



OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)

24TH 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

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These days between the Ascension of the Lord and the great feast of Pentecost are strange days. Strange days, days of waiting, days when we are conscious of our powerlessness. From time to time, we all get experiences of our own powerlessness and weakness. A sudden illness, or perhaps a brush with death, and we come face to face with our own powerlessness. And simple things too such as waiting in a queue, not an unfamiliar experience at the moment, or waiting in a traffic jam, remind us of our powerlessness, there is simply nothing we can do. And indeed, at this time, in the face of the Coronavirus, we can feel quite powerless, quite helpless, what can we do? It is often only in weakness that we realise our need of the Spirit.

Nine days separate the feast of the Ascension from the feast of Pentecost. During those nine days the apostles, with Mary in their midst, assembled in the upper room and made an intense novena of prayer for the coming of the Holy Spirit. This then is the oldest and most important novena in the Church. Unfortunately, it is also the most neglected. This is a great pity, for each Pentecost renews the gift of the Holy Spirit in the Church.

In whatever way we can we must keep these days as days of prayer. It's not as if we have never received the Spirit. We have, many times, especially at Baptism and Confirmation. But these precious days will help to deepen our consciousness of our need of the Holy Spirit and increase our longing to receive him more completely. Pentecost then will renew his gift in us and in the Church.

STILL OPEN

Our church, sadly locked, like so many others is upsetting, but Mass is still celebrated there, and the life of the parish continues in, albeit, different ways. Some groups are meeting virtually, and others are giving support to some of those who are confined to their homes. Canon Dwyer continues to be available to parishioners, via telephone or email, or to meet virtually, and is happy to be in contact with anyone who wishes to be in touch.

PENTECOST MESSAGE

The Cardinal has recorded a video of a pastoral message in preparation for Pentecost. In it, he reflects on the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, particularly in the context of the circumstances in which we are living at the moment. This message is available online at <https://vimeo.com/421046273> and on the diocesan website. He also writes: 'As we approach Pentecost, let's have a fervent, focused prayer for the coming of the Holy Spirit afresh within us, in our families, our parishes, and in this family of this diocese as a whole. I hope that, on Saturday evening next, the Vigil of Pentecost, you will choose to spend a bit of time in prayer. Please pray for me.

And we say very simply: 'Come Holy Spirit. Fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Amen.'



UPDATING

The task of updating our parish records continues. 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, 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.



CHURCHES REOPENING

The Cardinal informed us during the week that, it is hoped, that churches will reopen for private prayer on July 4th. Although there is no indication when Mass can be celebrated with a congregation, this is good

news. Parishes will be required to put various arrangements in place. Once it is known what is required, we shall be looking for your help, so that our church is open as much as is possible.

LIVESTREAMING

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



Day	Time	Zoom Code
7 TH Sunday of Easter 24 th May	11.30am	837-6594-4659
Tuesday 26 th May	10.00am	868-6582-6377
Thursday 28 th May	10.00am	852-3125-3608
Pentecost Sunday 31 st May	11.30am	837-6594-4659

We are also starting to stream the Masses on YouTube as well. The best way of using YouTube is through your internet browser of choice, navigate to www.youtube.com and search 'Our lady of Lourdes Harpenden' or use this link https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=our+lady+of+lourdes+harpenden

WHAT YOU THINK!

From time to time parishioners express an opinion, about some aspect of parish life, and such opinions are welcome. In recent weeks everyone has been given an opportunity to express their thoughts on different aspects of parish life. Thank you to everyone who has completed the parish survey. If you haven't yet done so, there is still an opportunity to do so. 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. **The final day for returning your form is Friday 29th May.** If you haven't completed a survey don't say you weren't asked!



HAPPY TO HELP

The 'lockdown' continues, and for some it is a very long, and not very easy, time. If you are in this situation and would appreciate a little help, or just a phone call, from time to time, do please let us know. If we don't know we can't help, and we do have willing

volunteers, happy to make contact. Just telephone, or email, your details.

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>.



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

DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP-PLANT SALE- SATURDAY 6TH JUNE

For obvious reasons we are unable to hold our fund-raising Tea in The Garden event this year. Instead we shall hold a two centre, socially distanced Plant Sale.

