



Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

16th July 2017
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Parish Priest:
Canon Anthony Dwyer

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It's a lovely image that we have in the gospel today, one that is easy to visualise. Jesus sitting in a boat, addressing the crowds on the beach. He certainly knew how to hold their attention. And he knew they would understand him more clearly if he used the language of stories. Those listening would have been familiar with the cycle of planting seeds and waiting for them to produce a crop. One of the purposes of parables is to challenge the hearers to reflect and respond with faith. So this parable of the sower requires Jesus' audience to decide what kind of soil they are. There is a message of judgment for those who are hardened like the rocky soil, and a message of hope for those who are receptive like the rich soil.

The figure of the sower is important too. The sower does not confine the seeds to soil that is fertile and ready for growth. Rather, the seeds are scattered everywhere – on the path, patches of rock, and among thorns. Jesus does not discriminate. His love is given out for all. He knows that some of it may be rejected, or accepted only on a superficial level, but he offers it anyway. That offer of love is never withdrawn. It might take a while to bear fruit, but it is always there.

'Always there are doors that are not closed. Look for the doors that are at least a little bit open, enter and talk about common things and go on. Step by step.' Pope Francis

Parish Office
**Open Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday & Thursday**
9.30am – 12.30pm

Office Administrator
Ellen Hughesman
email:
harpenden@rcdow.org.uk

Also in Residence
Bishop John Crowley
(Retired)

DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP

During July, parishioners donated a record £382 via Standing Orders, which was augmented by £233.83 in cash and cheques provided in the second week of July. As a result, the Group requires only £1101 to fund its current project - an oxygen concentrator (at £2020) for Tabor Home, a refuge for the sick and dying in Gode, Ethiopia. Please see Parish website for an account/photos of the project - clicking on the 'Parish Newsletters' tab, then on 'June 2017 DWG Project Update'. We hope that with your support, including at the 21 July Golf Day, we will achieve this before the end of the month. Thank you very much for all your donations.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

A member of High Street Methodist is concerned about the lack of affordable housing in Harpenden and is interested in forming a group with a view to setting up a community land trust. For more information see:

www.communitylandtrusts.org.uk If you have any expertise in this area and/or are interested in being part of this group, please contact Deacon Angie Allport on 01582 713773 or angie.allport@methodist.org.uk

NB. Entries for the Newsletter must be sent into the office by Wednesday at the latest.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK
Saturday 15th July St Bonaventure 10.00am Sr. Alfred (Intentions) 6.00pm Sanctity Of Life
Sunday 16th July 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time 8.30am Sr. Rosaria (Intentions) 9.45am People Of the Parish 11.30am Maureen Butler
Monday 17th July Feria 9.15am Special Intention (PM)
Tuesday 18th July Feria 9.15am Michael Crowley (RIP)
Wednesday 19th July Feria 9.15am Raynah Watson (RIP)
Thursday 20th July Feria 11.00am Peter Sara (RIP) 1 st Anniv
Friday 21st July Feria 9.15am Service of the Word with Holy Communion
Saturday 22nd July St Mary Magdalene 10.00am Denis Mann (RIP) 6.00pm Gillian Horn (RIP) Anniv
Sunday 23rd July 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time 8.30am People Of The Parish 9.45am Gerald McGuinness (RIP) 11.30am Kathleen Costello (RIP)
CONFESSIONS Saturday 10.30-11.00am and after the 6.00pm Mass.