

# Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

10<sup>th</sup> February 2019

5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)



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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  
8<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at 3pm**

The Cardinal will be inviting to the Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> & 60<sup>th</sup> (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](http://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 9<sup>th</sup> February**

**feria**

10.00am Robert Frampton RIP

6.00pm Robert Dare RIP (Anniv)

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February**

**5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)**

8.30am People of the Parish

9.45am Margaret Foulds RIP

11.30am Derek Woolcock RIP

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February**

**Our Lady of Lourdes**

9.15am Colin King RIP (Anniv)

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February**

**St Agatha, Virgin & Martyr**

9.15am Mark Britten

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February**

**feria**

9.15am

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February**

**SS Cyril, Monk & Methodius, Bishop**

11.00am

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February**

**feria**

9.15am Service of the Word with Holy Communion

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February**

**feria**

10.00am Eddie Quinn RIP (Anniv)

6.00pm Frank McConnachie RIP (Anniv)

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February**

**6<sup>TH</sup> 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