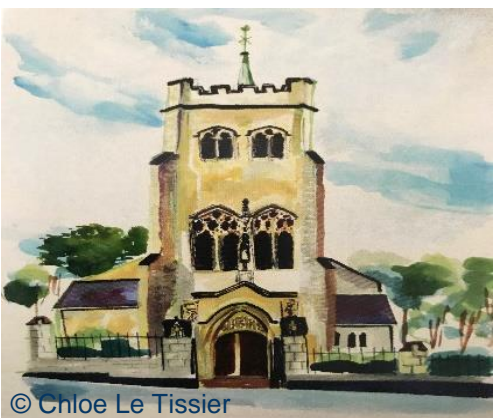


OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
DEVINE MERCY (A)
19TH APRIL 2020



Parish Priest
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Parish Office
Office Administrator
Mrs Melanie Armitage
The office is presently closed,
but the Parish Priest and
Administrator can be contacted
by email or telephone
Email: harpenden@rcdow.org.uk
Tel: 01582 712245

Website:
parish.rcdow.org.uk/harpenden
twitter: @RC_OLOL
Facebook: Our Lady of Lourdes
Harpenden

Parish Safeguarding
Representative
Mrs Brigid Brennan
Email:
harpendsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk
Tel: 07881 785 299

COVID-19 NOTICE
THE CHURCH IS CLOSED



THANK YOU

To state the obvious our celebration of Easter was very different this year. Although unable to be, physically, together in our lovely church, through modern technology, we were still able to remember, and celebrate, the last great events in our Lord's life. The important thing is surely, that we did remember and celebrate. And, having done that, we can draw comfort, strength and hope, from these Easter mysteries, through the faith that we share.

Thank you to those who assisted in different ways, our Readers and our Cantor, and particular thanks to Peter Metcalfe for setting up the link with Zoom, and making sure everything worked as it should. Thank you too to those who sent in Easter offerings, and for the other gifts and cards which I received.

CHURCH CLOSED

Following the directions from both the Cardinal and the Government, the church will continue to remain closed. I know how disappointing this is, and particularly, at a time, when the church is the place we go to in search of peace and solace

LIVESTREAMING

We are hoping to livestream the following liturgies, on Zoom, during this coming week:



Day	Time	Zoom Code
2 nd Sunday of Easter 19 th April	11.30am	379-269-692
Monday 20 th April	10.00am	955-2903-4062
Thursday 23 rd April	10.00am	944-2564-8626
3 rd Sunday of Easter 26 th April	11.30am	961-9147-9693

Please see the parish website, for information on how to view. Or contact Melanie for more information

MASS READINGS

If you would like to have the readings for Mass, you will find them at:

<https://www.universalis.com/mass.htm>
and <https://us.magnificat.net/free>.

RECONCILIATION/EASTER DUTIES

Easter duties are usually carried out between Ash Wednesday and Trinity Sunday. In these extraordinary circumstances of the Covid-19 (coronavirus) pandemic when we are unable to gather together to celebrate the great feasts of Holy Week and Easter, Cardinal Vincent explains, in this video:

<https://rcdow.org.uk/cardinal/news/cardinal-obligation-to-easter> that the obligation to our Easter Duties to go to Confession and receive Holy Communion is removed from us. Instead, he says, we can make an Act of Perfect Contrition to express our deep sorrow at our sins against the goodness of God, and leads us 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 each day wherever we are, and so, as a parish, be united in



prayer. So, each evening at 7.30pm it would be good if everyone in the parish could pause to pray, maybe to use a prayer that all the family

knows, or perhaps a decade, or more, of the Rosary. In that way we can be united in a prayer for ourselves and our country, and all who are affected by Coronavirus.

SUPPORTING EACH OTHER

As mentioned, a couple of weeks ago, during this time it is important that we try to remain as united as is possible, even though we can't physically be together. With this in mind a group of parishioners, have been asked to telephone other parishioners, simply to see how they are, and if there is any help that they might need.



Although we can't be together, we still share the same faith, and belong to the same parish, this is one way in which we express those realities.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

In the present circumstances, we cannot receive Holy Communion but we can make a **Spiritual Communion**. Set aside some time either alone, or better with your family. Turn off the tv or radio.



Firstly: Make the sign of the Cross.

Then: Make an act of Contrition.

