



# OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

23<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY 2020  
7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (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

Next Wednesday, we begin Lent, and the Ashes are blessed and placed on our foreheads, with the words: 'Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel'. Each year many people mention what they will give up, chocolate and alcohol being amongst the most popular. Giving up something reflects one of the calls of Lent, which is to self-denial.

As we think about how to mark this season of Lent, we might want to ask ourselves a question, and that is: 'what do I need to do if Lent is to be a fruitful time for me, a time of growth, a time of change? The words that are used when we are signed with the ashes might help us in deciding what to do. We heard: 'be faithful to the Gospel'. To be faithful to the Gospel is to be faithful to the example and teaching of Jesus; it is to faithfully live in the way that Jesus has already marked out for us.

So, in deciding what to do for Lent, we might want to reflect on our lives, on the one hand to acknowledge where we are faithful to the Gospel, and on the other to ask 'what do I need to do in order to be more faithful to the Gospel. And if we are to be faithful to the Gospel, maybe we might read a little of the Gospel each day of Lent and, as we read, asking the question: what else can I do to grow in faithfulness? In this year of the Word, that would be a particularly appropriate thing to do, to allow the Gospel to dictate how we mark this season of Lent, this time of opportunity.



## LENT 2020

Next Wednesday we begin the season of Lent, 40 days during which we are called to prayer, fasting and almsgiving, in order to prepare for Holy Week and the wonderful celebration of Easter. Now is the time to think about how to mark this special time, to consider what can I do to make it a time of growth, a fruitful time? Below are some of the opportunities available in the parish.



Wednesday is **Ash Wednesday**, the beginning of the season of Lent. Masses will be celebrated at 9.15am and 6.00pm, and the ashes blessed and distributed. Ash Wednesday is a **day of fasting and abstinence**, one of just two in the year, when we are asked to abstain from eating meat, and to eat considerably less than usual.

### 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?

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

A traditional Lenten devotion, the Stations of the Cross take us through the last events of Our Lord's life to his death on Calvary. On this journey we are assisted by the inspiring artwork of the Stations in church. Stations of the Cross takes place each Sunday, of Lent, at 6.00pm.

### 'MY DAY BY DAY'

Daily reflections for Lent are available in the 'My Day by Day' series. There are different reflections for adult, juniors and children. The booklets will be found in the porch and are £1 each.

## SEEKING CHRIST TOGETHER.

Two weekends ago we heard the second presentation on developing the parish DREaM, which means as you will recall 'Divine Renovation, Evangelisation and Mission'. The numbers receiving the Sacraments of Baptism, compared to First Holy Communion, to Confirmation were graphically illustrated, emphasising the reasons for the need to change. Reference was made to Pope Francis's Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* and the mustard seed that grows into a protective tree, that will, when properly nourished, give refuge to all of us, irrespective of the stage we are at on our faith journey. The next step is to seek your views by distributing a non-attributable survey. This critical data capture will help the understanding of where we are collectively, assist direction and provide a benchmark for future analysis.

### 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 this **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 tomorrow, 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.

### MICHELLE TROY RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Michelle Troy who died last week. Michelle's body will be received into the Church tomorrow, Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 5.30pm and the Requiem Mass will be on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 11am. We remember Michelle and the family in our prayers at this time.

## WALK IN THE PARK

Do join us for a stroll through the glorious daffodils just starting to bloom now in Rothamsted Park. We will meet as usual at 10am outside



Church on the first Wednesday of the month, 4<sup>th</sup> March, for an hour's walk followed by coffee in a nearby cafe. If weather is bad, it's straight for coffee! New walkers always welcome.

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY ANNUAL RAFFLE

This is a great opportunity for the Parish as a whole to help the work of the SVP. Tickets will be on sale after all weekend Masses next weekend 29<sup>th</sup> Feb/1<sup>st</sup> March. 23 Prizes to be won ranging from £3,000 down to £50. The draw will take place on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March

## DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The ever-popular St Patrick's Day lunch will be held on Tuesday March 17<sup>th</sup> in the Undercroft. Proceeds will go to Sister Margaret's Barcelona project in South Africa. Tickets at £10 will be on sale next weekend.



