



Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

**15th January 2017
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Parish Priest:
Canon Anthony Dwyer**

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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)**

Having journeyed through Advent, and then through Christmastide, we now enter the period of what the Church describes as ‘ordinary time.’ Ordinary time surely sounds quiet, uneventful, perhaps even mundane, but after the build up to, and the celebration of, Christmas, many of us will surely appreciate, in our everyday lives, a time which is ordinary, and during which we simply get on with life, routine and predictable as that may be.

From the perspective of our faith though we might ask can anything ever be ordinary again? We have just celebrated the great feast of Christmas, Emmanuel, God-with-us, God coming into our world, taking on human flesh.

At Christmas we celebrate the wonder that God is with us, entering in, and sharing our lives just as they are. We may well have packed away the Christmas tree and decorations for another year, but the mystery of Christmas is something that lives on, something that transforms and changes our lives.

Although we pack away the signs of Christmas, its mystery, and its meaning, is something that we literally take with us, reflect on, keep alive in our minds and in our hearts. We live our lives with the reality that God has chosen to dwell in our world, and to be a part of our lives, each and everyday of our lives. So whatever is going on for us, be it sad or joyful, God is there. We may not always be aware of God but He is there for us no matter what. We may be in ‘ordinary time’ but given what we have just celebrated, and the reality we live with, can anything ever be ordinary again!

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION:

Make a difference with CAFOD

Make 2017 the year you meet new friends, inspire others to act for social justice, and use your skills to help our sisters and brothers working to overcome poverty around the globe. Are you a people-person who would relish involving and encouraging others in your local area? Or maybe you are a good communicator who would enjoy speaking in churches or presenting assemblies and workshops in schools? Please get in touch with us on westminster@cafod.org.uk or 020 8449-6970 to find out more and book a place on one of our Understanding CAFOD information sessions:
Sat 28 January in Stratford E15 and
Sat 4 February in Waterloo SE1.
The Stratford session has limited places so please contact us early if this is your preferred session.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK
Saturday 14th January 10.00am Russell Sinfield (RIP) rec.dec. 6.00pm Frank Lawson (RIP) Anniv.
Sunday 15th January 8.30am The People of the Parish 9.45am Peadar Hyland (RIP) 11.30am Nancy Byrne (RIP)
Monday 16th January 9.15am Millie Dooley Ints.
Tuesday 17th January 9.15am Canon Jack Madden (RIP) rec.dec.
Wednesday 18th January 9.15am
Thursday 19th January 11.00am
Friday 20th January 9.15am
Saturday 21st January 10.00am Russell Sinfield (RIP) rec.dec. 6.00pm Denis Beckwith (RIP)
Sunday 22nd January 8.30am 9.45am The People of the Parish 11.30am Owen O'Sullivan (RIP) Anniv
<u>CONFESSIONS</u> Saturday 10.30-11.00am and after the 6.00pm Mass.