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OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)
26TH APRIL 2020

Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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Email: anthonydwyer@rcdow.org.uk

Parish 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

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'Jesus walks with us'

The Emmaus story is like a gospel within the gospel. For the two disciples on the road to Emmaus the future looked grim and uncertain. For the previous few years, life had been exciting and full of hope, since they were captivated by the Gospel message of Jesus. But they hadn't grasped some unwelcome parts of what he had said to them. We may well empathize with this disappointed pair, because mostly we too may tend to pick and choose the parts of his message that please us, and fail to take seriously what may challenge us.

Once arrived in Emmaus, they invite Jesus to stay for supper. "Stay with us," they said, and during the meal they recognised him in the breaking of bread. Jesus can best be known by those who want to be in his presence. Later, they realised what an impact his presence and his conversation made on each of them. "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" Such an experience of Jesus, we can pray for too.

The Emmaus story speaks to people of all ages. We can see ourselves in these two despondent travelers on their journey, the faith and hope they have lost, the future they have hoped for fallen apart. And yet they met an unknown friend walking the road with them, who gave them fresh insight, and connected their challenging present situation with what they had known in the past. Today as we struggle with our very real worries and concerns, we continue to live in the light of our Easter faith, which reminds us that Jesus our Risen Lord, walks beside us, and shares with us whatever we may be experiencing.

PARISH OFFERTORY

A number of parishioners have been in touch to enquire how they might continue their regular giving, in support of the parish. We do not know how long the current situation will continue for and I am conscious that with the uncertainty the current situation creates, many will be concerned about their jobs and livelihoods. If you are able to - and I genuinely mean 'if' - and you wish to continue with your regular pattern of giving there are two ways in which this might be done. Firstly, you might wish to contribute through internet banking. Our bank details are: Account Name: WRCDT - Harpenden, Sort Code: 40-05-20, Account Number: 51095951. Please add your Surname and First Name as a reference, to help our bookkeeper. Secondly, you may like to consider giving by standing order. Both of these ways are good as they avoid the weekly handling of both envelopes and cash. If so, please email the parish office at harpenden@rcdow.org.uk and ask for details of how you might give by standing order.

UPDATING

As we are trying to make contact with as many parishioners as possible, we are realising that our records are not as complete as they could be. While many aspects of parish life are quiet, we have decided to update our database. Some of you will already have received a form to complete and, if you have returned it, thank you. If you haven't received a form you will find one on the Parish Website, or email Melanie and she will send you one. Please complete the form and, return it to the Parish Office. If you are aware of someone who doesn't have an email address, it would be helpful if you would give them a copy.

LIVESTREAMING

We will be livestreaming the following liturgies, on Zoom, during this coming week:



Day	Time	Zoom Code
3 rd Sunday of Easter 26 th April	11.30am	961-9147-9693
Tuesday 28 th April	10.00am	925-4229-9178
Thursday 30 th April	10.00am	935-9465-7670
4 th Sunday of Easter 3 rd May	11.30am	916-3928-9657

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

SUPPORTING EACH OTHER

A group of parishioners are continuing to telephone other parishioners, simply to see how they are, and if there is any help that they might need. Many people have had a call already, if you haven't, or know of someone who hasn't, it may be because we haven't got up to date contact details for you, or perhaps you haven't completed a new parishioner form. If so, you might like to send your contact details to the parish office. 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.



LET US PRAY



Prayer is at the heart of everything that we do and, at 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.

PARISH SURVEY

Although much of our parish life is suspended, or restricted, we are still conducting a parish survey. This is an important project as we very much want 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 removed the closing date, and won't be setting another one for the time being. 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.



BEING PRESENT

Whilst we cannot be physically present in church, imagine if there were 'faces in the pews', we would be symbolically present, a little bit of each of you that I would see when I celebrate mass. It would also reinforce our sense of belonging in our community in these unprecedented times. The idea is taken from other parishes in the UK and in mainland Europe, so if you wish to have an image visible from the sanctuary, and are happy to have it displayed in this way, please send a picture (preferably A4 or A5 in size) of you and members of your family - electronically (to harpenden@rcdow.org.uk) or by post to the presbytery.



WHILE MASSES ARE SUSPENDED AND THE CHURCH CLOSED, YOU MAY WISH TO NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

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.



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>.

MASS FOR THE NHS

The Bishops in England and Wales have agreed that every Thursday evening, at 7pm, a bishop, in turn, will celebrate Mass in his cathedral, live streamed, for all those frontline workers in the NHS and care homes, for the sick and their families. This began last Thursday with Mass, celebrated by the Cardinal, in our Cathedral at Westminster. Next week the Mass will be live-streamed from Arundel Cathedral, <https://arundelcathedral.uk/>.

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/>

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

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

Sunday
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

Monday
27th April **Easter feria**
Valerie McGarry RIP (Anniv)

Tuesday
28th April
10.00am **Easter feria**
Stephen Sedgely RIP

MASS WILL BE LIVE STREAMED AT 10.00AM ZOOM CODE 925-4229-9178

Wednesday
29th April **St Catherine of Siena, Virgin & Doctor, Patron of Europe**
Terry Mahabir RIP (Anniv)

Thursday
30th April
10.00am **Easter feria**
Frank & Lilly Moran RIP (Anniv)

MASS WILL BE LIVE STREAMED AT 10.00AM ZOOM CODE 935-9465-7670

Friday
1st May **Easter feria**

Saturday
2nd May **St Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor**
Fr Robert Dudley RIP (1st Anniv)

Sunday
3rd May **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)**
11.30am People of the Parish

MASS WILL BE LIVE STREAMED AT 11.30AM ZOOM CODE 916-3928-9657

CONFESSIONS - There will be no Confessions