



OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)
12TH JULY 2020

Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

Presbytery: 1, Kirkwick Avenue, Harpenden AL5 2QH Tel: 01582 712245
Email: anthonydwyer@rcdow.org.uk

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

Email: harpensg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk Tel: 07881 785 299

Today's Gospel is in three parts: the parable Jesus taught, an explanation on how to listen, and an explanation of Jesus' teaching. The parable itself is well known and concerns seeds, where they land, and what happens to them. We might see the seeds as representing God's Word and the effect it has, or does not have, on us. What makes the difference, in the parable, is the type of soil the seed lands on and how suitable it is for growth to take place.

We might see our own hearts as the soil: how open are we to receiving seeds that may be planted there? What condition is our 'soil' in? Any decent gardener will know that good soil is key in order to cultivate anything. Soil needs to be weathered, broken down; it can be too acidic, or it can be too alkaline. We too are weathered down by various forces in our lives, and when negative things come our way. This can either close us down and harden our hearts, or it can open us up help us to grow, ready to receive the seeds that are scattered. Like the soil, we must take care of our bodies, hearts, and minds.

The lesson on 'hearing' in the Gospel today is also important. How do we listen? Do we listen or read God's word while being distracted by many things, or are we fully attentive, even for a few minutes each day? How do we listen to one another? Fully attentive or with one eye on our phone? Each day, in different forms, many words come our way. May we learn to recognise those words, that are life-giving, and allow them to put down deep roots within us.

MASS IN CHURCH

It was a very happy experience last Sunday, to be able to celebrate Mass with, at least, some parishioners. Next weekend, a further Mass will be added to the schedule, on **Saturday evening at 5.00pm, and then on Sunday at 10.30am**. And there will also be **Masses on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, at 9.15am**. Our church is limited in the number of people we can accommodate, which is why we ask that you let us know if you are hoping to attend Mass, so we can let you know if there is a seat for you. If you wish to reserve a seat for up to two people, please do so via the link on the parish website: **parish.rcdow.org.uk/harpenden**. From today seats can be booked for Mass on Tuesday and Thursday too. For three or more seats, please email, or telephone, the parish office. I'm aware that Mass is somewhat different, with lots of directions being given but, I'm grateful to for your cooperation, and support, in this regard.

When you come to Mass, you are asked to:

- Follow the stewards' instructions
- Sanitise your hands on entering and leaving the church
- Observe social distancing of 2m
- Follow the one-way system around the church
- Sit in a pre-allocated seat
- Avoid touching surfaces

VOLUNTEERS

My hope is that we will be able to celebrate more Masses. I'm happy to celebrate additional Masses, but I can only do so if there are sufficient volunteers to supervise, and to clean the church, after each Mass, in accordance with the guidelines from the Government and the Diocese. I'm grateful to those who have already volunteered, but there is room for more. If you haven't yet offered your time, do think about assisting, and don't just assume somebody else will do so. In these peculiar times, we are all in this together, and the life of the parish, depends, on

everyone who can, playing their part. If you can assist please contact the parish office.



PARISH LIFE CONTINUES

Although, we are far from back to normal, the life of the parish continues, albeit in different ways. The parish office remains closed, but the Office Administrator, is contactable by email. Canon Dwyer, too, 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.

LIVESTREAMING

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

Day	Time	Zoom Code
Sunday 12 th July	10.30am	849-6412-0824
Tuesday 14 th July	9.15am	811 -7131 -0842
Thursday 16 th July	9.15am	826-6240-6032
Sunday 19 th July	10.30am	849-6412-0824

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

HAPPY TO HELP

people Helping People



With the 'lockdown' reducing, it is still the case that there are many people still in isolation, and that will not be a 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.

LET US PRAY TOGETHER

As a parish, let us unite ourselves in prayer each evening at 7.30pm.

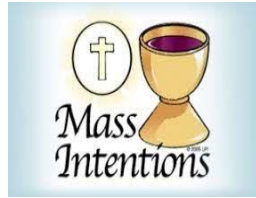
We pray for everyone affected by Coronavirus, Using whatever prayer is familiar to ourselves and our family.

SEEKING WORK

A parishioner is seeking work as a Carer, or carrying out domestic work. Very experienced and good references. For further information, please contact Canon Dwyer.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mass continues to be celebrated, sometimes in private, and on Sundays Tuesdays and Thursdays in church with a congregation, and 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, or arrange for Mass to be celebrated, please contact the parish office by email.



PERSONAL ASSISTANT

A Personal Assistant (PA) is being sought to join a team to support a pleasant young disabled client who is a wheelchair user with complex cerebral palsy in his own home. His PA you will assist him in all aspects of personal care and support. For more information: Please contact the Team Leader on 07940 595466

NEWSPAPERS & DAY BY DAY BOOKS

Over the last few weeks we have placed the Catholic Newspapers, Day by Day books & Bible Alive Books in a storage box in the Presbytery Garden. Due to very low very sales we need to re-think our ordering so we are not left with lots of unsold items. If you would like Melanie to order you a copy of The Universe Newspaper or a copy of either Day by Day, or Bible Alive please contact her via email or telephone the Parish Office. Then your surname will be written on the chosen periodical ready for you to collect from the Presbytery Garden. The newspaper costs £1.50, Day By Day books are £1 on a monthly basis and the Bible Alive booklet is £3.50 per month.



