



Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

8th July 2018
14th 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 Administrators
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**NB. Entries for the Newsletter
must be sent into the office by
Wednesday at the latest.**

When we reflect on today's Gospel you might wonder what the people of Nazareth were thinking. They have the evidence of greatness before them but they cannot bring themselves to accept it. What is the explanation for this startling state of affairs? Listen again to the townspeople's complaint: **"This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here with us?" And they would not accept him".**

Their attitude, their thinking reflects their desire for the familiar, the known, the comfortable. They are rehearsing to themselves what they know, or think they know, about Jesus, what they are comfortable with.

For the townspeople of Jesus's hometown to accept his wisdom and his miraculous gifts would mean having to accept a number of other things as well, not the least of which is a new 'pecking order' in the social arrangements. They would have had to accept that they had somehow been blind to the prophet in their midst and to admit this to one another and, for whatever reason, they were afraid of doing that. The very way they seem to insist on what they know about Jesus shows their discomfort, their discomfort to the point of fear; fear of the unknown.

The unknown creates fear within us, but a constant message in the scriptures is: "Do not be afraid!" Fear lowers our horizons and keeps us trapped in the familiar and safe, as we see in the people of Jesus' hometown. He could work no miracles there. Faith and love cast out fear.

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

I would just like to give my heart-felt thanks to everyone in the parish that supported me in regards to my future trip to Peru. I was completely blown away by the interest and generosity of everybody and from the bottom of my heart, thank you so much for all the financial support, the prayers and interest that has been sent my way! Thanks to you all, a substantial donation will be able to be given to the missionary in order to help those living in the poorest conditions in Peru, as well as massively assisting us with flight costs. I will be sure to keep you all updated whilst I am in Peru! God Bless, Naomi Coy

SOLITUDE SATURDAY ST CLARE'S CONVENT ABIGAIL CLOSE LUTON

The next Solitude Saturday will be on 28th July.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 7th July

feria

10.00am Ray Shufflebotham (RIP) (Anniv)

6.00pm Tommy Bradley (RIP)

Sunday 8th July

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

8.30am Maureen Murphy (RIP)

9.45am Cindy Gallagher (RIP)

11.30am People of the Parish

Monday 9th July

feria

9.15am Liz McArdle (RIP)

Tuesday 10th July

feria

9.15am Margaret Foulds (RIP)

Wednesday 11th July

St Benedict, Abbot, Patron of Europe

9.15am Margaret Denny (RIP)

Thursday 12th July

feria

11.00am Thanksgiving Mass for Bernadette Quinn

Friday 13th July

feria

9.15 am Service of the Word with Holy Communion

Saturday 14th July

feria

10.00am Special Intention (AB)

6.00pm Desmond Greig (RIP)

Sunday 15th July

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

8.30am People of the Parish

9.45am Elizabeth Cooper (RIP)

11.30am Joe Bearpark (RIP)

CONFESSIONS

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