



# OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

16<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2020  
6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

**Parish Priest**  
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**Parish Office**  
**Office Administrator**  
**Mrs Melanie Armitage**  
Open Monday, Tuesday,  
Wednesday & Thursday  
9.30am - 12.30pm  
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**Parish Safeguarding  
Representative**  
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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

There are not a few Catholics who feel that if they just keep the Commandments, they are good Catholics. They often like to ask, "Is this a sin?", that is, is it against the law? Is it a mortal sin or is it a venial sin? If it is "only" a venial sin, then I can do it.

But true Christians do not ask whether something is legal or illegal. They love God, they love Jesus, they love their brothers and sisters. Their only concern is how they can serve and love them more and more. They want to work with Jesus and with his brothers and sisters to build the Kingdom of God. No matter how much they do, they know they can still love more and do more and be more.

If we believe that all we are expected to do is 'keep the commandments,' we have missed something important. Jesus does not want us to merely follow the letter of the law. Where is the joy or the challenge in that? He tells us that our virtue must go deeper than simply doing the bare minimum. Not only must we not kill, we must not be angry with others. Not only must we not break a promise, we must be honest in all our dealings and in our speech. If we approach the altar without being on good terms with others, we are not in true communion with God.

Obeying the rules is the bare minimum. The Gospel is calling us to a more radical way of living.



## THE PARISH OFFICE

The Parish office will be closed on Monday and Tuesday next week and will re-open on Wednesday from 9.30am Don't forget deadline for the newsletter is 12.30pm on Wednesdays.

## LENT GROUPS

These are friendly groups which gather for the six weeks of Lent (or as many as any member can manage) to reflect on aspects of our faith. This year we shall be reading and reflecting on the wonderful and important document written by Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel). There will be a choice of day and time, morning, afternoon or evening. After mass there will be people in the porch to answer any of your questions. Why not try this as something different for Lent this year?



## MOTHERS PRAYERS GROUP

Mothers Prayers was formed to help those mothers who wished to pray together for their children and grandchildren. A Mothers Prayers group will be meeting on Friday mornings in Harpenden in term time, starting on **FRIDAY 28th FEBRUARY**. We'll be using the format which is used by Mothers Prayers groups throughout the world ([www.mothersprayers.org](http://www.mothersprayers.org)), praying for our children and offering them into Jesus' care. For further details please email Mary Figg at: [mothersprayersharpenden@gmail.com](mailto:mothersprayersharpenden@gmail.com)

## GUIDED REFLECTION

The Prayer of Silence Guided Reflection led by Sister Regina and Monika Cleaver will be on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February from 10am to 12pm, at the Convent, 18 Kirkdale Road. Coffee/Tea on arrival. Please note the change of time. Everyone is welcome.

## DWG GREEN BOXES

If you have forgotten to bring your Green Box back to church over the last few weekends please could you drop it into Melanie in the Parish Office where it will be emptied and returned to you. If you would like to have a Green Box please contact Noel Whittle at [noel.whittle@internet.com](mailto:noel.whittle@internet.com).



From the Vatican Dicastery for 'Integral human Development' Fr Augusto Zampini has told Catholic Justice and Peace campaigners in England and Wales that the decade 2020-2030 should be "a decade for action" responding to "the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor". Inspired by *Laudati Si*, which he calls "a wonderful document, we should "ignite our parishes". We are destroying Gods Creation, he said, and parishes could play a huge role in protecting nature and promoting justice and peace! For more see the link below.

Laudato Si

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com38891>

## ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY AT WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL SATURDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2020 AT 3PM

The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2020. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give Melanie in the parish office the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).



## ST DOMINIC NURSERY



The application process for Nursery places is now 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](http://www.stdominic.herts.sch.uk) or contact the school office on 01582 760047 to book an appointment to come along to our visit morning on 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 NEXT WEDNESDAY 19TH FEBRUARY FROM 6PM - 7PM. THERE IS NO NEED TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT, JUST TURN UP.**

## NEWMAN ASSOCIATION TALK ON HYMNS IN CATHOLIC WORSHIP, 8PM TODAY SUNDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

All are warmly invited to a talk by Mr John Ainslie, a musician who has co-edited and published collections of hymns as well as composing several of his own. Early in his career John Ainslie served as choirmaster at the Venerable English College, Rome, at the time of the Second Vatican Council. His talk "Praise the Lord - and pass the hymn-book" will be held at St Bartholomew's Church, 47 Vesta Avenue, St Albans AL1 2PE, starting at 8pm on Sunday 16 February. If you are unable to attend but would like to know more about the Newman Association, please call 01727 864404.



## 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](http://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.

## 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)

## CARERS TRUST - COUNT ME IN!

The aging population has shown a massive demand for carers across the UK and this is set to increase more over the next few years. Studies have shown that one in 4 secondary school children may be a young carer, although for most becoming a carer begins at a younger age. This can be very isolating, worrying and stressful for a young person and could later affect their educational experience. Carers Trust has launched their Count Me In! Campaign which includes plenty of resources for service providers to help any young carer and shows how people can get involved. If you are a young carer or young adult carer or maybe you know somebody who could benefit from the support, there are plenty of organisations that can help including [Carers UK](#) and [The Children's Society](#) who also work with lots of young people who become carers.

## NATIONAL NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH

The National Novena to St Joseph will take place from 10<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at St Joseph's Church in Maidenhead and at Herbert House, Freshfield, Liverpool.



Each year the Mill Hill Missionaries prepare for the Feast of St Joseph, their patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society and the missionary outreach of the Church, as well as for the intentions of all those who support their work. You are invited to send in your petitions and /or to request a Novena booklet to enable you to join in from home by praying the daily Novena prayer. Please write to Novena Director, St Joseph's Missionary Society, 58 Cookham Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7HT or email [Novenamhm@gmail.com](mailto:Novenamhm@gmail.com) 766403.

## 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).



## NEWSLETTERS

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

## MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

### Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February

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10.00am Maureen O'Donovan (Spec Ints)  
12.00pm Baptism  
5.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

### VIGIL MASS

6.00pm Frank McConnachie RIP (Anniv)

### Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February

6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

8.30am Pat Butler RIP (Anniv)  
9.45am People of the Parish  
11.30am Bridie Cooper RIP (Anniv)

### Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February

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9.15am Special Intention (SB)

### Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February

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9.15am Denis Mann RIP  
*Tea/Coffee served in The Undercroft*

### Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February

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9.15am Peter Vasquez RIP (Anniv)

### Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February

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11.00am Raphael Olapruth RIP

### Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February

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9.15am Service of the Word with Holy Communion

### Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

The Chair of St Peter the Apostle

10.00am People of the Parish  
12.00pm Baptism  
5.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

### VIGIL MASS

6.00pm Fr Seamus Downey RIP

### Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

8.30am Denis Mann RIP (Anniv)  
9.45am Harry Davis RIP (Anniv)  
11.30am Bridget Flanagan RIP (Anniv)

### CONFESSIONS

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