



# OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2020  
5<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

Today's Gospel follows immediately on the Beatitudes. And the readings are saying that the Beatitudes must not only be lived but seen to be lived. The Gospel reminds us that it is essential for the Christian disciple both to be seen and heard. Christianity is not a private religion. I am not just a Christian for me only. Christianity is a vision which is meant to change the world and we are aware of the impact it has had.

Jesus uses a string of images to express this; one is that he wants his disciples to be the salt of the earth. Salt is a basic and essential item in our diet but it had a particular value in ancient culture. It is a purifier, a seasoning and a preservative. This was especially the case in the days before refrigeration. Today we are warned against taking too much salt. In older times it was a precious and often expensive commodity and because of its value it was often a favourite item of taxation.

What Jesus emphasises is its distinctive taste. We often judge food by saying it has too little or too much salt. Christians then, by their Gospel-centred lives, are to give a distinctive taste to society. Those who really have the spirit of the Beatitudes will permeate the world, renew it and witness to Gospel values.

But salt only produces its effect when it is totally merged with the food. It is indistinguishable from the rest of the food but its presence or absence is very obvious. The Christian, too, can only be truly effective when he or she is fully a member of society and, at the same time, gives an unmistakable taste to that society.

## FEAST DAY

This Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, is the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, our Parish Feast Day. It's a moment to thank God for the blessings we receive in, and through, our parish; and to pray that we can continue to strive to be a living sign of God's Kingdom in this part of Hertfordshire. To mark this there will be a Mass at 3.00pm, this Sunday afternoon, February 9<sup>th</sup>, during which the Sacrament of the Sick will be celebrated. Everyone is welcome at this Mass, and there will be refreshments afterwards in the undercroft.



## CONFIRMATION 2020

On Saturday evening, during the Vigil Mass 46 of our young people were enrolled in our Confirmation programme. Everyone is invited to join the candidates and their families in prayerful support of all involved in preparing the young people for this major step in their faith lives as they prepare to receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Please keep the candidates, their families and those preparing them in your prayers.



## RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

This weekend the Catholic Church in England and Wales will celebrate racial justice, the theme is "You are at the heart of the Church." It will celebrate the contribution travelling communities make to the church in England and Wales. It is an opportunity for all Catholics to pray for, reflect on and respond to racial justice matters within the church and wider society.

## DWG GREEN BOXES

Thank you to everyone who returned their Green Boxes last weekend for the proceeds to be counted and to those who became Green Box collectors for the first time. The collection raised £945.93 which will go towards our latest

project, the installation of a borehole to enable access to clean water for almost 4000 people in Okwerodot Parish, Kole, Northern Uganda. If you forgot to bring your Green Box last weekend 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).



## WHAT ARE GREEN BOXES?

Several parishioners, new to OLOL ways, had never come across Green Boxes until the collection last weekend. They are basically green piggy banks, in which you can insert your coins (and if you wish notes) through the year, knowing that every penny will go to a small project benefiting communities much poorer than ours, in the developing world. The projects, usually ranging from £500 to £5,000, are chosen and monitored by the parish's Developing World Group (DWG) which began its life here in the mid-1970s - see church website and 2019 Project Report for further information. The Boxes, which were introduced following a proposal by a parishioner, Emanuela Coy, four years ago, have already brought in nearly £5,000! They are provided free to their holders - do please ask Noel (see above) if you would like to have one. Thank you.

 lives simply

Buying Preda Forest Feast Fairtrade dried mangos helps to save and heal abused girls at the Preda Home for Girls in Olongago, Philippines (For details see the link below). You can buy them at Waitrose in Harpenden - buy them for family and friends. Delicious!

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/38841>

## 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)

**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 one of our visit mornings on **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.**

**NEWMAN ASSOCIATION TALK ON HYMNS IN CATHOLIC WORSHIP, 8PM ON 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) 766403.

### VINNIE PACKS

The SVP are distributing **11.500 Vinnie Packs** containing cold weather essentials to the homeless and those spending the principal part of their day on the streets. Each pack contains thermal gloves, thermal hat, two pairs of socks, wet wipes, toothbrush, toothpaste, Pavement magazine, information sheet and pen. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £3.50 per pack? Donations can be sent to **Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ** with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West sort code **60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237**. Thank you so much for your support.

### 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 8th February

**feria**

10.00am Joanna Miles (Spec Ints)

### VIGIL MASS

6.00pm Confirmation Candidates Enrolment Mass

### Sunday 9th February

#### 5<sup>TH</sup> 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

### Monday 10th February

#### St Scholastica, Virgin

9.15am Margaret Foulds RIP

### Tuesday 11th February

#### OUR LADY OF LOURDES

9.15am Sarah Sherwood nee Horne RIP (Anniv)

*Tea/Coffee served in The Undercroft*

### Wednesday 12th February **feria**

9.15am Tom Butler (Spec Ints)

### Thursday 13th February **feria**

11.00am Melville Francke RIP

### Friday 14th February

#### Ss Cyril, Monk & Methodius, Bishop, Patrons of Europe

9.15am Service of the Word with Holy Communion

### Saturday 15th February

**feria**

10.00am

12.00pm Baptism

5.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

### VIGIL MASS

6.00pm Frank McConnachie RIP (Anniv)

### Sunday 16th 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)

### CONFESSIONS

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