



Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

21st May 2017
6th Sunday of Easter

Parish Priest:
Canon Anthony Dwyer

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It's hard to imagine the reaction of the disciples to the way Jesus' words in the Gospel. In John's Gospel, as Jesus arrives in Jerusalem and his death approaches, he starts to talk about leaving the disciples. They will no longer be able to see him. He predicts that Judas will betray him and Peter will deny him. The disciples are in turmoil. 'Where are you going?' they ask; 'Why can't I follow you?'; 'How can we know the way?' On top of this, Jesus has started to give them instructions for after he is gone. The disciples still do not understand where, or why, Jesus is going, you can sense their panic and fear at the task that lies ahead, the work they will have to do without their teacher and friend to help them. They will be like lost sheep, without a shepherd, to quote those words of Jesus. One writer, Corrie ten Boom, writes of how the Spirit transforms our efforts: *'Trying to do the Lord's work in your own strength is the most confusing, exhausting, and tedious of all work. But when you are filled with the Holy Spirit, then the ministry of Jesus just flows out of you.'* –So the promise the disciples hear from Jesus that he will send his Spirit must be very welcome. 'I will not leave you orphans,' says Jesus, to a group who must have been afraid of just that. What's more, they already know this Spirit, because he is in them. That same Spirit is in us. We are not alone in our struggles.

Parish Office

**Open Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday & Friday
9.30am – 12.30pm**

**Office Administrator
Ellen Hughesman
email:**

harpenden@rcdow.org.uk

**Also in Residence
Bishop John Crowley
(Retired)**

DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP (DWG)

The DWG met on 16 May and decided on a new project subject to due diligence on it being undertaken to the Group's satisfaction. Full details of the project - which will be the third this year after Pattaya (Thailand) and Moyo Babies Home (Uganda) - will be provided immediately this has been done. Turning to fundraising, parishioners donated £280.20 to the DWG in the first fortnight of May. In addition, standing order donations in April as a whole reached £353. All of these donations will go to the new project. Thank you for your generosity.

BOOK THE DATE

Tea and cake in the garden + cake and plant sale.
SATURDAY 10TH JUNE 10am to 3pm at 3 Beech Close. Enjoy a relaxed hour or two in a beautiful garden with no election speak!

“THE TABLET”

“The Tablet” is a weekly Catholic magazine with news and articles about the Church at home and abroad. For a further two weeks the publishers are providing us with a number of free copies. If you would like us to order a copy each week for you please leave your details in the parish office or, alternatively, you can order a copy directly.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 20th May Easter Feria

9.15am John Ramswell (RIP Recently Deceased)

6.00pm Sanctity of Life

Sunday 21st May 6th Sunday of Easter

8.30am Vivienne Bradley (RIP)

9.45am Breda Lynch (RIP)

11.30am Sarah Fryer (RIP Recently Deceased)

Monday 22nd May Easter Feria

9.15am Sister Antoinette (Special Intention)

Tuesday 23rd May Easter Feria

9.15am People of the Parish

Wednesday 24th May Easter Feria

9.15am Denis Mann (RIP)

Thursday 25th May St Bede the Venerable

11.00am Eamon Convey (RIP)

Friday 26th St Philip Neri

9.15am Service of The Word & Holy Communion

Saturday 27th May St Augustine of Canterbury

10.00am Private Intention (M.A.)

6.00pm Dolores Jones (RIP) Anniversary

Sunday 28th May The Ascension of The Lord

8.30am Mary McDonald (RIP)

9.45am Frank Nolan (RIP)

11.30am Denise Iommi (RIP) Anniversary

CONFESSIONS

**Saturday 10.30-11.00am
and after the 6.00pm Mass.**

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