



Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

18th February 2018
1st Sunday Of Lent

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)**

There are certain times during the year which seem to be firmly fixed in the minds of most people, each with their own particular identity. Lent is one such time, when people still seem to get on board and usually the talk turns to what is 'being given up.'

Lent is not just about what we give up, or how we say 'no' to ourselves, it is also about what we do. By doing these things we are trying to make room for something deeper. It's a spring cleaning sort of time. What needs clearing out in my life so that I can make more room for God? Or often do we need to make more room for what God has planned for us? We can get stuck, especially when we are comfortable and don't really want too much to change. But without change we can't grow and things quickly become stale in our lives.

God is always urging us on because God knows just what possibilities there are for each of us. So Lent might be a time where in giving up something or taking on something, we make space for something new. The gospel today is short and clear – Jesus is sent into the desert and we too are invited into a desert time. Deserts are interesting places which can allow us to reflect, give ourselves space and we should not be afraid because as the gospel tells us clearly today, it is a Spirit led desert. God is with us in this desert. So enjoy Lent, embrace it and, as we heard on Ash Wednesday, let us remember that "now, now" is the time to use this God-given opportunity.

ANSWERS to Lent TRIVIA

By burning palms used during the previous Palm Sunday

40 days excluding Sundays. 46 including Sundays

The word “Lent” comes from the old English “lencten” which means “Spring”. In old German are found related words: lenzín, lengizin and lenzo which probably comes from the same root as “long” and referring to the “lengthening of the days”

CELEBRATING MARRIAGE

Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 19th May 2018 at 3pm. The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2018. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your parish clergy the following details: husband and wife’s names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email)

THE PASSAGE

Please support a St David’s Day concert in aid of The Passage at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster on Thursday 1st March 2018 at 7.30pm. Full details are on the website www.passage.org.uk
Email: infor@passage.org.uk, telephone 02075921856

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 20th to 22nd April 2018 at the Domus Mariae Centre, Chigwell, Essex. For more details please telephone Freda 01322-838415 or Sandra 01293-783965 or email johnbrotherton@hotmail.co.uk.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 17th February feria

10.00am Special Intention

6.00pm Frank McConnachie (RIP) Anniv

Sunday 18th February 1st Sunday of Lent

8.30am People of The Parish

9.45am Special Intention

11.30am Sue Huggins (RIP)

Monday 19th February feria

9.15am Peter Vasquez (RIP)

Tuesday 20th February feria

9.15am George Warren (RIP)

Wednesday 21st February feria

9.15am Nancy Mitchell (RIP)

Thursday 22nd February The Chair of St Peter The Apostle

11.00am Private Intention

Friday 23rd February feria

9.15am Special Intention

Saturday 24th February feria

10.00am Dennis Mann (RIP)

6.00pm Eddie Quinn (RIP) Anniv

Sunday 25th February 2nd Sunday of Lent

8.30am

9.45am People of The Parish

11.30am Bridget Flanagan (RIP) Anniv

6.00pm Stations of The Cross

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.

