



OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

12TH JANUARY 2020
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (A)

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John the Baptist was driven by one mission: to point people to Jesus, to prepare the way for Jesus. Yet John is uneasy in this account of Jesus' baptism, he tries to dissuade Jesus, he tells him: 'It is I who need Baptism from you'. The moment has arrived but he is standing before someone much greater than himself and is being asked to minister. John feels unqualified, unworthy of such a task. After some persuasion 'John gave into him' and accepted his responsibility. This is a lesson to all of us, not to let feelings of inadequacy stop us from carrying out our various missions and vocations in our lives. Jesus explains to John that this is necessary as a sign for the beginning of his ministry, a public statement of identity.

Today we might recall our own baptism and what it means to us. At that moment we were anointed as priests, prophets and kings. To what extent do we live this out in our Christian lives? John points us towards Jesus and we can ask, do we also point the way to Jesus for others? How can we be a signpost for others?

We can also remember today those who pointed the way for us at various times in our lives. Maybe a parent or grandparent, teacher, a friend, a spiritual event you participated in. Maybe it was a word of encouragement, or simply how someone related to others. At various times in our lives we meet these 'signposts' which help us to grow in our faith and deepen our awareness of Christ's love. As we recall those who have encouraged us, let us remember that we are to be a source of encouragement for others too.

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

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Each time we come for Mass we receive, and worship, Jesus in the gift of the Eucharist. Outside of Mass, we can also worship Jesus in this precious gift. Every Saturday evening the Blessed Sacrament is exposed in Church between 5pm and 5.40pm. Confession is also available from 5pm - 5.30pm. A lovely opportunity for some peace and quiet; come along even if for a few minutes. Please respect the silence if you are arriving early for the Vigil Mass.



NOTICES

If anyone wishes to display a notice on the church notice boards, they should, first of all be handed into the Parish Office. At no time are notices to be displayed on the glass screens, the notice boards are for that purpose.



FROM THE REGISTERS: BAPTISM

We welcomed Jacob Paul Baker into God's family last weekend.



CONFLICT AND PEACE

How Jesus teaches us to engage healthily with conflict. Reflection by Sr. Regina and Monika Cleaver at the Convent, 18 Kirkdale Road, on Monday 20th January from 2pm - 3.30pm, everyone welcome.

TUESDAY TEA/COFFEE MORNING

There will be a Tea and Coffee morning in the Undercroft on Tuesday 14th January after Mass.



BANISH THE BLUES SUPPER

This event will be on Saturday 25th January in Lourdes Hall (£15 for a 3-course meal) and tickets will be on sale after all of the Masses this weekend. Book a table or join us on our Parish table.



ST DOMINIC SCHOOL

Applications for places in Reception Class 2020-21 close on Wednesday 15th January 2020. Supplementary Information Forms (SIF) for St Dominic are available from the school website at

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

You are advised to return the SIF / Certificate of Catholic Practice / copy of Baptismal Certificate to the school as soon as possible but no later than 3.15pm on Wednesday 15th January 2020.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2020

There will be a Parents Meeting entitled 'Understanding Holy Communion' with Mary Crowley from the Diocese on Monday 27th January at 8pm in the Undercroft. This is an important meeting so please make sure at least one parent attends to represent your child.



CONFIRMATION 2020

The Confirmation Retreat is next weekend, Friday 17th January to Sunday 19th January. Parents please check your email from Anna Painter for more details.



HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY

If you are admitted to hospital please let a member of hospital staff know that you would like a chaplain to visit you. There is a team of volunteer visitors and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion who can bring Communion to parishioners in Hemel, Watford and St Albans Hospitals. Patients will normally only be visited by the Chaplaincy if a request has been made for a visit.



RECALL OF DWG GREEN BOXES ON 1ST & 2ND FEBRUARY

GREEN BOX COLLECTION

Please bring your Green Box to mass on Saturday 1st or Sunday 2nd February for the annual collection. They will be emptied and returned to you straight away. All the proceeds will go to Developing World Group projects. Thank you for your support.



