



OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

2ND FEBRUARY 2020 THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (A)

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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 we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, the end of our Christmas liturgies, as we hear how the parents of Jesus bring Him to be presented in the temple. We are told that they are following the Jewish practice according to which 'every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord'.

This act of presentation happens at the beginning of life because at this point the child is an open book to be filled with God's law, to be dedicated to God. The child's life now belongs to the Lord. At first sight this would seem to be the ultimate denial of the child's freedom, the closing off of the possibility for the child to decide for himself how he wishes to live his life. Yet the reality is that this is the ultimate act of freeing. The child's life is not to be measured according to success or failure in achieving a set of human goals, but in faithfulness to God's life giving promises.

Both Simeon and Anna have something to show us about how to receive the Lord. Simeon's response on meeting the infant Jesus was a hymn of praise to God. Anna's response was to speak about Jesus to others, especially to those who were waiting for God's help in time of need. While Simeon worshipped, Anna bore witness, calling others to Jesus.

Today's feast invites us to welcome the Lord in prayer and in witness. We thank our loving God for the gift of his Son, the light of the world. We share our joy with others because the Lord who entered his temple has entered our lives too. Today we learn from Simeon and Anna how to welcome his gracious coming.

FEAST DAY

Tuesday February 11th is the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, our Parish Feast Day.

To mark this there will be a Mass at 3.00pm, next Sunday, February 9th, during which the Sacrament of the Sick will be celebrated. The healing of the sick was at the heart of Jesus' ministry. Anyone 'whose health is seriously impaired by sickness or old age' is most welcome to be anointed. Those who would like to be anointed, but needs, or anyone who can offer, transport, should contact the parish office. Everyone is welcome at this Mass, and there will be refreshments afterwards in the undercroft.



CONFIRMATION 2020

The Confirmation Enrolment Mass is next Saturday 8th February at 6pm.



EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

There will be no Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament next Saturday evening.

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

If you have a Green Box, please bring it to be emptied by DWG members after masses on 1-2 February and returned to you immediately. If you haven't got a box and would like one, they will be available then too. If you are away this weekend, please bring them to the parish office or sacristy for emptying/returning.



LATEST DWG PROJECTS

Earlier this week, the DWG donated £487 to buy reusable sanitary kits for schoolgirls in Blantyre, Malawi as well as a press for making more of them. The kits, to be transported by a local group, Days for Girls North Herts, will reduce

absenteeism, while improving the girls' health and dignity. The Group is now fundraising to enable access, via a new borehole, to clean water for nearly 4,000 people (subsistence farmers and their families) in Okwerodot parish in Kole, Northern Uganda. With DWG funds boosted by both the Ladies Group's generous £400 donation from the proceeds of the Banish the Blues Supper, and the annual Green Box recall (see above) we aim to provide the £4,435 required in a month or so. The project will be undertaken by the International Refugee Trust and its local partner, the Organisation for Community Action.



As this is the first Sunday of the month, its UHT Milk collection day for The St Alban's and District Foodbank. Please leave you milk donations in the crates in the porch. Thank You.

SVP CHARITY CHRISTMAS TREE

On behalf of the local Foodbank, heartfelt thanks for the generosity shown by the parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes. The Foodbank charity expressed their gratitude at the kindness and thoughtfulness shown by the parish. They received 281kg being the total weight of donated goods from our parish.

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 this

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.



ST DOMINIC NURSERY



On the 3 February 2020, the application process for Nursery places will open for children born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017. Our Early Years provision enables parents to access 30 hours free childcare with Nursery morning sessions running Monday- Friday, 8.45-11.45am and an optional Lunch Club and afternoon Pre-School run by Friends Together running until 3.30pm. Wrap around care offered by Friends Together also means that care for children is available between 7.50am and 6pm, should this be required. For further information please visit our website www.stdominic.herts.sch.uk or contact the school office on 01582 760047 to book an appointment to come along to one of our visit mornings on Thursday 6, Wednesday 12 or Tuesday 25 February at 10.00am. Applications close at 3.30pm on 2 March. To support your application, a Certificate of Catholic Practice form will need to be signed. **A FORM SIGNING SESSION WILL TAKE PLACE IN CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY 19TH FEBRUARY FROM 6PM - 7PM. THERE IS NO NEED TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT, JUST TURN UP.**

