



Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

**21st January 2018
3rd 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)**

This Sunday we begin our reading of St Mark's Gospel, the first and the shortest of the four gospels. Mark begins his gospel without any reference to the birth or early life of Jesus. A short account of the ministry of John the Baptist is followed by the story of the baptism of Jesus and a brief reference to his temptation in the desert. Our passage begins with Jesus in Galilee proclaiming the 'good news' or 'gospel' of God. Jesus declares the coming of 'the time' and of 'the kingdom of God'. The essence of his preaching is that the time of fulfilment, the long-awaited time, has arrived. God's kingdom, God's rule, is coming. The power of evil and of sin will be challenged, and overcome. This will be the constant theme of the words and deeds of Jesus in Mark. The first half of the gospel is set mostly in the northern region of Galilee. It is here that the gospel is first heard and first welcomed. Our reading continues with the call of the first disciples. They are taken away abruptly from their daily work of fishing. They respond immediately to Jesus' summons. They do not show the reluctance which Jonah showed, in the first reading. The call of Jesus is irresistible. We learn the names of the first four disciples, the brothers Simon and Andrew, and the brothers James and John. They abandon both their work, and their family ties. Something momentous is happening in their lives. It is amid the preoccupations of each day that the Lord calls his disciples, and calls them by name.

MASS INTENTIONS

Usually when Mass intentions are accepted we endeavour to indicate the date when the Mass will be said. From time to time such arrangements have to be changed, such as when a funeral is arranged. When this happens the Mass is always transferred to another date, we trust you understand why it is necessary from time to time, to make such changes.

OFFERING A MASS

There is an established tradition in the Church to have a Mass offered for a particular intention. If you would like to arrange a Mass you can do so at the Parish office, or by completing one of the envelopes, which are to be found in the porch. It is usual, if you can, to make an offering for the Mass.

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

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK
Saturday 20th January feria 10.00am Michael Madden (RIP) 6.00pm Maria Lopez (RIP)
Sunday 21st January 3rd Sunday In Ordinary Time 8.30am Gerald Woodruff (RIP) 9.45am Patricia Scanlan (RIP) Anniv 11.30am Charlie Eccleston & Zaiga Gravenieks (RIP)
Monday 22nd January feria 9.15am John McKenna (RIP)
Tuesday 23rd January feria 9.15am Michael & Tina (Special Intention)
Wednesday 24th January St Frances de Sales 9.15am Tricia & Gordon Lewis (Special Intention)
Thursday 25th January The Conversion of St Paul The Apostle 9.15am Special Intention (ED) 11.30am Funeral Mass Albert Talbert (RIP)
Friday 26th January St Timothy & Titus (Bishops) 9.15am
Saturday 27th January feria 10.00am Imelda Kavanagh (Special Intention) 6.00pm Special Intention (MD)
Sunday 28th January 4th Sunday In Ordinary Time 8.30am Bernard McGarry (RIP) 9.45am People of The Parish 11.30am Norah Foster (RIP)
CONFESSIONS Saturday 10.30-11.00am and after the 6.00pm Mass.