



OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

24TH NOVEMBER 2019
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
KING OF THE UNIVERSE (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

*Christ the
King*
S U N D A Y

Today we honour Christ the King. In some ways it might seem to be a strange feast to be keeping - perhaps strange to be honouring Christ as a King rather, say, than as a shepherd. If it seems strange, or doesn't sit easily with us, that may be because of the kingship we are familiar with. The kingships of this world which are normally associated with wealth and palaces, with power and prestige and influence.

This feast is a reminder of the place that Christ should occupy in our lives. He should be at the centre of our lives, and occupy first place, above all others. He is the one to whom we must give our loyalty, the one to whom we must submit ourselves.

We are invited to acknowledge Christ as our King; and to do so is to accept his ways, his values, his truth - and to accept without reservation, without compromise. That is surely a tall order - it may not sit too easily - but that is what is asked if we are to submit ourselves to him. For most of us it is a question of quiet simply striving towards the way that Christ has set before us - striving, continually trying - and the more we allow ourselves to take on his ways then the more we see the wisdom of them.

Christ, our king, wants us to commit ourselves to a particular way of life because quite simply he wants the best for us - after all he is the true shepherd. So, let us acknowledge Christ as king - let us renew our commitment to him and his kingdom which is unlike any king or kingdom the world has ever known.

PATHWAYS TO HOLINESS

On Tuesday evening, we continue our series of talks, 'Pathways to Holiness'. This week the talk will be on St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein). St Teresa was born a Jew, converted to Catholicism, going on to become a Carmelite nun, and died in [Auschwitz](#) in 1942.

The talk this week will be given by Father Matt Blake, a Carmelite friar, and expert on Carmelite Spirituality. If you haven't yet been to one of the talks do think about attending, and familiarising yourself with another of the heroes of our faith. The talks take place on Tuesdays in the undercroft at 7.30pm



ADVENT SERVICE

Next Sunday, December 1st, we begin the season of Advent. To mark this important time there will be a service at 6.00pm, 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 miss 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. After this weekend they will be moved to the Parish Office.



PARISH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The annual PARISH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR (Saturday 7th December from 10am -1pm at the Lourdes Hall) is fast approaching and we need your help. 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/H 712364.



THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund. To date £2,436.28 Has been donated. This Fund ensures that those, currently 80, priests who have given years of dedicated service in the Diocese, are properly cared for. If you haven't yet made a donation, it's not too late to do so. Contributions can be left at the parish office.

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.



"BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS"

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God". The war in Yemen has created a terrible humanitarian crisis, and according to the Court of Appeal in 2019 the UK government is illegally providing arms to Saudi Arabia - aircraft, helicopters, bombs, missiles etc. The situation in Yemen cannot just be a business opportunity for arms companies. Like Pope Francis, we are called to be peacemakers, and we have an opportunity to alert prospective MPs to the call of the gospel.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2020

The Parents meeting, Understanding Reconciliation is this Monday, 25th November at 8pm in the Undercroft. Please make every effort to attend.

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.

PETER TRUELAND RIP

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

CARITAS ADVENT GIVING CALENDAR

The Caritas Food Collective are a new project working to tackle food poverty in the Diocese of Westminster. This year they have created an 'Advent Giving Calendar' to help use this season as a time when we think of those who might be struggling and to do our bit to help them in the run up to Christmas. In the porch you will find the Caritas Advent Giving Calendars, please take



one home and on the back, it explains how to use the Calendar and provides suggestions of items to collect and information on how to find a project to donate to in time for Christmas.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS



Next 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.

FROM THE REGISTERS:

BAPTISM

We welcomed the following children into God's family over the last few weeks;

**Edward & Henry Hardcastle,
Mariah Davis,
Isabelle Fields & Annia Jarvis.**



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. 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 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 more than £120 for the building fund, with more to come. Some cards are still available from Teresa Newham tel 766403.

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.

NEWMAN ASSOCIATION TALK ON PAPAL INFALLIBILITY, SATURDAY 30th NOVEMBER AT 11AM

All are welcome to this talk by Tom O'Loughlin, Professor of Historical Theology at the University of Nottingham and past President of the Catholic Theological Association of Great Britain. His talk, which is on the medieval roots of a dogma formally defined during the lifetime of Saint John Henry Newman, will be held in the meeting room on the first floor of the Church Hall at Ss Alban & Stephen Church, Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RB. Please call 07730 437274 or visit www.newman.org.uk if you are unable to attend on the 30th but would still like to know more about the Association.

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 on the first Wednesday of the month, 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 23rd November

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10.00am Patrick Tierney RIP

5.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Vigil Mass

6.00pm Paul Murphy RIP (Anniv)

Sunday 24th November

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

8.30am Margaret Foulds RIP

9.45am People of the Parish - Holy Souls

11.30am Joan Gaire RIP

Monday 25th November

feria

9.15am Gerard Watters RIP

Tuesday 26th November

feria

9.15am Holy Souls

Refreshments after Mass today

Wednesday 27th November

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9.15am Ulla McConville RIP

Thursday 28th November

feria

11.00am Holy Souls

Friday 29th November

feria

9.15am Service of the Word with Holy Communion

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

CONFESSIONS

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