



Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

**18th March 2018
5th Sunday Of Lent**

Parish Priest:
Canon Anthony Dwyer

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At the start of today's gospel we hear about some Greeks, who are followers of Jesus, who come to Jerusalem. They are travellers, outsiders, and would like to meet Jesus in person. But when Philip and Andrew relay the request, Jesus begins to talk about how his 'hour' is coming. It is the last we hear of the Greeks, who disappear from the story altogether.

But they are important nonetheless. Firstly, they indicate that word about Jesus is spreading, that in the words of the Pharisees, 'the world has gone after him'. More importantly, they prompt Jesus to reveal that, when his hour comes, he will draw 'all people' to himself. In the space of a few short verses, we go from a brief mention of a group of foreigners seeking Jesus, to Jesus making it crystal clear that his saving mission is for all people, of all nations, both Jews and Gentiles – including those Greeks! There is no suggestion from Jesus that some groups are 'in' and others 'out'. All are included. All are invited. All are welcome.

As we continue our journey through Lent, and soon into Holy Week, let us listen carefully to these words of Jesus. He came for all. He wishes to draw all people to himself. Are our churches, parishes, communities and homes open to all, outsiders included? Are they places of welcome and inclusion, where all who enter experience God's love?

Parish Office

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

Office Administrators
Ellen Hughesman (Mon & Tue)
Melanie Armitage (Wed & Thu)

email:
harpenden@rcdow.org.uk

Also in Residence
Bishop John Crowley
(Retired)

Calling all Singers and Musicians!

To celebrate Eastertide Our Lady of Lourdes Choir and Band are planning a “pop-up” / flash mob performance of the Hallelujah Chorus (from Handel’s Messiah) on Church Green on Sunday 22 April at around 12.45. We expect to be finished by 1pm, unless we perform an encore!

We are inviting any interested musicians (strings, woodwind, and brass Grade 4+) and singers to join us.

We will be rehearsing at Our Lady of Lourdes Church on Sunday 25 March at 3pm & Sunday 15 April at 3pm.

Rehearsals will be no more than an hour. If you would like to join us and are able to attend at least one rehearsal please email

caroline.swanson@me.com.

Musicians please let us know your instrument so we can ensure we have the right parts for you.

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)

ANSWERS TO LENT TRIVIA

-King David

-Adultery and Murder

-150

CLOCK FORWARD

Don’t forget that next Sunday morning the clocks go forward one hour.

LOST PROPERTY

There are a large number of lost property items in the front of the church, please have a look through the box

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 17th March feria

10.00am John McKenna (RIP)

6.00pm Con Cronin (RIP)

Sunday 18th March 5th Sunday of Lent

8.30am People of the Parish

9.45am Mary Skinner (Spec Int)

11.30am Robert & Elizabeth Morris (RIP)

6.00pm Stations of The Cross

Monday 19th March Feast of St Joseph

9.15am Sr Margaret Knobel (Spec Int)

Tuesday 20th March feria

9.15am Special Intention

Wednesday 21st March feria

9.15am Joan Gaire (RIP)

Thursday 22nd March feria

11.00am May Doyle (RIP)

Friday 23rd March feria

9.15am Service of the Word with Holy Communion

Saturday 24th March feria

10.00am Denis Mann (RIP)

6.00pm Patrick Creedon (RIP)

Sunday 26th March Palm Sunday

8.30am Yvonne Campbell (RIP)

9.45am Anna Whittle (RIP) (Anniv)

11.30am Declan Burley (Spec Int)

6.00pm Stations of The Cross

CONFESSIONS

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

in case any of the items are yours. Any items not claimed in two weeks will be donated to charity.

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