



Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

24th July 2016
17th SUNDAY of the YEAR



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The Gospel gives 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 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

SMALL CHANGE

A large new £20,000 limousine overtook a small car as they were approaching some traffic lights. The proud owner of the big car couldn't resist baiting the other driver.

"What is it about your little car that makes such a dreadful rattling sound?" , he asked. "Oh that?", said the driver of the small car. "That's the £11,000 jingling around in my pocket.*

* * * *

DOCTOR, DOCTOR

Patient: Well, Doctor, what do you prescribe ?

Doctor: Just try to take things easy for a while.

Patient: I can do that - I'm the best pick-pocket in town !

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PARROT TALK

At a country auction an old lady decided to buy an attractive-looking parrot, thinking it would be company for her. The bidding went unexpectedly high but the old lady, having made up her mind, kept on bidding until the bird was knocked down to her at f35.

Triumphantly, she carried the caged parrot home, placed the cage on a table, and addressed the parrot. "Now, pretty Polly", she coaxed, "talk to me".

The parrot just glared silently at her. Further attempts failed, and eventually the old lady shouted, "Talk to me. I bought you for company. Do you mean to tell me – after all that money t paid for you-that You can't even talk?".

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 23rd July St. Bridget

10am Intentions of Emily

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)

Monday 25th July St. James

09.15 Intentions of E.M.

Tuesday 26th July St. Joachim & St. Anne

09.15 Alan Darling (RIP) Rec. Dec.

Wednesday 27th July

09.15 The People of the Parish

Thursday 28th July

11am Service of the Word
with Holy Communion

Friday 29th July St. Martha

09.15

Saturday 30th July

10am Special Intention

6pm Intentions of Mr O'Sullivan

Sunday 31st July 18th Ordinary Time

08.30 Mrs Bowe (RIP)

09.45 Intentions of Rose Lee

11.30 Joan Gaire (RIP)

"Can't even talk", echoed the parrot.

"Who do you think it was that bid you up to f35?".

QUOTE -

One cannot beat about the bush in face of a person who is hungry: he must be given to eat. Jesus says this to us! The works of mercy are not theoretical subjects, but concrete testimonies. They oblige one to roll up one's sleeves to alleviate suffering. **Pope Francis**