



Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

24th June 2018

The Nativity of St John the Baptist

Today we celebrate the birth of John the Baptist and listen to Luke's account of his nativity. John's story is one of sacrifice and humility. His parents know there will be something very special about this child. The circumstances surrounding his birth already have people amazed. Jewish historians account that John was a preacher around the time of Pontius Pilate who went around calling people to renewal! He spent a lot of time in the wilderness, eating wild things and wearing sackcloth. He must have been a very interesting and attractive figure as we are told in the gospels that people flocked to the River Jordan to be baptised by him; a sign of their repentance or renewal of relationship with God. John gathered so many followers around him that he was considered a threat to Herod Antipas who feared he might begin a rebellion. John was a preacher, a prophet, a signpost pointing people in the right direction: towards Jesus of Nazareth. We can pray today for all those people who acted as signposts in our lives and brought us closer to God in some way, those who guided us and pointed us in the right direction when we needed it. We too are also called to be signposts for others.

'Lord, we thank you for people who guided us, but did not try to possess us: parents, teachers, spiritual guides, friends. For a time we stood with them. Very simply, like John the Baptist, they said to us, "Look, there is the one you should follow," and hearing this we followed that person.' (Michel de Verteuil)

Parish Priest:

Canon Anthony Dwyer

**1, Kirkwick Avenue,
Harpenden AL5 2QH
tel: 01582 712245**

EMAIL:

**anthonydwyer@
rcdow.org.uk**

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

WEBSITE:

**parish@rcdow.org.uk/
harpenden/**

twitter: @RC_OLOL

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

Don't Miss the

DEADLINE!

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.

GAP YEAR

Naomi Coy, one of our young parishioners, will be spending part of her 'gap year' in Peru, working with the Missionary Servants of the Poor of the Third World. The Movement gives young laypeople, married couples and priests the opportunity to work among the poorest, especially in orphanages, soup kitchens and schools for orphans and abandoned children. Obviously, there are expenses involved with travelling to Peru, if you can assist Naomi in any way she would be most grateful.

SOLITUDE SATURDAY ST CLARE'S CONVENT ABIGAIL CLOSE LUTON

The next Solitude Saturday will be on 30th June; Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 10.00am and ends at 3.00pm. There is also opportunity for a Solitude Walk in the Prayer Gardens and time to pray in the Poustinia or Hermitage. As parking at St Clare's is limited, you are asked to leave your car immediately inside Abigail Close and walk round to No3. Thank you.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 23rd June

feria

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

Monday 25th June

feria

9.15am Margaret Buckel (Special Intention)

Tuesday 26th June

feria

9.15am Peter Dunn (RIP)

Wednesday 27th June

St John Southworth, Priest & Martyr

9.15am John Png (RIP)

Thursday 28th June

St Irenaeus, Bishop & Martyr

11.00am Thomas Jose (RIP)

Friday 29th June

SS Peter & Paul Holy Day of Obligation

9.15 am Peter Craig (RIP)

6.00pm Nicola Commins (Spec Int)

Saturday 30th June

feria

10.00am Peggy Reynolds (RIP)

6.00pm Chan Hang Ping (RIP)

Sunday 1st July

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

8.30am People of the Parish

9.45am Robert Eltoft (RIP)

11.30am Special Intention (AO'H)

CONFESSIONS

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

LIVESIMPLY

An idea for Living Simply:

"Use energy saving light bulbs and switch off lights!"