



OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

1ST DECEMBER 2019
1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

Parish Priest
Canon Anthony Dwyer
Presbytery
1, Kirkwick Avenue, Harpenden
AL5 2QH

Tel: 01582 712245
Email:
anthonydwyer@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Office
Office Administrator
Mrs Melanie Armitage
Open Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday & Thursday
9.30am - 12.30pm
Email: harpenden@rcdow.org.uk
Tel: 01582 712245
Website:
parish.rcdow.org.uk/harpenden
twitter: @RC_OLOL

**Parish Safeguarding
Representative**
Mrs Brigid Brennan
Email:
harpensg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk
Tel: 07915 499 120

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

Today we begin the Church's new year, with the season of Advent", Advent which simply means 'coming'. But who's coming are we talking about? Obviously, we are beginning to prepare to remember God coming to be a human being among us, with us and like us. And yet, although the Scripture for today does speak of the coming of God, it makes no mention of the coming of Christ as Christmas.

We can speak, at this time, of three comings of God. The first, is when Jesus, the Son of God came to be born in the stable at Bethlehem. But today's Mass also speaks of the final coming of Jesus at the end of the world. And there is still a third kind of coming we need to be aware of, namely, when God enters our lives every day. Every single experience can be an opportunity to make contact with God. And we are reminded of that ongoing contact with God especially in the celebration of the sacraments, including this Eucharist.

How are we to prepare? If, in our words and actions, our daily lives are full of the spirit of Jesus, then we have prepared. We do not need to be anxious about the future or what will happen to us. Then we do not have to fear no matter when Jesus makes his final call. Because we know he is going to say: "Come, my friend. I want to call you now; I want to share with you my life that never ends." And we will respond: "Yes, Lord, I am ready. I have been waiting for you all this time." It will be an encounter, not of strangers, but of two old friends.



PATHWAYS TO HOLINESS

On Tuesday evening, we have our fourth, and final, talk in the series of talks, 'Pathways to Holiness'.

This final talk will be on St Oscar Romero, who was born in El Salvador in 1917, went on to become Archbishop of San Salvador. He spoke out against poverty and social injustice, for which he was assassinated in 1980, while celebrating Mass. He was canonised in 2018. This week the speaker will be Julian Filichowski, chair of the Archbishop Romero Trust, and a former Director of CAFOD. St Oscar Romero is an inspiring saint of modern times, do come along and learn some more about his pathway to holiness. The talk takes place on Tuesday in the undercroft at 7.30pm.



ADVENT SERVICE

This evening at 6.00pm to mark the beginning of Advent, we have our Advent Service. To mark this important time there will be a service, consisting of music and readings. Advent is a beautiful time in the Church's year, but with all that needs to be done, it's easy to let this important time slip by, almost, unnoticed. So do get yourself into the true Christmas spirit, by focusing on this Advent Season.



FIRST MASS OF CHRISTMAS

In recent times, a number of parishioners have suggested that the first Mass of Christmas is celebrated earlier than midnight. Interestingly the Church, in the official books, doesn't refer to 'Midnight' Mass, but to 'Mass during the night'. So, this year we will celebrate first Mass of Christmas at 10.00pm, on Christmas Eve, with carols at 9.30pm.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Although the new offertory envelopes commenced on 3rd November, there are still a

number of sets of envelopes to be collected. If you haven't yet collected your envelopes, please do so after Mass today from the Sacristy.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

This weekend there will be a collection for flowers so that the church can be decorated for the Christmas season. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



PARISH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The annual PARISH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR will take place next Saturday 7th December from 10am -1pm at the Lourdes Hall. Your help is needed! We would be grateful if you would bring



in your unwanted gifts, **BOTTLES**, toys, books, jewellery, red and white items, Christmas decorations, bric-a-brac, and nearer the time, cakes, all of which can be left in the box in

the church porch or at the parish office We will be selling raffle tickets after all the Masses. We would also be grateful of offers to help set up on Friday the 6th or on a stall on Saturday morning and/or to clear up afterwards from 1pm. If you can help or would like anything collected, please contact marva@cpoauk.com/H712364. The proceeds of the Bazaar will be divided between the building fund and Caritas Bakhita House, which provides accommodation and support for women escaping human trafficking and modern slavery.



FIRST RECONCILIATION

Next Saturday almost 70 of our children will make their First Reconciliation, a lovely moment for them as they encounter God's unending love through His forgiveness and mercy. It's a moment too when we are reminded of the essential place of Confession in our lives, the need we have to reflect on our lives, and to seek out the loving mercy of God.



PETER TRUELAND RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Peter Trueland who died recently. Peter's Requiem Mass will be this Wednesday 4th December at 11am. We remember Irene and all the family in our prayers at this time.

