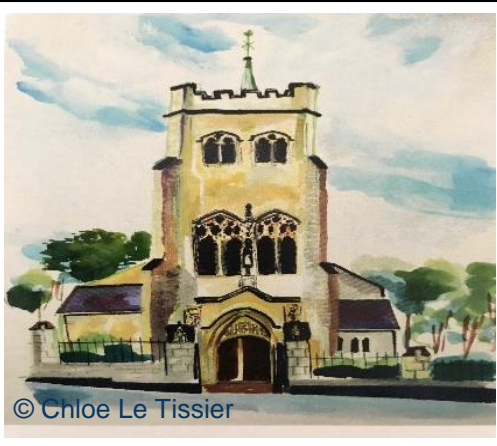


OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

5TH APRIL 2020
PALM SUNDAY OF THE
PASSION OF THE LORD (A)



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

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COVID-19 NOTICE
THE CHURCH IS CLOSED

Today, Palm Sunday, we begin our Holy Week Journey, a journey we know so well: a journey to Jerusalem, to the Cross, and to Resurrection.

To state the obvious, this is a Holy Week unlike any other. Who would ever have thought that Churches would have to be closed during this most holy of weeks? In this coming week, and especially in the final three days, it is a time when many people visit churches, not just for the different liturgies, but for peace, quiet and private prayer. There is something about the familiar Easter story that holds people, draws them in, perhaps because of the sadness's they've experienced in their own lives. In some way they identify with the suffering of Jesus, just as they know how much he will understand whatever they may be carrying.

While we are unable to join together in church to celebrate, and remember, the last great events of Our Lord's earthly life, we can, nonetheless, be united as these main services will be livestreamed. So, although in different places, we can be united, united in prayer, remembering what our Lord did for every one of us, because of his great love for us.

Each Holy Week we recall how Jesus carried his cross, out of love, for people everywhere and, indeed, how he continues to carry his cross. This Holy Week we are able to experience the cross in a different and unfamiliar way, as we live with the restrictions that have been placed upon us. As we carry our crosses, we know that Jesus walks with us, he carries our crosses with us, and it is his cross that gives us hope.

HOLY WEEK

This Holy Week we are, very sadly, deprived of physically sharing in the Liturgical celebrations. That however doesn't mean that we can't celebrate this special time; it is, nonetheless, the most important week in the Church's year, so it can't be forgotten. We can participate through the livestreaming of the liturgies here in our church. And we might think of having a focus at home, perhaps a small table with a cloth, a cross and a candle on, to keep before us that this is Holy week. And we can follow the prayers and readings of the various liturgies which will be found at: <https://www.universalis.com/mass.htm> and <https://us.magnificat.net/free>.



PALM BRANCHES

Although it is Palm Sunday, unfortunately, due to the regulations surrounding Coronavirus, it is not possible, this year, to make the palms available.

CHURCH CLOSURE

The Cardinal recently informed us, following direction from the Government: 'that all churches must be closed, and remain closed'. He writes: 'It is essential that we all follow this instruction, painful and difficult though it is'. This is so disappointing, and especially during this Holy Week, when so many like to take the opportunity to reflect quietly on these last great events of Our Lord's earthly life.

LIVESTREAMING

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

Day	Time	Zoom Code
Palm Sunday	11.30am	611-119-696
Tuesday	10.00am	643-534-304
Maundy Thursday	8.00pm	646-172-609
Good Friday	3.00pm	326-061-633
Holy Saturday	8.30pm	250-608-103
Easter Sunday	11.30am	249-755-767

These will be livestreamed on Zoom, please see the attachment, or parish website, for information of how to view. It's also possible that these celebrations may be streamed on YouTube. If so, details will be found on the parish website.

RECONCILIATION/EASTER DUTIES

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.

A PARISH PRAYER

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.



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/>

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

A few weeks ago, as part of our parish mission of 'Seeking Christ Together', your help was 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. Our hope is that **EVERYONE**

would complete this survey including all our young people. Thank you to everyone who has already completed the survey. The closing date was last Tuesday but, given the extraordinary times we are living through we have decided to extend that by another week. 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. Please note the on-line version allows more room for comments. Any questions you may have please email dr.harpendenlol@gmail.com.

Thank you, the DR Development Team

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.stalbansdistrict.foodbank.org.uk>

for up to date information of what is needed most.

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 without a computer, please pass on a copy of the newsletter. If they would like the newsletter to be posted, please let Melanie know.

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:

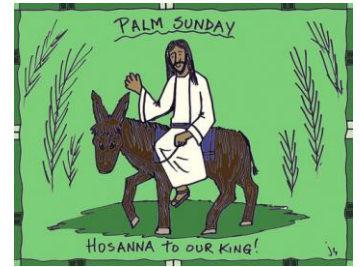
A&B News, Cardiff People, Catholic East Anglia, The Vine, UCM, Reach-Catholic Schools Paper, more newspapers are expected to be added in the coming weeks.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 4th April Lent feria
Frank McConnachie RIP

HOLY WEEK

Sunday 5th April
PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (A)
People of the Parish
11.30am Livestreaming Mass



6th April Monday of Holy Week
Sr Norah (Spec Ints)

7th April Tuesday of Holy Week
10am Livestreaming Mass

8th April Wednesday of Holy Week
Margaret Foulds RIP

THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM

9th April
MAUNDY THURSDAY
8pm Livestreaming Mass



10th April
GOOD FRIDAY
3pm Livestreaming
The Passion of our Lord



11th April
HOLY SATURDAY
People of the Parish
8.30pm Livestreaming Easter Vigil



12th April
EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION (A)
People of the Parish
11.30am Livestreaming Mass of Easter Day



CONFESSIONS - There will be no Confessions