



OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

15TH MARCH 2020
3RD SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

Parish Priest
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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

It's quite an extraordinary Gospel reading that we hear today!

We have an encounter between two people of different, indeed opposing, religious backgrounds - Jesus the Jew and the Samaritan Woman. But they engage in conversation, a conversation which does not avoid what divides them, and Jesus seems to have no discomfort or difficulty in talking to the woman.

There are two aspects to the story - the dialogue with the diversity of belief in our society, and the breakdown of marriage and family life - we think of as being very modern, very challenging, very different, very new. How does Jesus deal with it?

Firstly, Jesus doesn't condemn the woman. He doesn't denounce her as a sinner, or criticise her faith. He speaks to her and he listens, too. He treats her with dignity and with respect. But he doesn't condone her either. He doesn't say, or even imply, that all beliefs, all faiths are the same. He stands his ground, and speaks for the truth.

He does though, offer her God's blessing, openly and freely. The living water is for her as much as it is for anyone else. He does not tell her that God's grace is refused to her because of her way of life or even her background. It is offered to all, without favour. It is not a reward for goodness - but hope for sinners.

And finally, he sends her out to spread the word. He invites her response and she reacts with enthusiasm. She tells others about him, and they are drawn to him. She becomes a messenger for the truth, a witness for the Gospel, a herald of the Christ, a minister of grace.

LENT 2020 LENT GROUPS

The Lent Groups have started and will continue throughout Lent. These are friendly groups which gather during Lent 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 is a choice of day and time, morning, afternoon or evening. Please contact Julia Roche if you would like to join the Lent Groups. juliaandnigel057@gmail.com. Why not try this as something different for Lent this year?

DURING LENT

A good practice during Lent could be to attend Mass, once or twice, during the week. Or maybe to attend some, or all, of the time of Exposition on Saturday evenings, between 5.00pm and 5.40pm.

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.

LENTEN ALMS

It is customary during Lent to donate what we save through our self-denial to a charitable purpose. We will be sending anything that is donated to the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal, which will be used to strengthen marriage and family life, inspire young people in their faith and serve those in need in our communities. You can leave any contributions in the box on the wall near Our Lady's altar. Alternatively, if you would like to Gift Aid your donation, envelopes can be found in the porch and your donation then posted through the Presbytery door/Parish Office.

LOOKING AFTER OURSELVES & EACH OTHER

Last week it was announced that, while the possibility of the Coronavirus remains, the Sign of Peace, and Communion under Both Kinds would be suspended, and it was requested that **everyone receives Holy Communion in the hand**. Following further advice received from the Diocese, starting this Sunday **the offertory collection will take place as you leave Mass**. This will prevent the need to pass the collection bags from person to person and, hopefully, reduce the possibility of spreading infection. In addition, we ask that you **take your newsletter home with you, do not leave it in the seat**. As well, **after each Mass please place the hymn sheet in the container in the porch**. There will be sufficient sheets provided for every Mass, and this will prevent anyone having to use a sheet handled by someone else. Don't forget the advice we have



been given: that of good personal hygiene, particularly to wash our hands, and as well to follow the advice on the posters, if you blow your nose or sneeze, **'catch it, bin it, kill it'**. Let us keep in our prayers those with the virus, and those helping to care for them.

SEEKING CHRIST TOGETHER

Last weekend during the presentation of the parish survey, Canon Anthony emphasised that the survey has not been constructed by experts so please, do bear this in mind when filling it in. Equally, the launch, management and running of our parish renewal project are not perfect and we are aware that the original plans have slipped somewhat and that communications could have been better. In fact, the need to hold a parish renewal update meeting is recognised and work has been going on to prepare for such an event. It is planned to be held on at 6-30 pm, Sunday 3rd May, but don't wait if you have a burning question or would like to offer your talents in service to this exciting

project: be assured that it is for everybody in the parish, so get involved. Please contact the DREaM team at dr.harpendenolol@gmail.com, we would love to hear from you.

PARISH SURVEY

Last weekend we saw the third presentation in our series as we continue to develop our parish mission of 'Seeking Christ Together' and your help is requested. We are conducting a parish survey as it is essential that we obtain the views of everyone, irrespective of where they are in their journey so that we have a benchmark of views and opinions. We would like **EVERYONE** to complete this survey including all our young people. To make it easy we have devised numerous ways that you can access the survey, a paper version, on-line at Survey.SeekingChristTogether.com, or from your mobile phone, if you have a QR-enabled camera, or a QR Reader app on your phone you can scan the QR code. Please note the on-line version allows more room for comments. Also please note that the survey does not ask for names and addresses and we are not interested in identifying respondents but what would be truly helpful would be for everyone to be open and honest and even critical where it is thought to be constructive. Please ask any questions you may have after mass or email dr.harpendenolol@gmail.com.



