



OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

22ND DECEMBER 2019
4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

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



*May this Christmas season be a time
of many blessings, for you and your
family.*



CHRISTMAS 2019

CHRISTMAS EVE

9.15am Mass
 5.00pm Children's Nativity Play
 9.30pm Carols
 10.00pm **FIRST MASS OF CHRISTMAS**

CHRISTMAS DAY

Masses: 8.30am, 9.45am & 11.30am.

DECEMBER 26TH & 27TH

Mass at 10am

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sweet treats will be available after the 5pm Christmas Eve Children's Nativity Play. Please do stop with your families and friends for a little chat and an opportunity to share the joy and sparkle of this special night around a biscuit or two.

CHRISTMAS TIMES

Details of the times of the various Masses, and other services over Christmas, are available today, so do please collect one of the cards. If you know someone who no longer attends you might take a copy for them, let them know they're still welcome.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

The offertory on Christmas Day, is one of just two during the year, which is for the benefit of the Parish Priest, and one of the main sources of income, the others being donations received for Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals and Mass Stipends.

CRIB OFFERINGS

As is customary, offerings made at the crib will be sent to the Catholic Children's Society. The Society provides mental health services for children struggling with issues such as abuse, neglect and family



breakdown. Contributions can be placed in the 'Crib Offering' box close to the crib

NEW YEARS DAY



Wednesday 1st January, apart from being New Year's Day is an important feast, the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Mass will be celebrated at 10.00am. Although this is not a holyday of obligation it is a good day to go to Mass, and what better way to start the new year!!

ALTAR SERVERS

Altar Servers will be needed for the various celebrations over Christmas. Those who are available to serve should indicate their availability on the lists in the sacristy.



PARISH CHILDREN'S NATIVITY SERVICE PARTS STILL AVAILABLE!

The service will be at 5pm on Christmas Eve and is a lovely reminder to the children about the reasons for celebrating this great feast. This year we are dramatizing the story "The Christmas Story as told by Assellus the Christmas Donkey" which will be read by an adult, but we do need a cast of many - (shepherds, angels, wisemen, townsfolk etc.). So, if your child/children would like to take part please come to the rehearsal in church on **Monday 23rd December at 10am to 12pm**, there are no speaking parts, so no need to worry about learning lines. Your child/children do need to be at the rehearsal to take part on Christmas Eve. We have some costumes, but if you have anything suitable then they would be most useful. The children need to be of primary school age and if they are taking part in the service, they will need to be in church at **4.30pm on Christmas Eve**. Please let me know as soon as possible if they would like to take part by calling or emailing me on 01582 620322 or ginny.sjg@gmail.com. Thank you, Ginny,

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

The parish service of 'Carols by Candlelight', with the nine readings, takes place today 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.



THE PARISH OFFICE has now closed for Christmas and will **re-open on Thursday 2nd January**, all items for the newsletter should be received before 10am on 2nd January.

TUESDAY TEA/COFFEE MORNING

The Tea and Coffee morning in the Undercroft will resume on Tuesday 7th January after Mass.



SVP CHRISTMAS TREE

This year the SVP Christmas Tree will be once again 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.



ST STEPHEN'S DAY MASS

26th December is the feast of St Stephen and Mass will be celebrated at 10am. St Stephen, was the first Martyr and is the Patron Saint of Altar Servers. During this Mass some of our more recent servers will be enrolled in the Guild of St Stephen and more longer serving servers will receive their medals. We hope that many of our servers will be present to celebrate their patron.



FROM THE REGISTERS: BAPTISM

Last weekend we welcomed Joshua and Joseph Arthur into God's family.



WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOK 2020

The Westminster Year book is now on sale in the repository. A very useful directory priced at £4.50.

WALK IN THE PARK - NEW YEAR'S DAY SPECIAL

All are welcome to join us outside church at the slightly later time of 10:30am on Wednesday, 1 January (after that day's Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God) when we will gather for our first parish walk of 2020. As usual, we will spend an hour enjoying the fresh air in Rothamsted Park before going for coffee together. If the weather's bad, it's straight for coffee!



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY.

The ever-popular Banish the Blues Supper will be held on Saturday January 25th in the Lourdes Hall.



livesimply

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. Laudato Si!

CHRISTMAS NEWSPAPERS

This weekend there will be a double issue of The Universe & The Catholic Times. The price of The Universe will be £3 and The Catholic Times will be £3. From January The Good News Magazine will cost £3.50.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK**Saturday 21st December****Advent feria**

10.00am Sadie Beirnes RIP

5.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Vigil Mass

6.00pm Ian Swanson RIP (Anniv)

Sunday 22nd December**4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)**

8.30am People of the Parish

9.45am Bernard St John Glew RIP

11.30am Elizabeth & Timothy O'Mahony RIP

6.00pm Carols by Candlelight

Monday 23rd December**Advent feria**

9.15am Mike Gaire RIP (Anniv)

10.00am Nativity Practice in Church

Tuesday 24th December**Advent feria**

9.15am Teresa Newham (Spec Ints)

5.00pm Children's Nativity Play

CHRISTMAS SEASON

9.30pm Carol Singing

10.00pm People of the Parish

Wednesday 25th December**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)**

8.30am People of the Parish

9.45am People of the Parish

11.30am People of the Parish

Thursday 26th December**St Stephen, The First Martyr**

10.00am Derek Grimshaw RIP

Friday 27th December**St John, Apostle & evangelist**

10.00am Sadie Beirnes RIP (Months Mind)

Saturday 28th December**The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

10.00am Sr. Norah (Spec Ints)

Vigil Mass

6.00pm Lisa King & Maurice Purtil RIP (Anniv)

Sunday 29th December**The Holy Family of Jesus Mary & Joseph (A)**

8.30am Michael Turner RIP

9.45am Janet Figg RIP (Anniv)

11.30am Kathleen Porter RIP (Anniv)

**NO CONFESSIONS OR EXPOSITION OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT**On Saturday 28th December**MASS INTENTIONS NEXT WEEK****Saturday 28th December****The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

10.00am Sr. Norah (Spec Ints)

Vigil Mass

6.00pm Lisa King & Maurice Purtil RIP (Anniv)

Sunday 29th December**The Holy Family of Jesus Mary & Joseph (A)**

8.30am Michael Turner RIP

9.45am Janet Figg RIP (Anniv)

11.30am Kathleen Porter RIP (Anniv)

Monday 30th December**6th Day in the Octave of Christmas**

10.00am Private Intention

Tuesday 31st December**7th Day in the Octave of Christmas**

10.00am Elizabeth Steiger (Spec Ints)

Wednesday 1st January 2020**Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God**

10.00am Derek Grimshaw RIP

Thursday 2nd January**Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen**

10.00am Kathleen Murray (Spec Ints)

Friday 3rd January**Christmas feria**10.00am Service of the Word with Holy
Communion**Saturday 4th January****Christmas feria**

10.00am Mary Adams RIP

12.00pm Baptism

5.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Vigil Mass

6.00pm Peter & Sheila Doran RIP

Sunday 5th January**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (A)**

8.30am Michael Turner RIP

9.45am John Fraser RIP

11.30am Gerry Maureen & Geraldine Martin RIP

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

