

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

3RD NOVEMBER 2019
31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

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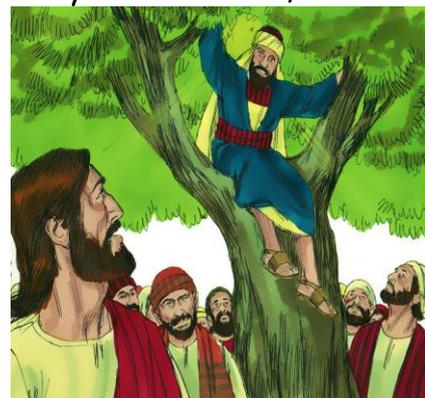
The Church is usually open each day
from 7.00am until 6.30pm (approx.)
for quiet prayer and contemplation,
everyone is welcome

Whatever his faults, and his reputation, may have been, Zacchaeus took great trouble to look for some contact with Jesus. He wanted to see "what kind of man Jesus was". You could say that he was simply being nosy ... he was just curious about Jesus. Curiosity can sometimes be somewhat negative, seeking information simply for its own sake. Zacchaeus though, had a real interest in seeing Jesus, in discovering "what kind of man he was".

For this, he was prepared, quite literally, to go out on a limb, to climb on to a leafy branch of a sycamore tree. He went to extravagant lengths to see Jesus, to really encounter him. In the process he found that the one he was searching for was also searching for him. "Come down, for I must stay at your house today," said Jesus.

From his perch among the branches, Zacchaeus was amazed to be called to share a dinner with Jesus. When he threw open his house to Jesus and spoke of reforming his life, he received a greater gift in return, a welcome back to his community of faith. "Today, salvation has come to his house, because this man too is a son of Abraham."

There was a place in God's house for Zacchaeus, as there is for all of us. He was warmly welcomed in spite of his past. As in the case of Zacchaeus, our searching for God is preceded by God's search for us. Like Zacchaeus we can have a healthy curiosity about Jesus, and whenever we do so, when we seek his presence, we will find that Jesus is already there, ready to receive us, and to sit at table with us.



HOLY SOULS

November, traditionally, we remember, and assist with our prayers, all the souls in Purgatory. There will be a number of extra 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.

SAFEGUARDING IN THE CHURCH

From October 28th until November 8th the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse is 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". Last week a message from the Cardinal was circulated in connection with the hearing. Copies are available in the porch, or it can be found at <https://rcdow.org.uk/cardinal/news/letter-from-the-cardinal-safeguarding-in-the-church-today/>. Most importantly, the Cardinal asks that we continue to pray for all who carry the heavy burden of abuse every day.

PATHWAYS TO HOLINESS

Through Baptism we are called to be holy, and we can be inspired by the saints who have gone that way before us. Commencing on Tuesday November 12th we have a series of four talks on 'Pathways to Holiness'. We will be reflecting on the lives of three saints of comparatively recent times. The first two talks will be on the recently canonized St John Henry Newman; and that talk will be given by Fr Gerard Skinner, Parish Priest of Notting Hill, and author of 'Newman the Priest - Father of Souls'. The talks take place in the undercroft, starting at 7.30pm.



PLANNED GIVING

Thank you to everyone who supported the 'Planned Giving Renewal' in recent weeks; and thank you too to those who renewed, or indicated, their support for the parish. If you have yet to sign a promise card, and wish to support the parish through the weekly envelopes, or via a standing order (bankers order) or wish to **Gift Aid** your contribution, please collect a promise card, at the back of the Church today, and hand it in to the Parish Office, or post it through Presbytery letterbox. The parish depends on your support and is very much appreciated.

- Envelopes for the coming year will be found in the church porch, please take a moment to collect yours.



THINKING AHEAD

During November as we pray for the Holy Souls, so we are reminded of our own mortality. Apart from making a will, an important thing we can do is to make clear what our wishes are for our funeral. Some of us are fortunate enough to have family or friends who will know the sort of, Catholic, funeral we would like. Others are not so fortunate and, it is a matter of sadness, when a lifelong practicing Catholic, is denied the kind of funeral which reflects their faith. Some time ago the Diocese produced a form which enables individuals to indicate their wishes for their funeral. These forms are available from the Parish Office and, when complete can be left with a relative, the executor or the parish, or any combination of those three.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Next Sunday is Remembrance Sunday when we remember all those who died in the two world wars, and the other recent conflicts. The annual commemoration, together with the other churches, will take place at the war memorial on Church Green, commencing at 10.45am.



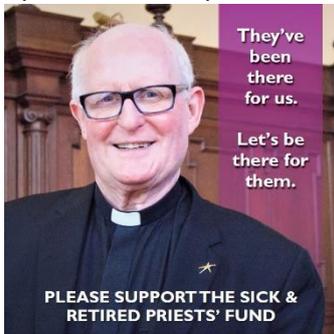
CONFIRMATION 2020

Anna Painter our Confirmation Catechist has emailed all parents, 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.



THE SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' COLLECTION IS NEXT WEEK

The second collection next week will be for the sick and retired priests of our Diocese. At present, 80 priests are receiving support from the fund after years of dedicated service to God and their parishioners. By supporting the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund, you can help cover essential living costs.



This is an opportunity to say thank you to our sick and retired priests who have given so much. You will find a donation envelope at the back of the church today. Please take one home, and bring it back next weekend with your donation. Please continue to pray for the wellbeing of all of our clergy: active, retired and ill.

FUNERAL OF TONY WHITTAKER

Please note that the funeral of Tony Whittaker will not now be taking place here. For details of the arrangements please contact the Funeral Directors M K Ginder & Sons on 01923 468253.

ADVENT DAY OF PRAYER

Begin the season of Advent and new liturgical year with fresh spiritual energy in the tranquil Niland Centre. We welcome Fr John Hemer for our annual reflection day on **Thursday, 28th November** (from 10am with Holy Mass at 2.30 pm). Refreshments provided (from 9.30am). Please bring a packed lunch. Suggested donation

£15. Rosary Priory, 93 Elstree Road, Bushey Heath, Herts. WD23 4EE. Details and registrations: 07746 707 247 or events@nilandconferencecentre.co.uk.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Please make a note for your diary that the **Parish Christmas Bazaar will be on Saturday 7th December from 10am - 1pm** 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



Olives simply



Today, the first Sunday 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 this

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!



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!



MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

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

Monday 4th November

St Charles Borromeo, Bishop

9.15am Enid Elms RIP

Tuesday 5th November

feria

9.15am Holy Souls

Refreshments after Mass today

Wednesday 6th November

feria

9.15am Anne Connolly RIP

Thursday 7th November

feria

11.00am Holy Souls

Friday 8th November

feria

9.15am Service of the Word with Holy Communion

Saturday 9th November

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

10.00am

12.00 noon Baptism

5.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Vigil Mass

6.00pm Frank McConnachie RIP

Sunday 10th November

32nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

8.30am Margaret Foulds RIP

9.45am People of the Parish - Holy Souls

10.45am Meet at the War Memorial Church Green

11.30am Deceased members of the Choir RIP



CONFESSIONS

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