SCAN ME

Thank you, the DR Development Team

CONFIRMATION RECONCILIATION

Next Saturday evening, at 5.00pm, our Confirmation Candidates will be celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Celebrating this Sacrament is an indispensable part of all our lives. Please continue to keep our candidates in your prayers.

Please note that there will be no Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament next Saturday.



DOWRY OF MARY

In his recent Pastoral Letter, the Cardinal spoke of the Re-dedication of England as the Dowry of Mary. As well as the mini pilgrimage to the Cathedral between 19th and 22nd March, the Re-Dedication website www.behold2020.com is recommended. One suggestion for the Re-Dedication and for Lent would be a devout praying of the Angelus each day at morning, noon and evening: "Be it done to me according to Thy word." Can we say yes with Mary?

MARIA NORTH RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Maria North who died recently. Maria's Requiem Mass will be on Tuesday 24th March at 11am. We remember Maria's family in our prayers at this time.

ST PATRICK'S DAY

Next Tuesday is the feast of St Patrick. Mass will be celebrated at 9.15am.

ST PATRICK'S DAY LUNCH

Due to worries over the coronavirus, the Ladies Group has decided to cancel the St Patrick's Day lunch. We had planned to give the profits to Sister Regina for the Barcelona project in South Africa, but if anyone wants a refund, please contact Marva on H. 712364 or marva@cpoauk.com.



EASTER FLOWER COLLECTION

The Parish Flower Arrangers will have their annual Easter Flower Collection after all Masses next weekend 21st/22nd March. In addition, a lily may be purchased (at £3.50) in memory of a loved one. Please write the name of the loved one

on an envelope, place the £3.50 inside and hand it in with the flower collection after Mass. Their names will then be added to a remembrance book which will be displayed at the back of the Church during the Easter season.



CAFOD FAST DAY

Thank you for your contributions for the CAFOD Lent Fast Day £2,508.80 was donated. Gift Aid envelopes are still available if you missed the second collection last weekend for CAFOD.

LIVESIMPLY - STATIONS OF THE CROSS WITH ST JOHN PAUL II

There will be a special Stations of the Cross led by the LiveSimply group at 7.30pm on Friday 27th March. These Franciscan Stations are inspired by Pope St John Paul II, who throughout his pontificate, in his preaching and teaching, consistently emphasised the gravity of the environmental crisis and the urgent need for the church to respond to its moral and spiritual dimensions. Something extra for Lent.

Laudato Si



CHORISTERS

SPRING CONCERT

4.30PM NEXT SUNDAY 22ND MARCH

An hour of uplifting music with something for everyone! Visiting instrumentalists and solos from the choristers amongst a selection of beautiful choral music. Please come and support the choristers!

CORONAVIRUS - LET'S NOT FORGET THE VULNERABLE

In light of the uncertainty over the Coronavirus, it is understandable that we want to ensure our kitchen cupboards are well stocked. However, we must not forget that this can leave foodbanks struggling. Hundreds of people rely on generous donations from our parishioners. This includes the need for hygiene items, toilet paper, sanitary products etc, as well as sealed packages of dry food, tins, and long-life milk etc. Foodbanks also welcome donations of money - please give what you can. Drop boxes are available in Sainsburys.



MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 14th March Lent feria

10.00am

12.00pm Baptism

5.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

VIGIL MASS

6.00pm Peter & Maureen Hanly RIP (Anniv)

Sunday 15th March

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

8.30am Gerard Conway (Spec Ints)

9.45am People of the Parish

11.30am John Taylor RIP

6.00pm Stations of the Cross

Monday 16th March Lent feria

9.15am

Tuesday 17th March

St Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland

9.15am Con Cronin RIP (Anniv)

Tea/Coffee served in The Undercroft

Wednesday 18th March Lent feria

9.15am Rosy Jose RIP

Thursday 19th March

St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patron of the Diocese

11.00am Sidney Cooper RIP (Anniv)

Friday 20th March Lent feria

9.15am Service of the Word with Holy Communion

Saturday 21st March Lent feria

10.00am

12.00pm Baptism

5.00pm Confirmation Candidates Reconciliation

(No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament)

VIGIL MASS

6.00pm Nichola Stringer RIP (Anniv)

Sunday 22nd March

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (A) (LAETARE SUNDAY)

8.30am May Doyle RIP (Anniv)

9.45am People of the Parish

11.30am Maureen Martin RIP (Anniv)

4.30pm Choristers Spring Concert

6.00pm Stations of the Cross

CONFESSIONS

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