



OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

8TH SEPTEMBER 2019
23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

Parish Priest
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Parish Office
Office Administrator
Melanie Armitage

Open Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday & Thursday
9.30am - 12.30pm

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Parish Safeguarding
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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

It's natural, understandable, that we want to make life as easy as possible. But doing things the easy way, at least when it comes to religion, to faith, may not work. This is what Jesus is warning us about in today's Gospel when he says: *"If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple."*

Jesus is using exaggerated language here; he doesn't really mean "hate" as we think of it. He is making it clear that following him is not easy and can never be a matter of comfort and convenience. In that sense we give up family — put him before family, which becomes easier when we realise that putting him first is actually better for the family anyway — and then deny ourselves and bear a cross.

The cross calls us to stick out our neck and get involved. Meaning that we are called not only to morality but also to action, to doing our part to share in Jesus' work of building the Kingdom of God. If we call ourselves Christians without some serious involvement in this active reaching out from whatever cross we have in our lives to bring Jesus' salvation to others, we're making our religion far too easy.

Jesus said, *"whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple."* The cross can never be a symbol of ease and convenience. The cross challenges us not to be mediocre, but to give of our best, to give ourselves completely as Jesus did.

BEGINNING AGAIN

During the year there are different opportunities to start again. Whether it's the beginning of the Church's year in Advent, or the start of the year in January, and in September the Academic year starts again. Those opportunities to make a new start reflect our Christian faith, God constantly allowing us to make a fresh start. During this last week schools have been reopening, with pupils returning, and some starting for the first time, or in a new school. In a few weeks a number of our young people will be continuing with their education at university. We wish all of them well, and hope that this will be a fruitful time for them.



PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed on Wednesday 11th September and will re-open on Thursday 12th September.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2020

Preparation for First Communion in 2020 starts on Monday 16th September with a meeting for the Parents of all children who are being prepared. Attendance of at least one parent at this meeting is very important, and it takes place in the undercroft at 8.00pm.



CONFIRMATION 2020

Preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, for those young people in Year 9 or above, will commence in November. Application forms are available after all Masses throughout September. Completed forms and copies of the Baptismal Certificate must be returned to Melanie in the parish office by Monday 8th October please.

PHOTOGRAPHS

There are a few remaining Confirmation and First Holy Communion Photographs to be collected. They are available at the back of the Church by the repository.

TERESA LAWSON RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Teresa Lawson who died recently. Teresa's Requiem Mass will be held on Thursday 26th September at 11am. We remember Teresa's family in our prayers at this time.



1st SEPTEMBER TO 4th OCTOBER IS CELEBRATED AS A SEASON OF CREATION.

'This is the season for letting our prayer be inspired anew by closeness to nature, which spontaneously leads us to give thanks to God the Creator. Saint Bonaventure, that eloquent witness to Franciscan wisdom, said that creation is the first "book" that God opens before our eyes, so that, marvelling at its order, its variety and its beauty, we can come to love and praise its Creator.'

(Extract from Pope Francis' Message for World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation)

AUTUMN PET BLESSING SERVICE A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES



All children pet owners are warmly invited to attend a Pet Blessing Service on Saturday 21st September at 3.00 pm, in the Presbytery garden. This Service will be led by Father Michael Mannion and we look forward to meeting all the many dogs, cats, rabbits, birds etc owned by our children. Please bring a parent with you and a suitable hutch, cage or (short) lead for your pet. Do also bring a prayer you have written for your animal. If you would like to attend, please register by contacting Caroline Roberts, of the Live Simply Environment Group, Tel. 01582 768169 or by email caroline46@supanet.com.

DWG QUIZ NIGHT
21ST SEPTEMBER 7 FOR 7:30PM
AT LOURDES HALL



We are delighted to say that this event is now fully booked, though please do email Sheila Greenwood sagreenwood@btinternet.com if you would like to go on the waiting list. For those who have already booked, your payment is needed by Wednesday 18th September so that we can confirm final numbers with Godfrey's. The payment of £12.50 per person should be made either by cash in a named envelope, or by cheque made out to *Our Lady of Lourdes DWG*. This can be handed into Melanie in the Parish Office or given to Sheila Greenwood, Sue Martin, Julia Roche or Noel Whittle. Please bring your own drinks and glasses on the night. We look forward to seeing you for a fun evening!

