



OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

27TH OCTOBER 2019
30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

Parish Priest
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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

Jesus pulls no punches in today's Gospel text about the Pharisee and the Tax Collector. Typically, he chooses as his characters first one who sees himself as the most upright and religious and then the other who is despised by everyone. The Pharisee's prayer says it all: 'I' thank you, God, that 'I' am not grasping, unjust and adulterous like the rest of mankind, and particularly that 'I' am not like this Tax Collector here. 'I' fast twice a week; 'I' pay tithes on all 'I' get.

The Tax Collector on the other hand knows how unworthy he is and implores God for mercy. He is not comparing himself to other people but comparing himself to God and finding himself wanting. He knows his sins; they are always before him.

The Tax Collector is a humble man, and this is precisely what true humility consists in; not comparing ourselves to others but comparing ourselves to God, or perhaps more easily to Jesus his incarnate Son. When we do this, we begin to see ourselves in the correct light; we begin to see ourselves in true perspective. We realise that before God we are absolutely nothing. In comparison to Jesus we are utterly hopeless but, in his mercy, God saves us and raises us up. He forgives the contrite heart.

To be humble may sound like a place of weakness, in fact it is anything but. When we are humble, we know ourselves as we are; and when we know ourselves, then we know our need of God, and when we recognise that need, we are not in a situation of weakness, but in a place of strength.



ALL SAINTS

Next Friday is the feast of All Saints, and is a holyday of obligation. Masses will be celebrated at 9.15am and 6.00pm. On holydays, of which there are now very few, we are obliged to attend Mass in addition to our Sunday obligation.

ALL SOULS

Next Saturday, All Souls Day, we remember all the souls in purgatory, those who have still to complete their journey to God. Mass will be celebrated at 10.00am.

HOLY SOULS

November, traditionally, we remember, and assist with our prayers, all the souls in Purgatory. There will be a number of Masses offered for this intention during the month. If you would like anyone included in these Masses please add their name to the November book, which you will find on the ledge near the repository.

FROM THE CARDINAL

Enclosed with this newsletter is a message from Cardinal Nichols. Tomorrow, Monday for two weeks, the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse will be examining the situation of the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales. Cardinal Nichols will be appearing before the enquiry and, as he says, it will provide an opportunity "to offer again an apology to all who have suffered in the context of the Catholic Church As well as to offer assurance of our willingness to learn further lessons about how to improve and strengthen our response to those who have suffered and our work of safeguarding". The Cardinal asks that we continue to pray for all who carry the heavy burden of abuse every day.

NOURISHING OUR FAITH

If we are to grow in our faith then we have to feed it, to nourish it. One way of doing that is by reflecting on the lives of those who have shown great dedication to God. Starting on Tuesday November



12th we shall have the opportunity to reflect on the lives of two men and a woman, outstanding in faith. On November 12th and 19th, there will be



talks on our newest saint, John Henry Newman, on November 26th we will hear about Edith Stein, St



Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, and on December 3rd we will learn of St Oscar Romero. All talks take place in the undercroft, and start at 7.30pm.

PLANNED GIVING

Thank you very much for your patience with the 'Planned Giving Renewal' over the last three weekends; and thank you too to everyone who renewed, or indicated, their support for the parish. In a generous parish, such as ours, money and giving, is not something we want to give great time to talking about but it is nonetheless a necessity. As in every area of our lives it is good from time to time to pause and reflect on what we are doing. If you missed signing a promise card last weekend, and would like a box of donation envelopes, or to donate to the parish by standing order (bankers order) or wish to **Gift Aid**, please complete a promise card at the back of the Church today and hand it in to the Parish Office, or post it through Presbytery letterbox. Once again, thank you for your continuous support for the life and work of our parish.

PLANNED GIVING OFFERTORY ENVELOPES RENEWAL

New boxes of offertory envelopes are available in the porch. Please collect your box (they are in alphabetical order).



If last weekend you indicated you would like to join the planned giving envelopes there will be a box for you also. If your box is not there or you would like to join the scheme please fill in your details on the sheet next to the envelopes and a box will be made ready for you to collect next weekend.

Confirmation

CONFIRMATION 2020

Anna Painter our Confirmation Catechist has emailed all parents this week, please check your spam/junk folder if you have not received the email. The Parents meeting will be on Sunday 17th November at 5.30pm in the Undercroft. It is very important that your child is represented by at least one parent at this meeting.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Please make a note for your diary that the Parish Christmas Bazaar will be on Saturday 7th December in Lourdes Hall.



