



OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

8TH MARCH 2020
2ND SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

CORONAVIRUS

I can understand that recent headlines about the Coronavirus might be causing you concern.

My wish is that you feel safe at Mass and, in the light of advice received from the Catholic Bishops Conference, I have therefore decided on the following precautions to reduce the risk of transmission of Coronavirus'

Do follow the advice on the posters, if you blow your nose or sneeze, 'catch it, bin it, kill it'.

It would seem to be prudent to remove the Holy Water from the font at the back of the church. You can still make the sign of the cross as you enter, and leave, the church.

Understandably you may have concerns about sharing the sign of peace with your neighbour. In the 'General Instruction of the Roman Missal' it states the 'Sign of Peace' is used when 'appropriate', so I believe at this delicate time it should be omitted.

Many have expressed concern about receiving the Precious Blood from the chalice and choose not to do so. In the interests of concern for all we will suspend reception of the Precious Blood until the transmission risk is minimal.

In accordance with the advice from the Catholic Bishop's Conference, I would ask that everyone receive the host in the hand for the time being. Coronavirus is thought to be transmitted via respiratory droplets, and therefore I would like to minimise the risk of transmission for all.

Remember, the best line of defence is to wash your hands and to carry, and use, a little alcohol gel travel dispenser. In the mean-time, let us keep in our prayers those with the virus, and those helping to care for them.

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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

LENT 2020 LENT GROUPS

The Lent Groups have started and will continue for 6 weeks. 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? **Confirmation of the times and groups have been sent out and the meetings commenced last Monday.** Past members of groups please let us know your wishes if you haven't already done so.

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.

SEEKING CHRIST TOGETHER

This weekend sees 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 children.

This will enable us to compare data against future survey results and thus over time, a measurement of effectiveness. 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.harpendenlol@gmail.com.

Thank you, the DR Development Team



MARIE WILLIAMS RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Mary Williams who died this week, Mary's Requiem Mass will be on Monday 9th March at 1.30pm. We remember Mary's family in our prayers at this time.

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.

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?

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The ever-popular St Patrick's Day lunch will be held on Tuesday March 17th 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 6TH MARCH

Last Friday 6th March, was Family Fast Day, please return you CAFOD envelope this weekend in the retiring collection after all Masses and give whatever you have saved. Envelopes are available from the porch.

MOTHERS PRAYERS GROUP

A Mothers Prayer group meets on Friday mornings in Harpenden in term time. For details email mothersprayersharpenden@gmail.com

FROM THE REGISTERS: BAPTISM

We welcomed the following children into God's family last Saturday:
Cillian Baber
Arthur Griffiths



CHORISTERS

SPRING CONCERT 4.30PM 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!

live simply

If you would like to know more about justice, peace, and care for Creation (globally), please take one of the Columban Missionaries' 'Vocation for Justice' magazines (free) on the shelf in the porch. Also available are copies of the Jesuit magazine about faith and culture. It's called 'America' but is of universal interest.

Please take one, and pass it on when you have read it. Use, Re-use and Recycle!

Laudato Si.

THE DAY OF PRAYER FOR VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE WILL BE MARKED THIS YEAR ON FRIDAY, 3 APRIL 2020

This is a day when we think about and pray for all those impacted directly by abuse - for the victims themselves at the heart of our prayer, their families, friends, and communities. And telling you about it *now* gives you time to pass the information on to your family, friends, colleagues and parish communities. It gives everyone time to look at the prayer resources being made available, and to choose something that you can do, at home, or in a family setting, or in the parish. Wherever we choose to respond to this call to prayer, the resources offer an opportunity to listen to the voices of survivors and reflect on the impact of abuse. More information at

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/day-of-prayer-abuse-survivors-2020/>

ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY AT WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL SATURDAY 30TH MAY 2020 AT 3PM

The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (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).



COOKING AT OPEN DOOR ROTA REQUEST FOR HELP

Open Door is a shelter for the Homeless in St Albans. For a number of years now many of our parishioners have volunteered by being on a rota to cook an evening meal for the users. I am now making an appeal on behalf of Open Door for anyone that might be interested in joining our rota.

The commitment is on a Tuesday evening from 6.30 pm until 9pm about once every 4-6 weeks. You will be in a team of 3 others to cook an evening meal. Training will be given (not onerous) and Open Door will apply for a DBS check. This is a very worthwhile project and Open Door really appreciate our help. If you are interested and would like further details please could you contact myself Mrs Sue Griffiths 07775643750/ email suegriffiths2004@yahoo.co.uk



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 30th June 2021. Details and links to the application process can be found at: gov.uk/eusettledstatus 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.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 7th March Lent feria
10.00am
5.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

VIGIL MASS
6.00pm Bernard Grant RIP

Sunday 8th March
2nd SUNDAY OF LENT (A)
8.30am
9.45am People of the Parish
11.30am Neil Turnbull (Spec Ints)
6.00pm Stations of the Cross

Monday 9th March Lent feria
9.15am No Mass
1.30pm Requiem Mass for Marie Williams

Tuesday 10th March Lent feria
9.15am Margaret Foulds RIP
Tea/Coffee served in The Undercroft

Wednesday 11th March Lent feria
9.15am

Thursday 12th March Lent feria
11.00am

Friday 13th March Lent feria
9.15am Service of the Word with Holy Communion

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 People of the Parish
9.45am
11.30am
6.00pm Stations of the Cross

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