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2020

This year's World Day of Prayer will take place on Friday 6th March. There will be two services in Harpenden: 10.30am at St Nicholas's and 7.45pm at the Highfield Oval chapel - this year written by the women of Zimbabwe with the theme "Rise - Take your Mat and Walk". The World Day of Prayer raises around £250K each year in the UK for distribution to charity - visit www.wwdp.org.uk for details. For more information on the Harpenden services please see the postcards in the porch or call Teresa Newham on (01582) 766403.

ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY AT WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL SATURDAY 30TH MAY 2020 AT 3PM

The Cardinal will be inviting to the Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th & 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic Marriage in 2020. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your details (names, address, wedding date, email, phone number) to Melanie in the Parish Office. Deadline to submit the information to the Diocese is 26th March.

SHARE YOUR TALENTS

The 2020 Cultivate Arts Festival (supported by Harpenden Churches Together) will run from 16th - 28th June with the theme of "Cultivate Connections", with events at churches throughout the town. If you are interested in arts & crafts, photography, music, drama, poetry or dance and would like to be involved in some way, please contact Teresa Newham on (01582) 766403.

ST DOMINICS PTA

Do you shop at The Co-op?
Would you like to help raise money for our local Catholic primary school St Dominic's? St Dominic's has been chosen as 1 of 3 charities to receive funds from The Co-op this year. The Co-op will donate 1% of all own brand purchases to be split between the 3 charities when you shop with your Co-op card. By selecting St Dominic's as your local cause, the school will get a full 1% donation rather than it being split across the charities. The school plans to use the funds to build a running path to enable the children run a Daily Mile, benefitting both physical & mental health. Please help support our local Catholic school by getting a Co-op card & selecting St Dominic's as your chosen local cause. www.coop.co.uk/membership We would really appreciate your support: together we can make a big difference!



MEMORY LANE CAFÉ

Harpenden Memory Lane Café is a chance for those living with



dementia and their loved ones to gather in a friendly informal setting, with complimentary hot drinks and homemade cake. Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, from 2.00pm to 3.30pm, in St Nicholas Church Hall (Cornelia's).

ANGELA WALSH

Angela a member of our Parish for over 40 years is moving away from Harpenden and she would like to share her new address 3 Oaks, Greenacre Road, Chester. CH4 7NH. Tel: 01244 679130 Email: angelaclairewalshe@googlemail.com

LAUDATO SI QUOTE

In the present condition of global society, where injustices abound and growing numbers of people are deprived of basic human rights and considered expendable, the principle of the common good immediately becomes . . . a summons to solidarity and a preferential option for the poorest of our brothers and sisters. Laudato Si 158



NEWSLETTERS

If you would like to receive the weekly newsletter via email, please contact Melanie in the Parish Office.

LIVESIMPLY

Plant a tree to celebrate a special occasion. This is an important way of helping our planet survive



MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

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

Monday 3rd February

Ss Laurence, Dunstan and Theodore, Archbishops of Canterbury

9.15am Jay Caracciolo (Spec Ints)

Tuesday 4th February

feria

9.15am Liz Horrigan (Spec Ints)

Tea/Coffee served in The Undercroft

Wednesday 5th February

St Agatha, Virgin & Martyr

9.15am Ronnie & Maria Wielgut RIP (Anniv)

Thursday 6th February

St Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs

11.00am Robert Dare RIP (Anniv)

Friday 7th February

feria

9.15am Service of the Word with Holy Communion

Saturday 8th February

feria

10.00am Joanna Miles (Spec Ints)

VIGIL MASS

6.00pm Confirmation Candidates Enrolment Mass

Sunday 9th February

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

8.30am Cahal Owens RIP

9.45am People of the Parish

11.30am Ronnie & Maria Wielgut RIP (Anniv)

3.00pm Mass of Anointing -

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

CONFESSIONS

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