

Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

10th February 2019

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)



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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:
harpensg@safeguardingrcdow.org.uk
tel: 07915 499 120

WEBSITE:

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

Peter, James and John are toiling in the boat, and to no avail. Try as they might, nothing seems to go right. Surely, if they try harder, work longer, just cast their nets one more time they will get that catch which they need, which their hard work deserves.

That's life. We can work hard. Feel we deserve great rewards, yet it doesn't seem to work out. The harder we try the less successful we seem. And so, like us at times, dejected, the fishermen hit the shore, with a sense of failure. And Jesus says: yes, you can do it - just cast out your nets. He challenges the fishermen to do what they have already done: and they are not so sure.

We've tried that, they say. But he doesn't ask for extra effort. He doesn't ask them to try harder. He doesn't say you've been doing it wrong. He just asks them to trust him. And when they trust him - they are amazed, they were 'completely overcome'.

And so too, it can be for us. While hard graft and effort may end in frustration, successes and achievements often take us by surprise: the great idea, the act of kindness, the moment of vision or inspiration. They don't just happen - but they seem to be so much more than the effort which we put in. We can be amazed, not by what we can do - but by what God can do through us.

This is grace. The free gift of God. The nets bursting with blessings. Not because we have tried, but because we have trusted.

**Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving
for the Sacrament of Matrimony
Westminster Cathedral Saturday
8th June 2019 at 3pm**

The Cardinal will be inviting to the Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th & 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic Marriage in 2019. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your details (names, address, wedding date, email, phone number) to Melanie in the Parish Office.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2019

This year's World Day of Prayer will take place on Friday 1st March. There will be two services in Harpenden: 10.30am at St John's, Southdown and 7.45pm at St Mary's, Kinsbourne Green - this year written by the women of Slovenia with the theme "Come - Everything is Ready!". The World Day of Prayer raises around £250K each year in the UK for distribution to charity - visit www.wwdp.org.uk for details. For more information on the Harpenden services please see the postcards in the porch or call Teresa Newham on (01582) 766403.



LIVE SIMPLY IDEA

Install havens for wildlife (particularly bird boxes, bat boxes and insect havens).



MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 9th February

feria

10.00am Robert Frampton RIP

6.00pm Robert Dare RIP (Anniv)

Sunday 10th February

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8.30am People of the Parish

9.45am Margaret Foulds RIP

11.30am Derek Woolcock RIP

Monday 11th February

Our Lady of Lourdes

9.15am Colin King RIP (Anniv)

Tuesday 12th February

St Agatha, Virgin & Martyr

9.15am Mark Britten

Wednesday 13th February

feria

9.15am

Thursday 14th February

SS Cyril, Monk & Methodius, Bishop

11.00am

Friday 15th February

feria

9.15am Service of the Word with Holy Communion

Saturday 16th February

feria

10.00am Eddie Quinn RIP (Anniv)

6.00pm Frank McConnachie RIP (Anniv)

Sunday 17th February

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

8.30am Denis Mann RIP

9.45am People of the Parish

11.30am Mendelson Andre Schmidt RIP

CONFESSIONS

Saturday 10.30am-11.00am and
at 5pm - 5.30pm before the Vigil Mass