

Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

16TH DECEMBER 2018
3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)
(Gaudete Sunday)



Parish Priest **Canon Anthony Dwyer**

1, Kirkwick Avenue,
Harpenden AL5 2QH
tel: 01582 712245
email:
anthonydwyer@
rcdow.org.uk

Parish Office **Office Administrator** **Melanie Armitage**

Open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
& Thursday
9.30am - 12.30pm
email:
harpenden@rcdow.org.uk
tel: 01582 712245

Parish Safeguarding **Representative** **Brigid Brennan**

email:
harpensog@safeguardingrcdow.org.uk
tel: 07915 499 120

WEBSITE:

parish.rcdow.org.uk/harpenden
twitter: @RC_OLOL

Today, this third Sunday of Advent, we are now over half way through this time of preparation for celebrating the birth of the Saviour. The mood of Advent is one of serious hope. It's a time more of quiet longing than loud celebration. But on this 'Gaudete Sunday', 'Gaudete' which means to rejoice, there is a clear note of joy in the scripture readings. Even as we remember how the Jews waited for the coming of the Messiah, and even as we wait for his second coming, we remember and wait with joy, because we know how the story ends. Christ was born! Christ is coming again! There will be a time when God will wipe away every tear, when the lion will lie down with the lamb, when implements of war will be turned into tools for harvesting. Thus, we rejoice even as we wait with hope.

The prophet Zephaniah brought a word of hope to Israel. The day would come when God would live among his people. He would be their Saviour and delight in them. The Lord himself would rejoice over his people with joyful songs. What a great vision of the future!

As we approach Christmas we will be conscious of all that needs to be done, but let us recapture some of the 'quiet joy' that Pope Francis talks about. 'The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus,' he reminds us. It is this personal encounter with Jesus that we celebrate at Christmas, God becoming man, the Good News that we hear John the Baptist announcing, this is the reason for our joy.

ST DOMINIC SCHOOL - ADMISSIONS POLICY

The Governors are consulting on a proposed change to the Admission Policy for September 2020. The consultation will run for 6 weeks from Monday 26th November 2018 to Monday 7th January 2019. Any responses should be sent to the Governing Body by the closing date. Please see the school website for further details.

VACANCY JUSTICE AND PEACE CO-ORDINATOR

The Diocese of Westminster seeks to appoint a practicing Roman Catholic to serve the Westminster Justice & Peace Commission in coordinating Justice and Peace endeavours across the Diocese. For more information please see the diocesan website. rcdow.org.uk/diocese/jobs/justice-and-peace-co-ordinator

CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS

There will be a double issue of The Universe and The Catholic Times next weekend. The price of papers will be £3 each. The next issue will be on 6th January and back to the normal price of £1.50.



MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 15th December

Advent feria

10.00am Jim O'Brien (Spec Int)

6.00pm Ian Swanson RIP (Anniv)

Sunday 16th December

3rd Sunday of Advent (C) (Gaudete Sunday)

8.30am People of the Parish

9.45am Janet Figg RIP (Anniv)

11.30am Briege Gardner RIP



Monday 17th December

Advent feria

9.15am John McKenna RIP (Anniv)

Tuesday 18th December

Advent feria

9.15am Sr Norah (Spec Ints)

Wednesday 19th December

Advent feria

9.15am Jackie Hawkings RIP

Thursday 20th December

Advent feria

11.00am Edmund Chiu RIP

Friday 21st December

Advent feria

9.15am Service of the Word & Holy Communion

Saturday 22nd December

Advent feria

10.00am Sr Loretta (Spec Int)

6.00pm Peter Hagan RIP

Sunday 23rd December

4th Sunday of Advent (C)

8.30am Denis Mann & John Png RIP

9.45am People of the Parish

11.30am Sr Eileen (Spec Ints)



CONFESSIONS

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