 'yes' to other people; in other words to make more space in our lives for God and for others.

With the start of Lent being just a few days away the question may be: how will I mark this time, how will I use it in such a way that it will be fruitful? It can be easy, perhaps, to do what I have always done, but is that the right thing this year? In deciding what to do we need to look at our lives as they are now, at where we need to grow, in our relationships with God, and with other people, and to let that shape our resolutions. Whatever we do though, let us be wholehearted, and let us hear the call of Joel, from the Ash Wednesday reading: 'Come back to me with all your heart.'

MILL HILL

MISSIONARIES

The National Novena to St Joseph will take place from the 10-18 March at St Joseph's Church in Maidenhead and at Herbert House, Freshfield, Liverpool. Each year the Mill Hill Missionaries prepare for the Feast of St Joseph, their patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society and the missionary outreach of the Church, as well as, for the intentions of all those who support their work. You are invited to send in your petitions and/or to request a Novena booklet to enable you to join in from home by praying the daily Novena prayer, please write to Fr Liam Cummins MHM, St Joseph's Missionary Society, 58 Cookham Road, Maidenhead SL6 7HT or email novena@millhillmissionaries.com

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.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 25th February

10.00am Noel Higgins RIP rec. dec.
6.00pm Eileen O'Reilly RIP

Sunday 26th February

8.30am The People of the Parish
9.45am Denis Mann RIP Anniv 1yr
11.30am Bridget Flanagan RIP Anniv

Monday 27th February

9.15am Nigel Beare Ints

Tuesday 28th February

9.15am Br Livinus Lalor Ints

Wednesday 1st March – Ash Wednesday

9.15am
6.00pm In Thanksgiving

Thursday 2nd March

11.00am Michael Mackay RIP Anniv

Friday 3rd March

9.15am Patrick & Teresa Kelly RIP
Anniv

Saturday 4th March

10.00am
6.00pm Denise Iommi RIP

Sunday 5th March

8.30am Tony Wilkins RIP rec.dec.
9.45am The People of the Parish
11.30am David Tiernan RIP Anniv 1yr

CONFESSIONS

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

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/>