



Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

29th November 2015

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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1st Sunday of Advent is in some ways the low point of the liturgical year. We hear about the disasters which are to befall the human race, which Luke portrays most starkly: “men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world.” Of course, we will all face our own individual apocalypse, well before these things ‘begin to take place’; as the poor people killed in the Shoreham air crash, or the 760 or so victims of the Hajj stampede in September; or the 129 killed by terrorists in Paris. But, when the whole human race has to face it together it will be much more terrifying because we will see it coming. We cannot say, though, that this will be because of human agency - we may do our best to degrade the natural environment but it would be arrogant to imagine we are strong enough to destroy the universe. It will come to an end, but in God’s good time, and in a manner of God’s choosing: possibly not even violent - Paul does not have the dire predictions of Luke, who had lived through the destruction of the Temple in AD 70. In the meantime, expect it any day; but stay awake, love one another and live blameless lives.

SMILE LINES

Three men were sitting at a bar complaining about the injustices of the legal system.

One said, 'A friend of mine ended up in court for dropping a cigarette packet.'

The other two shook their heads knowingly.

The second said, 'A friend of mine has got a criminal record because he overfilled his rubbish bin.'

The other two shook their heads sadly.

The third said, 'That's nothing. A friend of mine was prosecuted on account of his beliefs. He believed he could drive after eight pints!'

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A lawyer was trying to give his teenage son some career advice. 'Why on earth do you want to be a doctor instead of a lawyer?' he asked. 'The law is a noble profession. What's wrong with lawyers?'

'Well, Dad, explained the boy, 'I really want to help people. And when was the last time you heard someone stand up in a crowd and shout frantically, "Is there a lawyer in the house?"'

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THE ADVENT WREATH

The symbolism of the Advent wreath is beautiful. The wreath is made of various evergreens,



MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 28th November

10.00 Intentions of HS

6.00pm People of the Parish

Sunday 29th November

08.30 Harry & Eileen Goodson RIP Anniv.

09.45 Francis Joseph Taylor (RIP)

11.30 Erroll Yates (RIP) Anniv.

Monday 30th November

09.15 Intentions of EM

Tuesday 1st December

09.15 Pat Forrest (RIP)

Wednesday 2nd December

08.30 Bill & Raynah Watson (RIP)

Thursday 3rd December

11.00 Service of the Word

Friday 4th December

09.15 Richard Cockhill (RIP)

Saturday 5th December

10.00 John Barrett (RIP)

6.00pm Mike Brien (RIP)

Sunday 6th December

08.30 Frank & Angela Bleakley RIP Anniv.

09.45 Special Intention

11.30 Peter Budd (RIP)

signifying continuous life. The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering; the holly also has a special Christian symbolism: The prickly leaves remind us of the crown of thorns. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ. He is the eternal Word, who entered our world becoming true man and who was victorious over sin and death through His own passion, death, and resurrection.