



Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

March 13th 2016
5th SUNDAY of LENT



THE HOLY YEAR OF MERCY

Parish Priest:
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Parish Office

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

9.30am – 12.30pm

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Also in Residence

Bishop Emeritus

John Crowley (Retired)

The Gospel is the centrepiece of the scriptures again. The woman's escape from painful death is almost miraculous and the message is: This is what God is like, this is what God does.

If God is like that, so must we be. God can forgive because of infinite love for sinners - we can imagine that the woman, seeing the stones piled up, was probably sorry for what she did. We should forgive, in fact we have to, because we are no better than the accused woman - we all have something to be ashamed of. Deuteronomy 17:7 says that the witnesses to a crime have a duty to carry out the death sentence - some people today express willingness to do just that. The accusers in this case try to trick Jesus into opposing the Law, but he goes beyond it to appeal to their hearts. It is to their credit that they accept this; they are saved from sinning just as much as the woman herself. Paul contrasts the perfection of the Law and that of knowing Christ. Christ is known in such deeds. What marvels! Indeed we are glad.

SMILE LINES

A man walked into a bar and sat down next to a woman who had a small dog at her feet.

'Does your dog bite?' he asked.

'No,' she answered.

But shortly afterwards the dog took a lump out of the man's leg.

The man wailed, 'I thought you said your dog didn't bite!'

The woman said, 'That's not my dog.'

* * * * *

A platoon of soldiers had been stranded in the desert for a month and supplies were running low. With no imminent hope of rescue, the platoon commander ordered a handful of men to set off in search of alternative food stuffs.

Two days later the men returned'

'We've got good news and bad news' said one of the soldiers'

'What's the bad news?' asked the commander'

All we found to eat is camel

dung replied the soldier.

'And the good news?'

'There's tons of the stuff!'

* * * * *

A father said to his five-year-old son,

'Did you see Father Christmas this Year, son?'

'No' replied the boy, 'it was too dark to see. But I heard what he said when he stubbed his toe on the end of my bed.'

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CONFESSION

Saturday: 10.30am – 11.00am.

Saturday: 7.00pm after Mass.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 12th March

10am Private Intention (EW)

6pm Billy Larkin (RIP)

Sunday 13th March

08.30 Margaret Foulds (RIP)

09.45 People of the Parish

11.30 Patrick Scanlan (RIP) Anniv.

Monday 14th March

09.15 Sr Seraphina's Intentions

Tuesday 15th March

11am FUNERAL MASS

Denis Mann R.I.P.

Wednesday 16th March

09.15 Private Intention (MF)

Thursday 17th March

11am Robert Dare (RIP)

Friday 18th March

09.15 Private Intention

Saturday 19th March

10am Private Intention

6pm Kathleen & Frank Bradley (RIP)
Anniv.

Sunday 20th March

08.30 Denis Mann (RIP) Rec. Dec.

09.45 Mary Taylor (RIP) Rec. Dec.

11.30 Ralph Langshaw (RIP) Rec. Dec.

POPE FRANCIS

After the priest's absolution, every repentant faithful has the certainty, through faith, that his sins no longer exist. They no longer exist! God is Omnipotent. I like to think that He has a weakness: a bad memory. Once He forgives He forgets. And this is great! The sins no longer exist, they were cancelled by divine mercy. Every absolution is, in a certain way, a jubilee of the heart.