

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

PENTECOST SUNDAY (A)
31ST 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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Pentecost, celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Church. It may not always be easy to see, or imagine, what this third person of the Holy Trinity is like, or how we experience his influence and power. When we heard that the Coronavirus would cause us to no longer be able to celebrate Mass together, and that the churches would be closed, it really did feel as if everything, that is important to us, had been stripped away. We may well have felt that we had very little left.

Yet, when we look back at these past ten weeks, it is not all quite as bleak as we thought it would be. While it hasn't been easy, a lot of good has been going on; that good, which is the work of the Holy Spirit among us. Having thought that there would be no Mass, many have participated via live streaming and, numbers suggest that more, or less, our regular numbers are present. From your comments, it's obvious how this is appreciated, and how it clearly maintains a sense of belonging. And then our volunteers have been diligently telephoning every parishioner, to see how they are, and if they are in need of assistance. Some of you too, I know, have been uniting in prayer every evening, for those who are unwell, and for everyone in the parish. So, despite the worry and concerns of recent weeks, and which continue, there are signs of life, signs of the Spirit at work, which bring us reassurance and encouragement.

With joy we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, what he is doing for us at this time and, with faith and hope, we look forward to the Holy Spirit continuing to work in, and amongst, us.

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.

SUPPORTING THE PARISH

Although the church is presently closed, various aspects of parish work continue, and I am very grateful to everyone who continues to give their financial support for what is going on. Thank you to those who have recently set up standing orders, or made contributions by internet banking, or dropped your envelopes through the presbytery door. I know that, for some of you, there is worry about employment, or income may be reduced, but if, and I mean if, you are in a position to give your support, that would be much appreciated. If you would like more details please contact Melanie in the Parish Office.

OPENING FOR PRAYER

We are soon hoping to hear, that churches will be allowed to open for private prayer, in the not too distant future. When this takes place, a big responsibility is placed on the parish, of ensuring that they are cleaned daily, and so are places that are safe, and where people will not be fearful of coming. This is quite a big task to organise, and so we will need volunteers to assist with the different tasks. Current Diocesan guidelines indicate that this excludes those who are deemed vulnerable (over 70 years, and/or with certain pre-existing health conditions, self-isolating or shielding); although this could change. How often we open, and for how long, will depend on how many offer their time to assist. If you can help with this please send your details to the parish office.

LIVESTREAMING

Mass will be live-streamed on Zoom, and You Tube this coming week:

Tuesday 2nd June 10.00am
Thursday 4th June 10.00am
Sunday 7th June 11.30am

The best way of using YouTube is via 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

Day	Time	Zoom Code
Sunday 31 st May	11.30am	837-6594-4659
Tuesday 2 nd June	10.00am	868-6582-6377
Thursday 4 th June	10.00am	852-3125-3608
Sunday 7 th June	11.30am	837-6594-4659

UPDATING

The task of updating our parish records continues. We have had a good response but suspect that there are still quite a number who have still to complete a parish data base update. It really is a great help if we have up to date contact information on our parishioners. So, if you haven't yet completed a form, please do so. 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.



YOUR THOUGHTS!

A big 'thank you' to everyone who has taken the trouble to complete a parish survey. We now have the task of analysing, and reflecting on, what you said. We look forward to letting you know what has been sent in. Your thoughts and ideas are very important as we continue with our renewal programme 'Seeking Christ Together'.

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.

PRAY THE ROSARY TODAY

This Sunday afternoon, we are asked to participate in a Rosary rally, joining with other Dioceses across the country. Each Diocese is allocated an hour, to pray the Rosary, then 'pass the baton' as other areas



across the country take it on. Our Diocese of Westminster, is being asked to pray the Rosary between 5-6 p.m. More info at the link https://www.walsingham.org.uk/2020/05/20/pentecost-Sunday-national-rosary-rally/?fbclid=IwAR2jxuGiPVAHoVqiWBKtx65_c-iG6ZjseuFBQdX0hZZFv_JVF6fp3PVfPOE

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.

DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP-PLANT SALE-SATURDAY 6TH JUNE 10AM ONWARDS

4 Wensley Close - tomatoes, courgettes, cucumbers, fuchias, & marigolds

23 Sibley Avenue - chillies, squash/pumpkins, cosmos, nasturtiums, zinnias, sunflowers, rosemary, begonias, weigela, spiraea, begonias, geraniums.



Telephone orders welcome for either collection or delivery if necessary. 01582 760295 or 07891083251

All money raised will go towards our Small Change Project in Africa which helps women to set up their own small businesses and has helped many to become self-sufficient. If you don't need plants but would still like to contribute to this Parish event please feel free to leave a donation, cash or cheque (Our Lady of Lourdes Developing World Group) in an envelope clearly marked DWG.

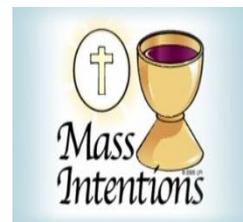


Unfortunately, as yet, we cannot do online banking. Many thanks for your continued support.

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 programs 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/>

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 **JUNE** editions of **Bible Alive** and **Day by Day** have arrived and are in the box, 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.



Many thanks to everyone who has sent in a family photo we have now filled the centre pews of the Church.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

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

Monday 1st June The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church

Thomas O'Boyle RIP

Funeral Joseph Risely RIP

Tuesday 2nd June feria

10.00am Carmel Bull RIP (1st Anniv)

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

Wednesday 3rd June Ss Charles Lwanga & Companions, Martyrs

Cheryl Petitt (Spec Ints)

Thursday 4th June OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST

10.00am Gerry Martin RIP (Anniv)

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

Friday 5th June St Boniface, Bishop & Martyr

Saturday 6th June feria

Mary Farmer RIP

Sunday 7th June THE MOST HOLY TRINITY (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