



Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

17th June 2018

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

The parable of the mustard seed seems pretty straight forward at first glance, but as always there is more to it than first meets the eye. Jesus did not compare the Kingdom of God to a majestic tree. There is an ancient text which forbade planting mustard seeds in Palestinian gardens because the shrub takes over wherever it is planted. It is wild, gets out of control, and attracts unwanted birds. The kingdom of God grows from something small to something large, but more than that, its growth is overwhelming and it will grow even where it is not wanted. It has been compared to kudzu, a wild vine that could blanket entire mountain areas, smother trees, even crack cement buildings.

People of Jesus' time may have preferred the image of the lofty 'cedars of Lebanon' to explain God's kingdom, where the nations could build nests like the eagles do. Now that image may have been more attractive to Jesus' listeners, more in keeping with their image of the kingdom. Mustard plants however, only stand a few feet tall. Jesus is turning the ideals of power and triumph on their head again. The image we have here is of the birds who find a home in this little shrub, which cannot be curtailed. It will grow even where it is not wanted. In looking for the signs of God' activity around us we may look for is big and impressive, maybe we need to look for what is small and seemingly insignificant, and is such simple signs we will get a glimpse of the 'mustard seed' kingdom quietly growing.

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Parish Office

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

Office Administrators

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

Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!

World Youth Day

World Youth Day is an international event with the Pope, and Catholics from across the world. The next WYD will be in Panama, Central America, in January 2019. The Diocese of Westminster Youth Ministry are organising a pilgrimage for young adults to attend this life changing event. Scholarships for 50% are also available to support young adults wishing to go. More information: dowym.com/events/wyd-panama-2019 or email: youth@rcdow.org.uk

SICK OR HOUSEBOUND?

For those who are sick or housebound the Parish Priest is always happy to bring Holy Communion and, or, to arrange for one of the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to do so. If you are unable to attend Mass, or know of someone in that situation, please contact the Parish Office on 01582 712245 to make suitable arrangements.

EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

The Bishops of England and Wales are holding a National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress in Liverpool on 7th – 9th September 2018. For more information and to enquire about tickets to events, please contact adoremus@rcdow.org.uk or call 07738183829.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 16th June

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10.00am No Mass
11.00am Confirmation Mass
3.00pm Confirmation Mass
6.00pm Ted McGuinness (RIP)

Sunday 17th June

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B) Father's Day

8.30am People of the Parish
9.45am James Henrietta & Brian O'Hare (RIP)
11.30am Margaret Sumerville (RIP) (1st Anniv)

Monday 18th June

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9.15am Thomas Brady (RIP)

Tuesday 19th June

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9.15am Brian Tate (RIP)

Wednesday 20th June

St Alban, Protomartyr

9.15am Mercedes Carrion (Spec Int)

Thursday 21st June

St Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious

11.00am Patrick Hickey (RIP) (Anniv)

Friday 22nd June

SS John Fisher, Bishop & Thomas More, Martyrs

9.15 am Service of the Word with Holy Communion

Saturday 23rd June

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10.00am Isidoro Alfonson Arevalo (RIP)
6.00pm John Reece (RIP)

Sunday 24th June

The Nativity of St John the Baptist (B)

8.30am Denis Mann (RIP)
9.45am People of the Parish
11.30am Bridget McNamara

CONFESSIONS

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