



OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

22ND MARCH 2020
4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)
LAETARE SUNDAY

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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Tel: 01582 712245
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**Parish Safeguarding
Representative**

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Email:
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The Church will be open: -
Monday to Saturday 9.30am to 6pm
Sunday 8.00am to 6pm.
for quiet prayer and contemplation.

While it is no surprise that the Bishops of England and Wales have decided public liturgies should cease from, last, Friday evening 20th March, it is nonetheless very sad. Because of the situation that the Church finds herself in, the obligation of the faithful to attend Holy Mass on a Sunday or Holy day of Obligation is removed, until further notice.

The Cardinal writes in today's pastoral letter: "You need no words from me to state the grave seriousness of the crisis of the spread of the coronavirus around the world and throughout this country. We know the steps and the sacrifices we must take in order to play our part in slowing its spread, saving lives and enabling the NHS to continue its vital work. These things are our duty before God".

We hope to continue to produce a parish newsletter each week, which will be available in church, on the parish website: parish.rcdow.org.uk/harpenden, or can be sent electronically if you provide your email address to the Parish Office. Also please keep an eye on the Parish Website for updates and news. Maintaining communication with each other is very important, and we are also looking at other ways to do this.

The Parish Office will be closed, but the Administrator will continue to be available during office hours, by telephone or email, as will Canon Dwyer.

These worrying days are a time for prayer. Turn to the Lord in prayer. Trust that the Lord hears you and is with you. God will never abandon his people. He is with us, as He was with His Son in the darkest hours.

CHURCH OF THE HOME

Although the obligation to attend Mass has been lifted, for the time being, it is a good practise to keep Sunday special. That might be done by praying as a family at home, or reading the scriptures for the day, see <http://wednesdayword.org/sunday-gospel.htm> or by making a visit to the church.

STILL OPEN!

While public Masses will not be celebrated, the church will still be open each day: Monday to Saturday 9.30am to 6.00pm, and Sunday 8.00am to 6.00pm.

MASS INTENTIONS

Each day Canon Dwyer will celebrate Mass in private, and he will continue to offer some of the Masses already requested. Some will be moved to other dates. If you would like to move a Mass Intention please contact Melanie by email.

MESSAGE FROM THE CARDINAL

The Cardinal on Wednesday recorded a video message about the latest developments and offering a word of encouragement to the faithful. Here's the link where it can be viewed: <https://vimeo.com/398532027>

A copy of the Cardinal's Pastoral Letter is available in the porch of the church and will also be sent electronically with the newsletter.

PRAYER RESOURCE

There is available a prayer resource prepared by Fr Allen Morris for those in isolation. We will share this electronically with those parishioners that we have emails for and printed copies will be available for you in the Church to collect.

MASS ONLINE

There is available a list of Churches in our Diocese who will live stream their Masses. These can be visited online at any time using the relevant website addresses. The list will be displayed in the Porch of the Church, sent

electronically with the newsletter and on our website under the Newsletter tab.

KEEPING LENT 2020

As the Coronavirus occupies our thoughts and prayers, it may be hard to observe this season of Lent. The worry and concern we experience will surely add to the nature of this penitential season. While it may not be possible to continue some Lenten Activities, such as the Lent Groups, it is nonetheless important that we try and observe the spirit of Lent in some way. Although we may not make the Stations of the Cross as a community, we can still follow them on our own. The church will continue to be open, and so there is the opportunity to visit for quiet prayer.

LIGHT A CANDLE

Presidents of Churches Together in England, including Cardinal Nichols, have issued a call to prayer in the light of the Coronavirus pandemic. This is for all churches and people of prayer to join on Sunday 22nd March, Mothering Sunday. They write:

This Mothering Sunday, 22nd March, we are calling all churches to a National Day of Prayer and Action. At such a time as this, when so many are fearful and there is great uncertainty, we are reminded of our dependence on our loving Heavenly Father and the future that he holds. At 7pm this Sunday, light a candle in the windows of your homes as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer.

PRAYING TOGETHER

In times such as this, it is important that we 'pray without ceasing'. Each of us will pray in our own ways, at whatever time suits us. Although we cannot, physically, come together to pray we could try to pray at the same time wherever we are. So, each evening at 7.30pm it would be good if everyone could pause to pray the Rosary, even if it's just one decade. We can have one voice in praying for ourselves and our country, and all who are affected by Coronavirus.

HELPING OTHERS

We are conscious that during this time there are those who will be isolated because of age or illness. Do keep an eye out for such people, or if you are in need of help, please contact the parish office. We have already a number of parishioners offering their help.

MOTHER'S DAY

A very happy Mother's Day to all our Mothers! Despite the limitations we hope you have a good day with your family.

FUNERAL OF MARIA NORTH

Following the guidelines received from the Bishops, the funeral arrangements for Maria North have had to be amended. As gatherings in church are not permitted, the funeral Mass will not take place; there will be a private cremation for family only. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated at a later date.

NEWSLETTERS

If you would like the newsletter sent to you electronically please send your email address to harpenden@rcdow.org.uk.

HELPFUL WEBSITES

There are many websites offering information and support at this time Among them are:

The Diocese of Westminster

rcdow.org.uk

The Bishops' Conference

cbcew.org.uk

The National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham

Walsingham.org.uk

Lent in Isolation

lentinisolation.com

PARISH SURVEY

Two weeks ago, 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. Thank you, the DR Development Team



CANCELLED EVENTS

CONFIRMATION RECONCILIATION & CLASSES

These have been cancelled and all parents should have received an email from Anna Painter.

CHORISTERS SPRING CONCERT

This event has been cancelled

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES

The First Holy Communion Classes have been cancelled and all parents should have received an email from Ginny.

CAFOD FAST DAY

Thank you for your contributions for the CAFOD Lent Fast Day £2,568.80 was donated.

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.

YOUTHSCAPE

Young people growing up in church need a safe space to grow in their faith. They need opportunities to explore the big questions of life. Youth work in churches can make a big difference, and help them find the confidence and support they need. Do you work with Young People within our Parish or in our local community? Do you help organise Youth Groups or would like to know more about doing this?

Youthscape Essentials is a FREE 10 week pilot course for everyone who is helping with young people at their church.

The course offers insights into youth culture, skills and practical advice of working with young people and the chance to reflect on and explore your own life and faith.

Venue: Bute Mills, 74 Bute Street

Luton LU1 2EY

When: Tuesday evenings from May 5th 2020

7pm (or from 6.15pm for dinner)

For more Information or to sign up:

Youthscape.co.uk/YSessentials or contact Lucy

Greenland at lucy.greenland@youthscape.co.uk

Tel: 01582748950

If you are interested in attending please let Canon Dwyer know.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 21st March Lent feria

Nichola Stringer RIP (Anniv)

Sunday 22nd March

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

People of the Parish

Monday 23rd March Lent feria

Joan Gaire RIP (Anniv)

Tuesday 24th March Lent feria

Maria North RIP

Wednesday 25th March

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

Patricia Veale RIP

Thursday 26th March Lent feria

Maria North RIP

Friday 27th March Lent feria

May Doyle RIP (Anniv)

Saturday 28th March Lent feria

Anna Whittle RIP (Anniv)

Sunday 29th March

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

People of the Parish

CONFESSIONS

There will be no Confessions.