AN ENCHANTED EVENING OF SONG,

Nearly 30% of tickets already sold for 'An Enchanted Evening of Song', Lourdes Hall, 16th Nov 6-45pm for 7-30pm. Last year's opera was a sell out so don't leave it too late. This enchanted evening is in support of DWG projects and you, your family & friends are invited. Performers from the Felici Opera Company will take us on a magical journey of music and song to suit all tastes. Whether a fan or new to opera you will love it. Tickets are priced at just £15 pp are available from dennis29@virginmedia.com



CALLING ALL MUSICIANS GRADE 3+!



Do you play a brass, wind or string instrument? Would you like to share your talents and join the 9.45am band? No regular rehearsals - turn up and play - your sight reading will improve no end! We welcome any musician

Grade 3+, adult or child (age 10 and above). Please contact caroline.swanson@me.com

MONTH OF THE ROSARY

October is the month of the Holy Rosary. The rosary will be prayed in church, Monday to Thursday, after the morning Masses



TONY WHITTAKER RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Tony Whittaker who recently died. Tony's Requiem Mass will be in Tuesday 5th November at 10.30am. We remember Tony's family in our prayers at this time.



CHOIRS We wish our Choirs well as they are on tour this weekend performing in Leeds.

lives simply

Next Sunday, the first of the month, is UHT Milk collection Sunday for the St Albans and District Foodbank. Please remember to bring a carton to put in the crate in the church porch. There is always a great need! Thank you, and Laudato Si!



ST DOMINIC SCHOOL

Applications for places in Reception Class

2020-21 open on Monday

4th November 2019 and

close on Wednesday

15th January 2020.

Application forms for St Dominic are available from the school website at

www.stdominic.herts.sch.uk/Our-School/Admissions .



If you would like to visit the school, Open Mornings are being held on Wednesday 6th November, Thursday 21st November and Tuesday 10th December all at 9.15am. To book a place on one of these visit mornings, please call the school office on 01582 760047. To obtain a Certificate of Catholic Practice, parents should initially collect and complete a "self -assessment" form. Canon Dwyer will be available to sign forms in church on Wednesday 4th December from 6pm to

7pm and on Saturday 14th December between 3pm and 4pm. There is no need to make an appointment, but please be aware that signing is only at these times. Please note that 'practising Catholic' means attending Mass **every** Sunday.



CHRISTMAS IN THE REPOSITORY

Christmas stock has arrived in the Repository we have Christmas cards, Advent Calendars for children, contemporary cribs and candles and lots more. Come and have a look!



'Sincere thanks to everyone at Our Lady of Lourdes Church who organized and contributed to a fantastic collection of tools, equipment and haberdashery items for us. They are now being refurbished prior to being sent to Africa where they will help some of the most disadvantaged people learn the skills, they need to help themselves out of poverty', from Rob Levine, Fundraising Director at Workaid.

The DWG and Live Simply groups would also like to thank the kind parishioner who brought in chocolates for the volunteers on the very wet collection day!

WALK IN THE PARK

Do join us for a breath of fresh air and a blaze of autumn colour in Rothamsted Park. Our parish walkers will meet as usual outside Church at 10am on the first Wednesday of the month, 6th November, for an hour's walk followed by coffee in a nearby cafe. New walkers are always welcome. If it's raining on the day, we'll go straight for coffee!



LIVESIMPLY IDEA

Reduce plastic waste and save money by taking a re-usable bag to the supermarket.



MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 26th October

feria

10.00am Jeanine Wright RIP

12.00noon Baptism

5.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Vigil Mass

6.00pm Jean Eldred RIP

Sunday 27th October

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

8.30am Special Intentions (MH)

9.45am People of the Parish

11.30am Teresa Lawson RIP

Monday 28th October

Ss Simon & Jude, Apostles

9.15am Greg Jephcott RIP (Anniv)

Tuesday 29th October

Blessed Martyrs of Douai College

9.15am Gerald Woodruff RIP

Refreshments after Mass today

Wednesday 30th October

feria

9.15am

Thursday 31st October

feria

11.00am Dolores Snell RIP

Friday 1st November

All Saints (Holy day of Obligation)

9.15am Desmond Worth RIP

6.00pm Mrs Dionne RIP

Saturday 2nd November

All Souls Day

10.00am Margaret Carey RIP

5.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Vigil Mass

6.00pm Deceased Catenian Brothers RIP

Sunday 3rd November

31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

8.30am Michael Turner RIP

9.45am People of the Parish Holy Souls

11.30am Jim Toon RIP

CONFESSIONS

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