NEWMAN ASSOCIATION TALK, SATURDAY 18TH JANUARY

All are welcome to join us at 11am for a talk by Monsignor Keith Barltrop, Westminster Diocese Chaplain for the LGBT community, on "How the Church serves the LGBT+ community". Venue: Ss Mary and Joseph Parish Centre, 186 St John's Road, Boxmoor, Hemel Hempstead HP1 1NR. If you would like to know more about the Association, please phone 01727 864404.

PRAYER AT THE CRIB

Everyone is welcome to come and pray at the Crib at St Clare's Convent, 3 Abigail Close Luton LU3 1ND. Open every day 10am - 6pm until 2nd February.

HARPENDEN SPOTLIGHT ON AFRICA QUIZ EVENING

What a way to have something to look forward to in the New Year - our annual fun Quiz night for Saturday 1st February 2020 in Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road. 7 for 7.30 pm prompt start. Up to tables of 8 but you can also come and join a table. Tickets are £15 each to include a tasty Godfrey's Fish and Chip Supper (veg option too). Your ticket will pay towards a school lunch for a 1000 needy children. Raffle and cash bar. This is a popular event so contact Wendy Howson, wendyhowson@hsoa.org or 07917 621059.



JOURNEYS IN HOPE ART EXHIBITION & CHARITY ART AUCTION

6th - 30th January 2020 at the Mount Street Jesuit Centre, 114 Mount Street London W1K 3AH. Exhibition opens 6pm Monday 6th January, then weekdays 9.30 am - 8.30 pm, Saturdays 9.30 am - 3 pm Charity Art Auction Thursday 30th January from 6 pm in aid of the Westminster Lourdes Pilgrimage, Aid to the Church in Need and Safe Passage.

For further details email Teresa Newham marbretherese@googlemail.com



WALK IN THE PARK

Do join us for a bracing February walk in our special Rothamsted Park! The green shoots of daffodils should be appearing as we start looking for early signs of Spring. Meet outside Church at 10am on Wednesday 5th February for an hour's walk and then a coffee in a nearby cafe. If weather is bad, it's



straight for coffee! Look out for future walks held first Wednesday of every month.

NEWSLETTERS



In line with preserving the planet, if you would like to receive the weekly newsletter via email, please contact Melanie in the Parish Office, also if you know of anyone who is sick or housebound and unable to attend Mass and they would like to receive the newsletter via email let us know and we can arrange this. Alternatively, why not take an extra Newsletter home with you for them. The Newsletter is also available on the Parish Website in time for the weekend.

parish@rcdow.org.uk/harpenden

GETTING MARRIED

For some years in our Diocese it has been the policy that at least six months' notice of the date on which you hope to marry, must be given to the priest of the parish. The reason for this is to allow sufficient time for all the formalities and preparations that are required. It is highly advisable to delay setting the date for any other arrangements until you have agreed the date for the ceremony in the church where you hope to marry. If you are thinking about getting married, here at Our Lady of Lourdes please contact Melanie to arrange an appointment with Canon Dwyer. If you know someone getting married, please draw their attention to this notice.



MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 11th January

Christmas feria

10.00am Veronica Lee RIP (Anniv)
5.00pm Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament

VIGIL MASS

6.00pm Margaret Carey RIP

Sunday 12th January

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (A)

8.30am People of the Parish
9.45am Mary Adams RIP
11.30am Dymphna & Pat Murtagh RIP

Monday 13th January

feria

9.15am Averil Jackson RIP

Tuesday 14th January

feria

9.15am Sadie Beirnes RIP
Tea/Coffee served in The Undercroft

Wednesday 15th January

feria

9.15am

Thursday 16th January

feria

11.00am

Friday 17th January

St Anthony, Abbot

9.15am Service of the Word with Holy Communion

Saturday 18th January

feria

10.00am
12.00pm Baptisms
5.00pm Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament
VIGIL MASS
6.00pm Paul Crean RIP

Sunday 19th January

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

8.30am People of the Parish
9.45am May O'Neil RIP
11.30am Robert & Elizabeth Morris RIP

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays after the 10am Mass & from 5pm - 5.30pm