

Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

7TH APRIL 2019
5TH SUNDAY OF LENT (C)



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The Church is usually open each day
from 7.00am until 6.30pm (approx.)
for quiet prayer and contemplation,
everyone is welcome

There is a clear message today to look to the future. In the first reading we hear: 'No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing a new deed...' and St Paul tells us: 'All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead...'

These significant words taken from today's scripture, provide the perfect preamble to our dramatic Gospel reading. Perhaps the line that is most often quoted from the story of the woman caught in adultery is Jesus' challenge to the crowd who bring her before them: 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' It is a challenge to all of us to look inward before we 'cast stones' to judge others.

But there is another equally powerful statement here by Jesus, this time to the woman herself. It is delivered quietly, when she is left alone with Jesus after all her accusers have drifted away: 'Neither do I condemn you. Go away, and don't sin any more.' We notice that Jesus doesn't rake over the woman's past. He doesn't ask her about the claims of her accusers. He does not condemn or criticise her. Instead he accepts her, loves her, treats her with the respect and dignity that was so lacking in the mob, and gently nudges her forward into a new way of living. These days, approaching Holy week and Easter, are our opportunity to let the past be the past, and to look forward with joy to the newness of life we are promised.



PHOTOGRAPHS

CHEESE!



We have a large number of unclaimed photographs from last years

First Holy Communion and Confirmation Celebrations. If you have yet to collect your photograph, please have a look through the box on the shelf near the repository.

LENT TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. The Paschal Triduum is three days, counted SUNSET to SUNSET from Maundy Thursday evening right through to Easter Sunday Evening.
2. Lent is a time to focus on our Lord, having bearer Churches, with no flowers, reminds us of what we need to strip away in order to draw closer to the Lord.
3. 'Alleluia' is not said, or sung, during Lent, as it is a penitential season; a time when we acknowledge our sins and practice repentance.

SAVE THE DATE: Roy Shoeman, international speaker, Jewish Catholic is giving a talk on " The Role of Judaism in Salvation from Abraham to the 2nd Coming" on Sunday 30th June, at 6.30pm at Our Lady Help of Christians Parish Hall, Castle Street, Luton, LU1 3AG

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 6th April

Lent feria

10.00am Hillary Murphy (Spec Int)
5.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
6.00pm Margaret Carey (Spec Ints)

Sunday 7th April

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT (C)

8.30am Tim & Margaret Gaynor RIP (Anniv)
9.45am People of the Parish
11.30am Harry Davis RIP (Anniv)
6.00pm Stations of the Cross

Monday 8th April

Lent feria

9.15am Hilde Coy RIP

Tuesday 9th April

Lent feria

9.15am John & Sharon Davies (Spec Int)

Wednesday 10th April

Lent feria

9.15am Margaret Foulds RIP

Thursday 11th April

Lent feria

11.00am

Friday 12th April

Lent feria

9.15am Service of the Word with Holy Communion
7.30pm Livesimply Stations of the Cross

Saturday 13th April

Lent feria

10.00am Hilde Coy RIP
5.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
6.00pm Nichola Stringer RIP (Anniv)

Sunday 14th April

PALM SUNDAY

THE PASSION OF THE LORD (C)

8.30am People of the Parish
9.30am Richard Strommer RIP (Anniv)
11.30am Ernesto & Alceste Bortoli RIP (Anniv)
6.00pm Stations of the Cross

CONFESSIONS

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