4 Wensley Close 10am until sold out
23 Sibley Avenue 10am until sold out



Due to risks involved in handling coinage we invite you to pay for your chosen plants using notes only.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

BRIGHT SKY DOMESTIC ABUSE APP

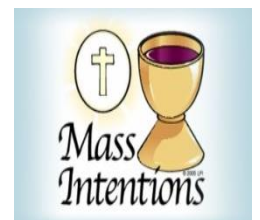
The Diocese have notified us of a service for those who may be suffering some form of domestic abuse and who may be seeking some form of help or support. Thames Valley Partnership with Hestia and the Vodafone Foundation have launched Bright Sky, the first mobile phone app to provide a UK-wide directory of specialist domestic abuse support services. You can find the details and the app here in case you or someone you know might find it helpful: <https://www.hestia.org/brightsky>.

When the church is open again a Notice with these details will be placed on the Noticeboard.

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Mass continues to be celebrated, sometimes in private, and at others times, this will be livestreamed. As far as possible Masses already requested will be celebrated on the date requested, but some may have to be moved to other dates. If you would like to move a Mass Intention please contact the parish office 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

MARY'S MEALS

Mary's Meals provides school feeding programmes in some of the world's poorest communities to allow chronically hungry children into the classroom, where they can gain an education and escape from poverty. An activity book for children and young people, can be accessed by clicking here:

https://d1345tgcm1bzpm.cloudfront.net/assets/global/The_Shed_That_Fed_school_activity_book.pdf

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

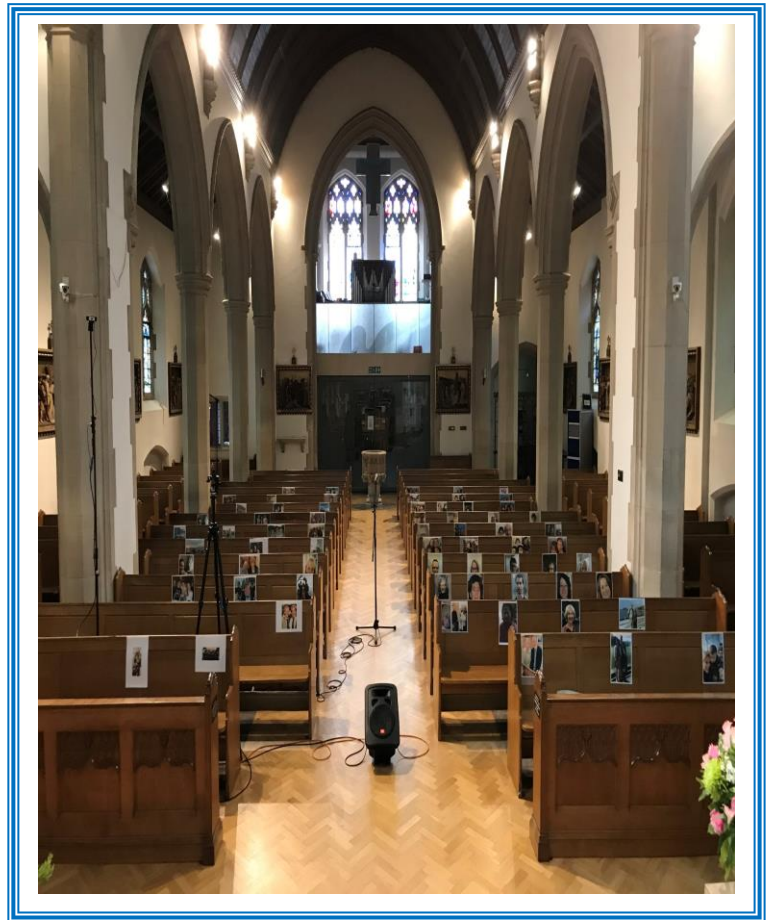
<https://catechistsjourney.loyolapress.com/>

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/>



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

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 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

Monday 25th May St Bede the Venerable, Priest & Doctor

Tuesday 26th May St Philip Neri, Priest
10.00am Marian Jones RIP (Anniv)

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

Wednesday 27th May St Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop
Andrew Pitt (Spec Ints)
Funeral of John Langton - Lockton

Thursday 28st May feria
10.00am Geraldine Martin RIP (Anniv)

MASS WILL BE LIVE STREAMED AT 10.00AM ZOOM CODE 852-3125-3608

Friday 29th May Easter feria

Saturday 30th May Easter feria

Sunday 31st May PENTECOST SUNDAY (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