ALTAR SERVERS PANTO INVITATION



The Catenians are delighted to invite all altar servers who will have their St Stephen's medal by Dec 2019, to join them for FREE to see Beauty and the Beast pantomime at the Gordon Craig Theatre in

Stevenage at 5pm on Sunday 12th January 2020. Parents and siblings are welcome to attend, but free tickets only apply to current altar servers. Ice creams will be provided during the interval for ALL children attending :-). To accept this invitation please email Adrian at fernandez.acp@gmail.com.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM
- GROUP FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Westminster Youth Ministry (WYM) invites young people aged 16 and above to join us on the diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham on Saturday 21st September. The pilgrimage will be led by Cardinal Nichols and will include Mass, a Marian procession, rosary and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, as well as being an opportunity to express our love and devotion for our Blessed



Mother as a diocese and a group of young people. WYM is laying on a coach departing outside St Aloysius, Euston, NW1 1TA, at 7am, returning to St Aloysius early evening. Cost is £20 per person. Bring a picnic lunch. Booking form at dowym.com

NEWMAN ASSOCIATION TALK ON
MEDICAL ETHICS, SUNDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER

All are welcome to this talk by Dr Mary McHugh, starting at 8pm in the Undercroft. Our speaker is distinguished both as a kidney specialist and as a leading member of the National Board of Catholic Women. Her talk is on 'Ethical Questions: a doctor's perspective'. She will take questions at the end but promises to ask us some as well. This should prove to be a lively interactive evening, and an excellent introduction to the Newman Association for anyone who would like to know more about us on the eve of Blessed John Henry Newman's canonisation. Please call 01727 864404 or visit www.newman.org.uk if you are unable to attend on the 15th but would still like to know more about the Association.

WATFORD, ST. ALBANS & HEMEL
HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY

Mass will be offered in the hospital once a month and everyone is welcome to attend for more details about dates and times please contact the head of chaplaincy. There will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the Litany of Lourdes in the hospital oratory on level 4 at Watford Hospital every Monday at 2pm all are welcome to join us for this time of prayer for our hospitals. If you have a relative in hospital who has requested to see a Catholic chaplain please do let us know. Would you consider giving an hour a week to join our chaplaincy support team - please contact us for details? For more information about any of the above please email the head of chaplaincy: anthony.curran@nhs.net

NILAND CONFERENCE CENTRE

Conflict and Peace - morning reflection with Sister Regina McGarry OP & Monika Cleaver. How Jesus teaches us to engage healthily with conflict. **Monday, 9th September** 10am-12.30pm (suggested donation £6)

Arts Exhibition - Dominican Sisters invite you to join them in celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Niland Centre, a place of tranquillity in a busy world, with an Arts Exhibition featuring local artists and a variety of media - paintings, photography, pottery, marquetry and more. **Saturday 21st** (10am-5pm) & **Sunday 22nd September**

(11am-4pm). Home baking and refreshments available in the Lima Cafe. Admission is free and donations are welcomed. **Scripture from Scratch** with Sister Anne Walsh OP - *Living as if we believed in God*, looking at God's plan for Creation and Begins **Thursday, 26th September** (fortnightly until 21st November) **7.30pm-9.00pm** (suggested donation £5) **Venue:** Niland Conference Centre at Rosary Priory, 93 Elstree Road, Bushey Heath, Herts. WD23 4EE
Contact events@nilandconferencecentre.co.uk or 07746 707 247.

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE

For the Sanctity of Life - Sunday 6th October. Tickets: Adults £17.50, Children & Students £8.00. For more information: www.prolifepilgrimage.org. To book contact Geraldine: 07971 028415/mgeraldine_ward@hotmail.com



Sponsored Bike 'n Hike
BEDS AND HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

BIKE 'N HIKE Are you a cyclist or a walker and would you like to raise money for your church? The annual *Sponsored Bike 'n Hike* organised by Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust will this year be held next **Saturday 14th September**. A sign in sheet for those who visit our church will be left in the porch.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 7th September feria

10.00am Neil Turnbull (Spec Int)
12 Noon Baptism
1.30pm Baptism
5.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Vigil Mass
6.00pm Ian Foxley RIP

Sunday 8th September

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

8.30am Elizabeth Wang RIP (Anniv)
9.45am Ann Cassidy RIP
11.30am People of the Parish

Monday 9th September feria

9.15am Alice Gelling RIP

Tuesday 10th September feria

9.15am Margaret Foulds (RIP)
Refreshments served after Mass

Wednesday 11th September feria

9.15am Mary & Bernard McGarry RIP (Anniv)

Thursday 12th September feria

11.00am Neil Turnbull (Spec Int)

Friday 13th September feria

9.15am Service of the Word with Holy Communion

Saturday 14th September

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

10.00am
12 Noon Baptism
5.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Vigil Mass
6.00pm Catenians Mass for Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Life

Sunday 15th September

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

8.30am Michael Turner RIP
9.45am People of the Parish
11.30am Derek Woolcock RIP (1st Anniv)

CONFESSIONS

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

LIVESIMPLY IDEA

Insulate your home to conserve energy & keep bills down.