



Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

27th November 2016

1st Sunday of Advent

Parish Priest:

Canon Anthony Dwyer

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Today we begin this season of Advent, a time of waiting in joyful expectation for the coming of the Lord. As we look at the readings for today's Mass there are some words and phrases that may catch our attention, and indeed guide us into the spirit of this lovely season.

In the first reading we hear the word 'come', 'come let us go up to the mountain of the Lord.' That word 'come' is a word of invitation, a word which invites us over the next four weeks to come to the Lord, to be aware of his presence, to draw closer to him. We hear the phrase 'the time has come' in the second reading. Advent is a time to be aware of the coming of the Lord. So often it is easy to put things on the long finger, to put off until tomorrow what we can do today. We don't know when the Lord will come again, either the end of our lives, or at the end of time, but are we alert to this, are we making ourselves ready now? The Gospel calls us to 'stay awake.' We all lead busy lives, and we respond, in the main, to the people and issues that seem to shout the loudest. In doing so we may overlook what is of real importance, we may overlook the Lord and his call, we may not be alert to him.

During Advent may we respond to that invitation, use our time well to prepare for the Lord's coming, and in the midst of everything else that we have to do be attentive to him.

Parish Office

**Open Mon, Tues,
Wed & Friday
9.30am – 12.30pm
Office Administrator
Jane Rose
email:
janerose@rcdow.org.uk**

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

ADVENT AT THE NILAND CENTRE

Advent Day of Prayer with Bishop John Crowley. **Thurs 8th Dec.** 10am start; Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception at 3pm. Suggested donation £12. Please bring a packed lunch; tea & coffee provided. Places are limited: advance registration required.

Celebrating Christmas in Song with Sister Avril OP & friends. **Fri 16th Dec.** 7pm. Suggested donation £10. Followed by seasonal refreshments.

Niland Conference Centre at Rosary Priory, 93 Elstree Road, Bushey Heath WD23 4EE. Register at www.nilandconferencecentre.co.uk/events/advent-reflection-thursday-8-december-2016/

CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARD SHOP

The Multi Charity Christmas card shop is open now until 17th December at Harpenden United Reform Church, Vaughan Road, Harpenden.
Mon - Fri 9.30am–4.30pm.
Sat 9.30am–3.30pm.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK
Saturday 26th November 10.00am Julia Connolly (RIP) 6.00pm Thérèse & Patrick Moss(RIP)
Sunday 27th November 8.30am Jimmy & Anne Brophy (RIP) 9.45am Duncan Gallagher (RIP) 11.30am Errol Yates (RIP) Anniv.
Monday 28th November 9.15am Tom Turnbull (RIP)
Tuesday 29th November 9.15am Private Intention (EM)
Wednesday 30th November 9.15am The Holy Souls
Thursday 1st December 11.00am Geoffrey Platt (RIP)
Friday 2nd December 9.15am Mr & Mrs Watters (RIP)
Saturday 3rd December 10.00am Mary Rafferty (RIP) Anniv. 6.00pm George Jones (RIP)
Sunday 4th December 8.30am Pat Ludden (RIP) rec.dec. 9.45am The People of the Parish 11.30am Intentions of Fr. Davies
<u>CONFESSIONS</u> Saturday 10.30-11.00am and after the 6.00pm Mass.