PATRICIA POLLOCK RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Patricia Pollock who died recently. Patricia's Requiem Mass will be on Thursday 12th December at 10.30am. We remember Patricia's family in our prayers.

MASS CHANGES

Please note that there will be no Mass on Wednesday 4th December due to the Requiem Mass.

FEAST DAY

Next Sunday, 8th December, we would normally celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception. However, this year, 2nd Sunday of Advent, takes priority. So, we will be celebrating this important feast, the following day, Monday 9th December, with Mass at 9.15am.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

The parish service of 'Carols by Candlelight', with the nine readings, takes place on Sunday 22nd December at 6.00pm. A lovely opportunity to focus on the message of Christmas. Mince pies and mulled wine will be served afterwards in the undercroft.



SVP CHRISTMAS TREE

This year the SVP Christmas Tree will be supporting the Food Bank. As in previous years the tags on the tree have the items needed by the local Food Bank. If you would like to support this cause please take a tag and place the item in the box under the tree. The tag can then be replaced on the tree. Thank you.



ADVENT REFLECTION

There will be an Advent Reflection at the Convent 18 Kirkdale Road on Monday 9th December from 2pm - 3pm led by Sr. Regina.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE

In the midst of all that remains to be done for Christmas, one important preparation is celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation, going to confession. We have the opportunity to do this as a parish on Wednesday 18th December at 7.30pm. Do think about making time to attend, and so using this important opportunity.



CHRISTMAS STAMPS

This year's Christmas stamps show scenes from the Biblical story of the Nativity from the Annunciation, the journey of the Magi and the birth of Jesus Christ. If you want religious stamps you may need to specifically ask for them. A little way to give witness to the true message of Christmas.



A date for the new year 2020! On Saturday 4 January theologian, David McLoughin, Emeritus Fellow of Newman University, will be giving a talk on 'A spirituality for difficult times - living in justice and peace on a vulnerable planet'. The talk will be at 11.00am in the Undercroft, followed by a shared lunch. Hope to see you there. Laudato Si!

AN ENCHANTING DWG EVENT.

The recent evening of song organised by the parish Developing World Group, performed by the Felici Opera Company, generated £786.17 profit, which is a wonderful result. Thank you to all who attend this very enjoyable and rewarding evening.



ST DOMINIC SCHOOL

Applications for places in Reception

Class 2020-21 began 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, we have one remaining Open Morning on Tuesday 10th December at 9.15am. To book a place on this visit morning, please call the school office on 01582 760047. Certificates of Catholic Practice will be available from Canon Dwyer, who will be available to sign forms in church on Wednesday 4th December from 5.30pm to 6.30pm 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 'practicing Catholic' means attending Mass **every** Sunday.



CHRISTMAS CARDS

Many thanks to those of you who bought linocut Christmas cards last weekend. So far, we have raised £240 for the building fund.



PARISH DIARIES 2020

Parish diaries, for the coming year, are now available. A voluntary contribution is welcome, and this can be placed in the Newspapers & Catholic Magazines box.



WALK IN THE PARK

Do come along for a bracing winter walk in beautiful Rothamsted Park. New walkers are always welcome to join the parish group. We will meet as usual outside Church at 10am this Wednesday 4th December, for an hour's walk followed by coffee in a nearby cafe. If it happens to rain on the day, we'll go straight for coffee!

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 30th November

St Andrew, Apostle, Patron of Scotland

10.00am Pauline & Ted Coakley RIP (Anniv)

12.00 noon Baptism

5.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Vigil Mass

6.00pm Victor Newham RIP (Anniv)

Sunday 1st December

1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT (A)

8.30am Michael Turner RIP

9.45am People of the Parish

11.30am Marie O'Sullivan RIP (Anniv)

6.00pm Choir Advent Service



Monday 2nd December

Advent feria

9.15am Cornelius Dennehy RIP (Anniv)

Tuesday 3rd December

St Francis Xavier, Priest

9.15am Teresa Lawson RIP

Refreshments after Mass today

Wednesday 4th December

Advent feria

9.15am **NO MASS**

11.00am Requiem Mass for Peter Trueland RIP

Thursday 5th December

Advent feria

11.00am Gerard Watters RIP (Month's Mind)

Friday 6th December

Advent feria

9.15am Service of the Word with Holy Communion

Saturday 7th December

St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor

10.00am

11.00am First Reconciliation Service

5.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Vigil Mass

6.00pm Erroll Yates RIP (Anniv)

Sunday 8th December

2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT (A)

8.30am John Hegarty RIP

9.45am People of the Parish

11.30am Teresa Lawson RIP



CONFESSIONS

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