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OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)

17TH 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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Two sides of Christian living are reflected in today's readings. The Gospel radiates a calmness and peace and reassurance that we all need so much. The First Reading, however, reflects the areas of difference and conflict that are bound to arise when even Christians come face to face with new problems and new questions for the articulation of their faith. Such conflicts, when properly handled, are necessary, even desirable, if we are to have a deeper understanding of the real meaning of our faith in a changing world.

And God speaks to us through the changing situations in which the world finds itself. So, at first sight the answers are not always clear. There are different interpretations and even disagreements until we find where the Spirit is leading us. There can be conflicts like that today - conflicts in the Church, different views on important issues.

Yet both calm and conflict have something in common. They remind us of the different ways in which God speaks to us. Through his Spirit, which Jesus promises to send after he has left his disciples in the flesh, he will continue to be present, to be with his community, the Church.

"If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him." The proof of our "love" for Jesus is that we keep his "word" and in turn we will experience the "love" of the Father, and the Father and Jesus will "abide" (make their home) in us. If we only had those words from Jesus and nothing else, they would be enough to guide us through life and point us in the right direction.

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

Next Thursday, 40 days after Easter, is the feast of the Ascension of the Lord. An important day, which would normally be a holyday of obligation, as we remember Our Lord's Ascension, returning to his Father in heaven. Mass will be live-streamed at 10.00am. See below for details.



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: Westminster Roman Catholic

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 have resolved this and have changed the Bank Account Name to Westminster Roman Catholic**

UPDATING

We are presently trying to update our parish records.

If you have already completed and returned a form, thank you. If you haven't done so yet, it would be helpful if you would. The form is brief, and will take just a minute to complete. If you would like a form, you can download one from

the parish website and, when complete

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

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



Day	Time	Zoom Code
6 TH Sunday of Easter 17 TH May	11.30am	837-6594-4659
Tuesday 19 TH May	10.00am	868-6582-6377
Thursday 21 ST May	10.00am	852-3125-3608
7 TH Sunday of Easter 24 TH May	11.30am	837-6594-4659

SUPPORTING EACH OTHER

A group of parishioners have been telephoning other parishioners, simply to see how they are, and if there is any help that they might need. If you haven't had a call, or know of someone who hasn't, it may be because we haven't got up to date contact details for you. If you would appreciate a call, or know of



someone who would, you can send your contact details to the parish office, or of the person who would like a call, with their permission. Although we can't physically be together, we still offer support to each other.

WE CAN PRAY TOGETHER

Although small steps are being taken to ease the lockdown, it's still important that we pray for everyone affected by Coronavirus. We can't pray in our church, but we can pray together. **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

Many thanks to everyone who has completed the parish survey. The responses received are very important as we 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. 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.



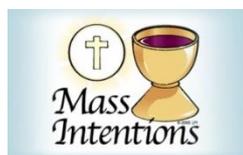
Laudato Si Week 2020 - 16-24 May

The coronavirus pandemic has made us realise just how vulnerable we all are, how inter-connected we are, and how much we depend on each other, locally and globally. The same is true of our relationship with the earth, God's creation. As the earth suffers, so especially do the poor. But there is now a chance for change and healing to take place, for people and for the planet. Pope Francis personally urges us to celebrate the 5th anniversary of the publication of *Laudato Si* by listening again to the cry of the poor and the cry of the earth. You can see his video, and hear the special prayer on the internet: <https://youtu.be/Ji1YpDcHncY>
Laudato Si Week Prayer CHA 2020

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>.

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/>

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.



Thank You

Thank you very much to all the families who have sent their photos in to brighten up our lovely Church.

NEWSPAPERS & DAY BY DAY BOOKS

From this weekend, The Universe Newspaper is available from the Presbytery Front Garden. The newspaper costs £1.50 and there is an honesty box for you to use. The May editions of Bible Alive and Day by Day Adults, Juniors and Infants are also available and as we are half way through May these are free of charge, please come and help yourselves.

The booklets and papers are stored in a clear plastic box on the right-hand side in the presbytery front garden behind the gate.



MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 16th May **Easter feria**
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

Monday 18th May **Easter feria**
Frances Jubb RIP (Anniv)

Tuesday 19th May **Easter feria**
10.00am Bernard Kilkenny RIP
MASS WILL BE LIVE STREAMED AT 10.00AM ZOOM CODE 868-6582-6377

Wednesday 20th May **Easter feria**
Teresa Pitt (Spec Ints)

Thursday 21st May **THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD - Holy Day of Obligation**
10.00am Vincent Nathan RIP (Anniv)
MASS WILL BE LIVE STREAMED AT 10.00AM ZOOM CODE 852-3125-3608

Friday 22nd May **Easter feria**

Saturday 23rd May **Easter feria**

Sunday 24th May **SEVENTH 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