



Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

24th September 2017
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Parish Priest:
Canon Anthony Dwyer

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Parish Office

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

**Office Administrator
Ellen Hughesman
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**Also in Residence
Bishop John Crowley
(Retired)**

Many of Jesus' parables are important teaching moments, but some of them are difficult. When it comes to parables we are invited to place ourselves in the story. Which character do we identify with? To which group would we belong? Sometimes we find ourselves sympathising with the character who turns out to be in the wrong. God's ways are not our ways!

The parable of the labourers in the vineyard is one of those tricky ones. We are drawn into the story, and we feel some sympathy for the crowd who end up grumbling at the landowner. These early birds who were hired at daybreak have done the most work. They have toiled all day in the heat, doing far more labour than those who were hired only at the last minute – yet they all receive the same pay. It's hardly fair, is it?

But the landowner makes his point: 'Why be envious because I am generous?' Of course, Jesus anticipates the discomfort of his audience. He uses parables to gently pull the rug from under their feet, to challenge their assumptions, and offer them a new way of thinking that is focused not on themselves, but on the wider community.

Place yourself in the story. If you identify with the grumblers, ask yourself why. Why should we be concerned about what others are getting? Who are we to judge what others deserve? Surely we, too, should want God's love and blessings to be extended to everyone

**CHURCHES TOGETHER
HARPENDEN ARTS FESTIVAL
2018**

The Harpenden churches are planning an Arts Festival next Spring, with the theme "beauty, abundance and order". Different churches and other venues will host events. If you are interested in arts & crafts, photography, music, drama, poetry or dance and would like to be involved in some way, please contact Teresa Newham on (01582) 766403.

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE

There is a healing weekend for men and women who find themselves single again following separation, divorce or the death of a partner from 6th to 8th October 2017 at the Emmaus Centre, West Wickham, Kent. For details please contact Freda 01322-838415 Sandra 01293-783965 or John 01992-642443 email:

johnbrotherton@hotmail.co.uk

NEW FOUNDATION DEGREE

for Catholics working in Healthcare and those seeking to be Chaplains. This is a part time two year programme for those seeking to be hospital chaplains and for people working in healthcare settings, from care homes, to hospices and hospitals. For more information or if you are interested in applying or finding out more please contact matthew.james@stmmarys.ac.uk

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 23rd September

St Pius of Pietrelcina

10.00am Joseph Langley & Family
(Special Intention)

6.00pm Mr Thomas Jose & Mrs Rosy Jose (RIP)

Sunday 24th September

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.30am Denis Mann (RIP)

9.45am Duncan Gallagher (RIP) 1st Anniv

11.30am Special Intention (Sky – Louise)

Monday 25th September feria

9.15am Drena Dorrian (RIP)

Tuesday 26th September feria

9.15am John Langley & Family (Special Intention)

Wednesday 27th September

St Vincent de Paul

9.15am Patrick Nolan (RIP)

Thursday 28th September feria

11.00am Diane Clark (RIP) Anniv

Friday 29th September

Sts Michael, Gabriel & Raphael

9.15am

Saturday 30th September

St Jerome

10.00am William Chiv (RIP) Anniv

6.00pm Sheila Buckley (Nee Leary) (RIP)

Sunday 1st October

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.30am Celedonio Garcia & Stefania Zajac (RIP)

9.45am

11.30am People of the Parish

CONFESSIONS

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