

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)

10TH MAY 2020

Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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Parish Administrator Mrs Melanie Armitage

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

Website: parish.rcdow.org.uk/harpenden twitter: @RC_OLOL

Facebook: Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

Parish Safeguarding Representative Mrs Brigid Brennan

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In today's Gospel, Philip and Thomas are desperate to understand more fully where Jesus is going, how they can get there and what God is like. Big questions! Jesus tries to reassure them, 'do not let your hearts be troubled.' Jesus is urging the disciples to embrace the journey rather than focusing on the destination. It is only in the light of the events that will happen to them (and us) that this period of time will be understood.

It is always about the journey. As the saying goes, 'Life can only be understood backwards but must be lived forwards' (Kierkegaard). In the Old Testament, we read that people experienced God in different ways. For example, Moses experienced God in a burning bush or a cloud; for Elijah it was a whisper; for Solomon, it was in a dream. We each have our personal relationship with God, yet any words we try to put on this relationship can seem insufficient. Yet in Jesus we can experience what God is like and enter into a personal relationship. Jesus models the way for us, shows us that God is love, compassion, inclusive, embracing of all people.

To know Jesus is to know God. This only makes sense in light of John's opening lines of the Gospel, where he says 'The Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us...' Jesus shows us what the presence of God in this world looks like and also what it means to be fully human. Jesus says, 'I am the way, the truth and the life...' This truth lies deep within us and in the world around us. We are each called to discover this truth. Perhaps today is an opportunity to reflect on those personal God-experiences of deep peace and love.

PARISH OFFERTORY

Thank you to everyone who has continued their support of the parish over the past few weeks, your support is much appreciated, as the parish, like yourselves, still has expenses and overheads to meet. I am aware that for some of you there will be uncertainty about employment, as well, perhaps, reduced income, but if you are in a position to continue to give some support to the parish that will be much appreciated. There are two ways in which you can do this, either by banker's draft/internet banking or by standing order.

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

- We understand that some of you have had difficulty with your banks and the parish account name. The Diocese and HSBC are trying to resolve this. The correct account name is: WRCDT Harpenden

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 data base. Some of you will already have received a form to complete and, if you have returned it, thank you. If you would like a form, you can download one from the parish website and, when complete 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.



FIRST COMMUNION

Yesterday, Saturday, and next Saturday, over 70 of our children should have been making their First Holy Communion. Sadly, at this present time, this special day has had to be postponed, and we don't know when this celebration will take place. With Masses suspended, so many are deprived of the gift of the Eucharist, and it is a big gap in our lives. The

children, with so many others, simply have to wait, to receive Jesus in the Eucharist. This is disappointing for the children and their parents, as well as the Catechists, but together, we look forward with great longing, to receiving Jesus in the gift of the Eucharist.

LIVESTREAMING

The following liturgies, will be live-streamed on Zoom, during this coming week:



Day	Time	Zoom Code
5 TH Sunday of Easter 10 th May	11.30am	837-6594-4659
Tuesday 12 th May	10.00am	868-6582-6377
Thursday 14th May	11.00am	852-3125-3608
6 TH Sunday of Easter 17 th May	11.30am	837-6594-4659

Please note the time change on Thursday to 11am

FUNERAL

Please remember in your prayers the late Kathleen Wilson, whose funeral takes place on Thursday. May she rest in peace.

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.



WE CAN PRAY TOGETHER

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.

MARY'S MONTH

May is traditionally the month of Mary, a time when we, particularly, remember and honour the mother of God, and our Mother too. If it's not a regular practice for you, it's a good time to pray the Rosary, or another prayer to Mary, either individually, or as a family. Pope Francis has written a letter and two prayers for May, and these can be found at:

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/39444>.

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.



LIVE SIMPLY - IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE POOR

As we cope with coronavirus in the UK, we think of our sisters and brothers in developing countries who are facing this pandemic with fragile health systems, some of which have almost no intensive care beds or ventilators. Food prices have already risen with borders closing, the poorest are losing their jobs and income with wholesale shutdowns. Furthermore,

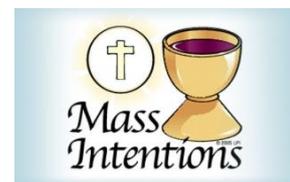


inadequate healthcare, lack of access to washing facilities and limited ability to social distance will result in loss of life on an intolerable scale. The likely impact will be devastating. We are one global family. In order to continue protecting and improving the lives of those in poor communities, your prayers, gifts and voices are needed now more than ever. Please visit cafod.org.uk/coronavirus to find out ways you can give, act and pray in response to this crisis. Laudato Si

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 or book one 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>.

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

REFLECTIONS FOR FAMILIES & CHILDREN
Stations of the Resurrection - Via Lucis (Way of Light) are an opportunity for meditation on the joyful events of Eastertide, originally devised by Pope St John Paul II.:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YVQCocmFq9c> - from the Church of the Resurrection, Solon, Ohio.

STATIONS OF LIGHT FOR CHILDREN

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/colourandshapeonline/274909913510776/>

WEDNESDAY WORD

Some of you will be aware of the 'Wednesday Word' leaflet which provides reflections for children, on the Sunday Gospels. Currently these leaflets are unavailable. As a stopgap - interim online editions of *The Wednesday Word* will be available at: wednesdayword.org/stopgap/Special-Edition.pdf (you may need to refresh your page).

RESOURCES FOR FAMILY CATECHESIS

Support for parents in stories of the Saints (also suitable for Confirmation candidates in considering Saints' names), liturgical calendar, prayer at mealtimes, the crowning of Mary and First Eucharist retreats at home

<https://catechistsjourney.loyolapress.com/>

FAMILY EXAMEN - a prayerful way for a family to look back together on their day:

<https://pray-as-you-go.org/player/prayer%20tools/anexamenforthefamily>

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER - A short reflection on nurturing good communication in this time of confinement:

<https://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/marriage-and-family-life/news/how-to-grow-your-relationship-under-lockdown/>

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

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

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 **Easter feria**
9th May Sr. Sheila RIP (Months Mind)

Sunday
10th May **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)**
11.30am People of the Parish

MASS WILL BE LIVE STREAMED AT 11.30AM ZOOM CODE 837-6594-4659

Monday **Easter feria**
11th May Martin Stears-Handscomb (Spec Ints)

Tuesday **Easter feria**
12th May
10.00am Imola Naldini RIP (Anniv)

MASS WILL BE LIVE STREAMED AT 10.00AM ZOOM CODE 868-6582-6377

Wednesday **Easter feria**
13th May Margaret Foulds RIP

Thursday **St Matthias, Apostle**
14th May
10.00am Funeral of Kathleen Wilson
11.00am Frank Taylor RIP (Anniv)

MASS WILL BE LIVE STREAMED AT 11.00AM ZOOM CODE 852-3125-3608

Friday **Easter feria**
15th May

Saturday **Easter feria**
16th May Fr Robert Dudley RIP

Sunday
17th May **SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)**
11.30am People of the Parish

MASS WILL BE LIVE STREAMED AT 11.30AM ZOOM CODE 837-6594-4659

CONFESSIONS - There will be no Confessions