The JULY editions of Day by Day 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 and there is an honesty box for your payment.

AREN'T WE FORTUNATE!

In our part of Hertfordshire, we have such an outstanding and historical building as St. Albans Abbey / Cathedral. It was founded in the 8th Century and is the Shrine of Britain's first saint and martyr, and is the oldest site of continuous Christian worship in this country. The other very unusual aspect of the life of this Church of England Abbey is that Catholic Mass is celebrated there every week. There is no other example of this anywhere in the UK. It has taken place ever since 1983. Worship will resume again, in common with all the churches, and the next Catholic Mass will be celebrated on this coming Friday 17th July at 12.00noon. Why not give it a try?

The celebration is a very prayerful occasion. Because the Nave is so extensive there is no problem about distancing. Just enter by the Welcome Entrance.



We look forward to seeing you.

Mgr. Harry Turner (R.C. Ecumenical Chaplain)

SAVE THE DATE - AND YOUR JIGSAWS!

Please could you hold onto to any jigsaws you have including those which have kept you busy in the lockdown. We will need as many as possible next year for a Jigsaw Puzzle Festival on 4-5 June 2021 at High Street Methodist Church. The proceeds will go to charity including a Developing World Group project. We and our Methodist friends



are working together to organise this festival where lots of completed jigsaws will be displayed for sale, along with refreshments. We will be seeking donations of jigsaws from parishioners and their friends, including jigsaws that are not finished which we will find jigsaw lovers - 'dissectologists' - to complete. All kinds wanted, the more the merrier. Please email jonlcarr@gmail.com to let us know if you would like to

get involved in any way, eg by donating jigsaws or by making those donated to us. Further details to follow in the Parish Newsletter/website. Thank you.

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, when not everyone can receive Holy Communion, a Spiritual Communion can be made'.

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**



Although lockdown is gradually being lifted, the following suggestions may be of help for reflection, for adults and children:

'THE GOD WHO SPEAKS'

In this time of pandemic when we can't reach out to the Sacraments, we can always reach out to the word; and indeed it is through the word that the Word is always reaching out to us, even in the darkest and most challenging of situations. '**The God Who Speaks**' website continues to provide a range of information, ideas and resources encouraging a greater exploration of Holy Scripture, including:

Word at Home - ideas to help you create a prayerful, scriptural and reflective time at home.

'Top Tens' - from parables to paintings, from animals to films, the 'Top Tens' features creative ways to help us engage with Scripture.

Word 3600 - Prayers, thoughts and resources for

Celebrating, Living and Sharing God's Word in today's world.

To view these and other resources provided by CBCEW in partnership with the Bible Society, see the regularly updated '**The God Who Speaks**' website:
<https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/>

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/>

FOR THE CHILDREN

For families with children of primary school age Top Ten Resources has been created to help enable Sunday prayer and worship during the period of church closures.

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/primary-subscription/prayers-for-home/dailyprayers-for-home>

Other resources include 'Wednesday Word', and offers activities that families can do at home:
<http://www.wednesdayword.org/>

CAFOD also offer suggestions for marking Sundays:
<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy>

NEWSLETTER

Although we are now beginning to celebrate Mass, with a congregation, for the time being at least, the newsletter will continue to be sent by email. Apart from being ecologically friendly, not handling paper reduces the possibility of passing on infection. If you are not presently receiving a copy, and would like to do so, please email harpenden@rcdow.org.uk. If you know 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 11th July St Benedict, Abbot, Patron of Europe

Sunday 12th July 15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

10.30am People of the Parish

MASS WILL BE LIVE STREAMED AT 10.30AM ZOOM CODE 849-6412-0824

Monday 13th July *feria*
Claire Morgado (Spec Ints)

Tuesday 14th July *feria*
9.15am Betty Hines (Spec Ints)

MASS WILL BE LIVE STREAMED AT 9.15AM ZOOM CODE 811-7131-0842

Wednesday 15th July St Bonaventure, Bishop & Doctor
Mike & Mary Figg (Spec Ints)

Thursday 16th July *feria*
9.15am Francis & Lily Moran RIP

MASS WILL BE LIVE STREAMED AT 9.15AM ZOOM CODE 826-6240-6032

Friday 17th July *feria*

Saturday 18th July *feria*
5.00pm Margaret Martin RIP (Anniv)

MASS WILL NOT BE LIVE STREAMED

Sunday 19th July 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

10.30am People of the Parish

MASS WILL BE LIVE STREAMED AT 10.30AM ZOOM CODE 849-6412-0824

CONFESSIONS - There will be no Confessions