



Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

17th July 2016
16th SUNDAY of the YEAR

Parish Priest:

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Also in Residence

Bishop Emeritus

John Crowley

(Retired)

One of the Church's most precious possessions is the prayer Jesus gave his disciples, in answer to their request; so today is an important Gospel passage. This is a prayer which could be said by people of many other religions besides the Christian. It does not mention Christ explicitly, though Christians will understand it as Christ's prayer as well as ours - other prayers of his which begin 'Father.' It is a prayer of petition, rather than praise or thanksgiving. And the rest of the Gospel today is all about how we should ask our Father for our needs: persistently, past the point at which a human being would find it annoying. And yet much of what we ask is not, apparently, given to us. We **do** ask for bread and what we are given seems suspiciously like stones. This needs explaining. What Old Testament passage matches up to this? The story of Abraham and God in contention over the fate of Sodom is a literary gem, whatever else may be said. It needs a discerning reader, who should tell it as if it were a brand new story. The second Reading resembles the passage from Romans at the Easter Vigil and expresses a universal truth, great wonders God has done for us without our asking.

SMILE LINES

Three men were sitting at a bar complaining about the injustices of the legal system.

One said, a friend of mine ended up in court for dropping a cigarette packet. The other two shook their heads knowingly.

The second said, a friend of mine has got a criminal record because he overfilled his rubbish bin.

The other two shook their heads sadly.

The third said, 'That's nothing. A friend of mine was prosecuted on account of his beliefs. He believed he could drive after eight pints!'

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A lady squeezed onto a crowded bus in the rush hour. Three times a gentleman attempted to get up from his seat but each time she pushed him back. "None of this old-fashioned chivalry", she said. "I can stand just as well as anyone else".

Eventually the man plucked up courage and said firmly,

"Madam, please let me out. We're two miles past my stop already".

* * * * *

A woman queued for over an hour to get her driving licence renewed. When she saw her phot she complained to the assistant, 'I was standing in the queue for so long that I look very angry in this picture. It's not a good likeness.

'Don't worry about it,' said the assistant. 'If the police stop you, that's how you're going to look anyway!'

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 16th July 16th Ordinary Time

10am Intentions of Liz Wang

6pm The People of the Parish

Sunday 17th July

08.30 Annette McGivern (RIP)

09.45 Peter Lynch-Kelly (RIP)

11.30 Joan Gaire (RIP)

Monday 18th July

09.15 Intentions of Mrs Gregory

Tuesday 19th July

09.15 The People of the Parish

Wednesday 20th July

09.15 Brenda Tyzack (RIP) Anniv.

Thursday 21st July

11am Service of the Word
with Holy Communion

Friday 22nd July St. Mary Magdalene

09.15 Intentions of Liz Wang

Saturday 23rd July St. Bridget

10am

6pm Gerald McGuinness (RIP) Anniv.

Sunday 24th July 17th Ordinary Time

08.30 Geoff & Jo Walker In Thanksgiving
(45th Wedding Anniv.)

09.45 Private Intentions

11.30 Denis Mann (RIP)

QUOTE - Pope Francis

Because Jesus wanted to share your condition, He made Himself, out of love, one of you: despised by men, forgotten, one that does not count. When you happen to experience all this, do not forget that Jesus was tried like you. It is the proof that you are precious in His sight, and that He is near you.