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OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)
GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY
3RD 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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The Good Shepherd

On this fourth Sunday of Easter we hear Jesus portraying himself as a shepherd. And what is the duty of this shepherd? To protect his flock, to lead the flock, to know the flock. There is a beautiful line in this passage which reads: 'the sheep follow him because they know his voice.' What does it mean, to know the voice of Jesus? It is to be in deep relationship with Him, to know His voice above the 'noise' of the world around us. In order to know someone, we have to spend time with them, being aware of their presence, talking to them, listening, considering them friend and beloved.

So, today's Gospel invites us into a deep relationship with the Shepherd; invites us to listen out for his voice, a voice that brings peace, not discomfort. As we ponder this Gospel reading so we are caught up in the worry of the Coronavirus outbreak. With social distancing, schools and colleges closed, it is a frightening time for many people. As Christ is shepherd to us, so we are also called to be shepherds to others. To check in on neighbours, or those who might be vulnerable; to help those who might be hungry, through supporting a local foodbank; to telephone someone, living alone, who is self-isolating.

Despite the worry of Coronavirus, and the restrictions we are living with, there are signs of goodness to be seen. Signs of goodness as we witness how many are ready to shepherd, to care for, others. The qualities of the Good Shepherd we can express, not just in times of crisis, but in all times so that all may 'have life and have it abundantly.'

PARISH OFFERTORY

A number of parishioners have been in touch to enquire how they might continue their regular giving, in support of the parish. We do not know how long the current situation will continue for and I am conscious that with the uncertainty the current situation creates, many will be concerned about their jobs and livelihoods. If you are able to - and I genuinely mean 'if' - and you wish to continue with your regular pattern of giving there are two ways in which this might be done. Firstly, you might wish to contribute through internet banking.

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, to help our bookkeeper. Secondly, you may like to consider giving by standing order. Both of these ways are good as they avoid the weekly handling of both envelopes and cash. If so, please email the parish office at harpenden@rcdow.org.uk and ask for details of how you might give by standing order.

- Thank you to everyone who has now set up a standing order, or made payments to the parish by banker's draft.

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.



LIVESTREAMING

We will be livestreaming the following liturgies, on Zoom, during this coming week:



| Day | Time | Zoom Code |
|--|---------|---------------|
| 4 th Sunday of Easter 3 rd May | 11.30am | 916-3928-9657 |
| Tuesday 5 th May | 10.00am | 868-6582-6377 |
| Thursday 7 th May | 10.00am | 852-3125-3608 |
| 5 th Sunday of Easter 10 th May | 11.30am | 837-6594-4659 |

Please see the parish website, for information on how to view. Or contact Melanie for more information.

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

Today we are asked to pray for our seminarians and encourage other men to consider the call to the priesthood. The seminaries, Allen Hall, the Venerable English College and the Beda College in Rome, where future Westminster priests are in formation, are physically closed. Nevertheless, prayer continues in the life of seminarians and staff, and they are able to participate in streamed liturgies. All have on-line lectures, regular conversations with formation staff and spiritual direction. Our seminarians are praying for an end to the pandemic, for the priests serving in the parishes and hospitals, the heroic healthcare staff and care workers, and all who are suffering from this virus. While the present reality lacks the community dimension of formation and the important common liturgical life, their studies and preparation for priesthood continue. Due to the pandemic, as we are unable to gather in our churches to celebrate Mass, this year there will not be a collection for the Priests' Training Fund. Donations to the Priests' Training Fund are always gratefully received. If you wish to make a donation, please visit <https://rcdow.org.uk/donate/priests-training-fund/>. Please pray for the seminarians and those discerning God's call at this time. May they model through their actions and words the example of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, who came to serve and not to be served.



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.



LET US PRAY

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.



BEING PRESENT

Whilst we cannot be physically present in church, imagine if there were 'faces in the pews', we would be symbolically present, a little bit of each of you that I would see when I celebrate mass. It would also reinforce our sense of belonging in our community in these unprecedented times. The idea is taken from other parishes in the UK and in mainland Europe, so if you wish to have an image visible from the sanctuary, and are happy to have it displayed in this way, please send a picture (preferably A4 or A5 in size) of you and members of your family - electronically (to harpenden@rcdow.org.uk) or by post to the presbytery.

**Thank
You!**

Thank you to everyone who has sent in a picture of their family you can see how our church is beginning to fill up again!! There's room for more so please keep sending them in!



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



RESILIENCE AT HOME GUIDE

Attached, to this newsletter, is a guide on resilience at home

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-](https://pray-as-you-go.org/player/prayer%20tools/anexamenforthefamily)

[go.org/player/prayer%20tools/anexamenforthefamily](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



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

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.

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
2nd May **St Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor**
Fr Robert Dudley RIP (1st Anniv)

Sunday
3rd May **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)**
11.30am People of the Parish

MASS WILL BE LIVE STREAMED AT 11.30AM ZOOM CODE 961-3928-9657

Monday
4th May **The English Martyrs**
Ernesto & Alceste Bertoli RIP (Anniv)

Tuesday
5th May **Easter feria**
10.00am John Cheevers RIP

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

Wednesday
6th May **Easter feria**
Family of Stephen Sedgely Spec Ints

Thursday
7th May **Easter feria**
10.00am Valerie McGarry RIP

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

Friday
8th May **Easter feria**

Saturday
9th May **Easter feria**
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

CONFESSIONS - There will be no Confessions