## CAFOD FAST DAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

Calling our parish community! Could you help us train local experts in Zimbabwe (through the Catholic Church)? Your donations will help us to create a network of trained pharmacists. One such person is Sister Concilia who saves lives each day. Further funding will enable us to train more people and reach out to even more of the poor who need treatment, care and love. On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March, will you eat a simple meal in solidarity and give what you save to help continue Sister Concilia's life-saving work? Please use the Family Fast Day envelope and give whatever you can. Envelopes will be available next weekend.

 livesimply



Next weekend (the first Sunday of the month) there is the usual UHT milk collection for the St Albans and District Foodbank.

**THE LIVESIMPLY GROUPS:** Liturgy, Environment, Practical Resources, Justice & Peace and Care for Creation and Communications, will gather together at 7.30pm on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February in the Undercroft to share what they have achieved and been working at recently. Any parishioners who would like to know more, or to join any of the groups are very welcome.

Laudato Si

## 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

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 Applications close at 3.30pm next Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March.



## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2020

This year's World Day of Prayer will take place on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March. There will be two services in Harpenden: 10.30am at St Nicholas's and 7.45pm at the Highfield Oval chapel. 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 16<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> June with the theme of "Cultivate Connections", with events at churches throughout the town. If you would like to be involved in some way, please contact Teresa Newham on (01582) 766403.

## SETTLEMENT SCHEME

All EU, EEA and Swiss citizens living in the UK are required by the government to apply through its Settlement Scheme to continue living, working and accessing services here. The deadline for applications is 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021. Details and links to the application process can be found at:

[gov.uk/eusettledstatus](http://gov.uk/eusettledstatus)

Please bring this to the attention of friends, family members and fellow parishioners who may need to apply. Information on assistance for those who may have difficulty applying is available at: [gov.uk/help-eu-settlement-scheme](http://gov.uk/help-eu-settlement-scheme) The Catholic Church in England and Wales stands in solidarity with all European citizens who have their homes here. They are a valued part of our Parishes, Schools and Communities.

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS 6TH FORM PUBLIC SPEAKING CHALLENGE 1ST MARCH 2020 AT 2PM THE UNIVERSITY OF HERTFORDSHIRE

Province 14 of the Catenian Association organise this annual challenge, with the winner going onto the National Final in September. This year for the first time our event is being held on a Sunday afternoon to give a greater opportunity for parents, carers, family, friends and interested parishioners to attend and listen to our remarkable young people present for four minutes on a topic of their choosing. Cardinal Newman School Luton and NBCS St Albans, are taking part and in total fourteen students have committed to this event, so it promises to be a most interesting and enjoyable afternoon. 6<sup>th</sup> form students put in a lot of effort into preparing their presentations to a very high standard so this should be recognised by having good audience attendance. Visitors will also have the optional opportunity of viewing the university's full-size replica Crown Court building. Free parking is available by providing your vehicle registration number and an indication of the number of occupants to the organiser Dennis Cooper at [dennis29@virginmedia.com](mailto:dennis29@virginmedia.com) by 12 noon on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb.

## MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

### 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)

### Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February **feria**

9.15am Liam Dooley RIP

5.30pm Reception into Church Michelle Troy

### Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February **feria**

9.15am Eileen Donnelly RIP

*Tea/Coffee served in The Undercroft*

11.00am Requiem Mass for Michelle Troy

### Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February

#### ASH WEDNESDAY

9.15am Liam Dooley RIP (Months Mind)

6.00pm Caitriona Kelly RIP (Months Mind)

### Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February **Lent feria**

11.00am John Png RIP (Anniv)

### Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February **Lent feria**

9.15am Service of the Word with Holy Communion

### Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February **Lent feria**

10.00am

12.00pm Baptism

5.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

### VIGIL MASS

6.00pm Patricia Hayes (Spec Ints)

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March

#### 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

8.30am

9.45am People of the Parish

11.30am Fernando Goncalves RIP

6.00pm Stations of the Cross

### CONFESSIONS

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