



OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

26TH JANUARY 2020
3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Parish Priest
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Parish Office
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**Parish Safeguarding
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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

Today is the Sunday of the Word of God, the first time this has been marked, having been established by Pope Francis in September last year. Also, the Bishops of England and Wales have designated this year 'The God who Speaks - Year of the Word 2020'. Today, and during the coming year, is a particular opportunity to remind ourselves of the centrality of God's Word in our life of faith.

In our lives we hear so many words, amongst which there stands out God's Word, God's Word which both enlightens and guides us, challenges and comforts, and ultimately leads us further into relationship with Jesus Christ.

God's Word is for the benefit of us all. Pope Francis writes: *"These words contain great teaching. The Bible cannot be just the heritage of some, much less a collection of books for the benefit of a privileged few. It belongs above all to those called to hear its message and to recognize themselves in its words. The Bible is the book of the Lord's people The word of God unites believers and makes them one people."* (Aperuit Illis)

God, in His goodness, cares for us in so many ways, not least every time we come to Mass, when we are nourished from, not one but, two tables, the table of God's Word, and the table of the Lord's Body and Blood. A healthy lifestyle needs balance; so too in our life of faith, we need to be fed and nourished from both tables.

Today then, and in the coming year, let us take the opportunity to listen anew to God's Word, so that it is truly 'alive and active' in our lives.

SEEKING CHRIST TOGETHER

At last weekend masses there was brief update on our parish's plans to move from *maintenance to mission* as we continue to develop the themes covered in Fr James Mallon's book, *Divine Renovation*. Trial Alpha courses have been run and met with enthusiastic feedback. 'The Dream' was communicated, which is: 'To become an even more welcoming Parish community, which recognises and benefits from our God given talents, empowering each one of us to individually and collectively spread the Good News to others, whilst deepening our own relationship with Christ, irrespective of the point we are at on our journey'. More announcements will follow over the coming weeks/months to keep everyone up-to-date, meanwhile for more information and/or questions about this exciting project please ask Canon Anthony or email the team at DR.HarpendenLOLO@gmail.com

SCRIPTURE ROAD SHOW

All are invited to Westminster Cathedral from 30th January to 1st February to explore the Year of the Word in the 'Tents of Meeting' which will be set up in the side chapels, and view specially commissioned artwork around the theme of 'The God Who Speaks'. Resources, activities and presentations will suit all ages, groups welcome. For further details see <https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/>

MASS OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

At the heart of Jesus' ministry was the healing of the sick. That ministry the Church continues to exercise, reaching out to those in need of healing through the Sacrament of Anointing. On Sunday, 9th February at 3.00pm, to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes which is on 11th, there will be an opportunity for those "whose health is seriously impaired by sickness or old age", to receive this Sacrament during Mass. Anyone who would like to be anointed, and needs transport, should contact



Melanie in the parish office. Anyone who can assist with transport should also contact Melanie.

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday 27th & Tuesday 28th and will re-open on Wednesday 29th January at 9.30am. Please submit newsletter items as normal by lunchtime on Wednesday 29th for inclusion into next weekend's newsletter.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2020

There will be a Parents Meeting entitled 'Understanding Holy Communion' with Mary Crowley from the Diocese tomorrow 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 next Confirmation Session for all candidates is today 26th January in the Undercroft please arrive at 4.30pm for welcome refreshments and the session will be from 4.45pm - 6pm.



FROM THE REGISTERS:

BAPTISM

We welcomed Eileen Teixeira & Emily Teixeira into God's family last Saturday.



RECALL OF DWG GREEN BOXES NEXT WEEKEND 1ST & 2ND FEBRUARY GREEN BOX COLLECTION

Please bring your Green Box to mass next 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.

LiveSimply

LiveSimply - Among the things our planet Earth, God's Creation, needs to survive are woods and trees - for people, for wildlife, for life. The environmental survey we did not long ago featured The Woodland Trust, UK's largest conservation charity. Take a look at the link below and see what marvellous work they do - and maybe join?

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>

A reminder - next Sunday, the first of the month, 2nd February is UHT Milk collection day for The St Alban's and District Foodbank.

ST DOMINIC NURSERY VISIT MORNINGS - ADVANCE NOTICE



On the 3rd February 2020, the application process for Nursery places will open for children born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017. We have arranged visit mornings for prospective parents on **Thursday 6th, Wednesday 12th and Tuesday 25th February at 10.00am.** Please contact the school office on 01582 760047 if you would like to book an appointment for one of these dates. More details about the process will follow in due course.

HARPENDEN SPOTLIGHT ON AFRICA QUIZ EVENING

Next Saturday is our annual fun Quiz night 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



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.



LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

St Albans Citizens Advice, which has a weekly slot in Harpenden, is looking for more volunteers to cope with an increasing workload. Training will be given. More details from Tel: 01727 859 565

SICK OR HOUSEBOUND?

For those who are sick or housebound the Parish Priest is always happy to bring Holy Communion and, or, to arrange for one of the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to do so. If you are unable to attend Mass, or know of someone in that situation, please contact Melanie in the

Parish Office on 01582 712245 to make suitable arrangements.

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.



NEW PARISHIONERS

We are always happy to welcome new arrivals to our parish, if you have not yet registered with us, please pick up a 'New Parishioners Registration form' from the porch and once completed please send it to Melanie in the Parish Office

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE WEEKEND

A healing weekend for men and women who are separated, divorced or widowed will be held from 3rd to 5th April 2020 at the Domus Mariae Centre, Chigwell, Essex. For details please contact Freda 01322-838415 or Maura 01322-551503 or email johnbrotherton@hotmail.co.uk.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 25th January

THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL THE APOSTLE

10.00am Tom Butler (Spec Ints)

5.00pm Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament

VIGIL MASS

6.00pm Mary Taylor RIP (Anniv)

Sunday 26th January

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

8.30am People of the Parish

9.45am John Byrne RIP

11.30am Catenians Presidents Mass

Monday 27th January

feria

9.15am Kevin O'Bryan

Tuesday 28th January

St Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor

9.15am Bernard & Mary McGary RIP (Anniv)

Tea/Coffee served in The Undercroft

Wednesday 29th January

feria

9.15am

Thursday 30th January

feria

11.00am Joe Bearpark RIP

Friday 31st January

St John Bosco, Priest

9.15am Service of the Word with Holy Communion

Saturday 1st February

feria

10.00am

5.00pm Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament

VIGIL MASS

6.00pm Catenian Association (Spec Ints)

Sunday 2nd February

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (A)

8.30am People of the Parish

9.45am Bernard St John Glew RIP (Anniv)

11.30am Brian Gardner RIP

CONFESSIONS

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