Then say: *My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.*

Finish by making the Sign of The Cross

FOR THE CHILDREN

In addition to what we do as families, it is good if the children can be encouraged to



engage in activities which remind them that it is Sunday. There are various online activities inviting reflection on the Sunday Gospels:

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Kidz-Zone>;

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Resources-for-school-closures>;

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy>

Two American websites, offer activities and crafts for children & families:

<http://catholicmom.com/2020/03/21/when-you-cant-get-to-mass-15-at-home-resources-for-families/>

Another website with Catholic arts & crafts for Lent & Easter and more: <https://www.catholicicing.com/>

MASS INTENTIONS

Canon Dwyer is continuing to celebrate Mass sometimes in private, and at others times, this will be livestreamed; 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.



PARISH SURVEY

Although much of our parish life is suspended, or restricted, we are still conducting a parish survey, in order to obtain the views of everyone, irrespective of where they are in their journey so that we have a benchmark of views and opinions. Our hope is that EVERYONE will complete this survey including all our young people. Thank you to everyone who has already completed the survey. We have now passed the closing date, but, given the current circumstances, we have decided to extend that by a few weeks. There are a number of ways that you can access the survey, a paper version, obtainable by contacting the parish office, 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. If you haven't yet completed the survey, it would certainly be appreciated if you would take just 15 minutes, or so, to do so.



ST ALBANS FOODBANK

Amidst the worry and stress of Coronavirus it has been good to hear of the different good works taking place, as people support each other. The present situation means that we won't be able to do the usual collections of long-life UHT milk on the 1st Sunday of each month, for the St Albans and District Foodbank. The Foodbank is still in need of our support. Donations can be made in person at the branches of **Sainsburys and Waitrose in Harpenden**. Anything you wish to donate will be much appreciated. For more information please visit: <http://www.stalbandsdistrict.foodbank.org.uk> for up to date information of what is needed most.



FACEBOOK PAGE

While we are unable to gather together for Mass, it is important that we are able to continue to be in contact. Hopefully you will receive the parish newsletter, and recently we have set up a parish Facebook page, Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden.



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



LUTON CATENIANS

Local Catenians are taking the lead to donate money to NOAH who will use it to support vulnerable families. At their recent Corona Response Group Meeting there was an example of the plight of three families with 13 children among them made destitute with no income.

NOAH will support them and extend its services to others in the community. Parishioners are invited to join this initiative by emailing

peter.ward11@nhs.net

for information. Anything you give, no matter how small will be greatly appreciated. NOAH website is <https://www.noahenterprise.org/who-we-are/vision-mission-values/>

MAGNIFICATE ONLINE FREE

To help us follow the Mass, daily prayers, reading, etc. at home, and also keep up with the weekly church news, we are offering free access to Magnificat online.

For free access to Magnificat online, log in at www.magnificat.com/free

LOURDES ONLINE

Although the Sanctuary at Lourdes is closed, the Priests are still praying constantly at the grotto. You can watch, or for a small donation make a prayer intention or have a candle lit at the Sanctuary of Lourdes. Their website is <https://www.lourdes-france.org/en>

CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS ONLINE

Due to the Coronavirus many of the Catholic Diocesan newspapers have been put on one website www.ChurchPaper.co.uk so you can all stay in contact with the Church and Catholic community. There are over 600 editions of the following newspapers: A&B News, Cardiff People, Catholic East Anglia, The Vine, UCM, Reach- Catholic Schools Paper, more newspapers are expected to be added in the coming weeks.



NEWSLETTERS

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

If you know of someone who doesn't have a computer, please pass on a copy of the newsletter. We are also happy, if you let us have their details to post out a copy.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

18th April **Saturday within the Octave of Easter**
Sr Eileen (Spec Ints)

19th April **SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER DEVINE MERCY (A)**
11.30am People of the Parish

MASS WILL BE LIVE STREAMED AT 11.30AM ZOOM CODE 379-269-692

Monday **Easter feria**
20th April
10.00am Diane Newham RIP (Anniv)

MASS WILL BE LIVE STREAMED AT 10.00AM ZOOM CODE 955-2903-4062

Tuesday **Easter feria**
21st April Robert Kell RIP

Wednesday **Easter feria**
22nd April Sr. Loretta (Spec Ints)

Thursday **St George, Martyr Patron of England**
23rd April
10.00am Brian Tate RIP

MASS WILL BE LIVE STREAMED AT 10.00AM ZOOM CODE 944-2564-8626

Friday **Ss Erkenwald & Mellitus, Bishops**
24th April

Saturday **St Mark, Evangelist**
25th April Kath Kell (Spec Ints)

26th April **THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)**
11.30am People of the Parish

MASS WILL BE LIVE STREAMED AT 11.30AM ZOOM CODE 961-9147-9693

CONFESSIONS - There will be no Confessions