



Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

March 6th 2016
4th SUNDAY of LENT



THE HOLY YEAR OF MERCY

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Also in Residence
Bishop Emeritus
John Crowley (Retired)

Last week it seemed that Jesus was scolding us, the message being Repent or you are lost. We all feel inadequate and sinful - it is painful to be reminded of it. The story of the forgiving father (as good a title as the prodigal son) shows what can happen when we throw ourselves on God's mercy, admit our inadequacy and sinfulness, but trust that we will not be rejected. If this case was presented in the tabloid press or daytime television, the son would be condemned and despised. For the father to do exactly the opposite is astounding. It astounds the elder brother, who represents the popular desire for condemnation. It is a hard lesson for him, and for us, to learn that God rejoices as much over the lost sheep who is found, as the ninety-nine who were never lost. This story is an inexhaustible source of wonder. Yet what is the detail which is singled out as worthy of note? It is the feasting, the table, where we can taste and see that the Lord is good.

SMILE LINES

A man was seen running down the hospital corridor shortly before his operation.

'What's the matter?' asked the ward sister.

He gasped, 'I heard the nurse say, "It's a very simple operation. Don't worry so much. I'm sure it will be all right. She was just trying to comfort you,' said the sister. 'What's so terrifying about that?'

The man said: 'She wasn't talking to me. She was talking to the surgeon.'

* * * * *

A man asked his doctor if he thought he would live to a hundred.

The doctor asked him, 'Do you smoke or drink.' 'No,' replied the man. 'I've never done either.' 'Do you gamble, drive fast cars and fool around with women?' enquired the doctor.

'No, I can't say I've done any of those things.'

'Well then,' wondered the doctor, 'why would you want to live to be a hundred?'

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Did you know

Many years ago in England, pub frequenters had a whistle baked into the rim, or handle, of their ceramic cups. When they needed a refill, they used the whistle to get some service. 'Wet your whistle' is the phrase inspired by this practice.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 5th March

10.00am Robert Dare (RIP)

6.00pm Teresa King (RIP) Anniv.

John Cheevers (RIP)

Sunday 6th March

08.30 Ralph Langshaw (RIP)

09.45 Matthew Delaney (RIP)

11.30 Dennis Francis (RIP) Anniv.

Monday 7th March

09.15 Luke & Mary Foster (RIP) Anniv.

Tuesday 8th March

09.15 Mary Taylor (RIP)

Wednesday 9th March

09.15 Private Intention (CH)

Thursday 10th March

11.00 Service of the Word with
Holy Communion

Friday 11th March

09.15 Pat Butler (RIP) Rec. Dec.

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.

CONFESSION

Saturday: 10.30am – 11.00am.

Saturday: 7.00pm after Mass.

BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to

HENRY THOMAS ROGER STOW, son of Annie & Sam, and **THEO CHARLES RAWNSLEY**, son of Natalie & Stewart, whom we welcomed in to the Catholic Church last Sunday at the sacrament of Baptism. We wish them and their families every blessing.