



# OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)  
19<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2020

## Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

Presbytery: 1, Kirkwick Avenue, Harpenden AL5 2QH Tel: 01582 712245  
Email: [anthonydwyer@rcdow.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:harpenden@rcdow.org.uk)  
Website: [parish.rcdow.org.uk/harpenden](http://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](mailto:harpensg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) Tel: 07881 785 299

In today's Gospel, we hear many parables about the 'Kingdom of heaven' and what it is like. This might move us to think about the afterlife, but Jesus was describing God's kingdom in the here and now, 'on earth as in heaven.' Jesus, through parables, is trying to describe what is difficult to comprehend. Parables allow our minds and hearts to ponder, to imagine, to move beyond the constraints of language. Jesus is describing what God's vision for this world is like, in the here and now!

Taking one of these parables, the mustard seed, we can explore a little more. There is an ancient text which forbade planting mustard seeds in Palestinian gardens because the shrub would take over. It can go wild, out of control, and attract unwanted birds. Author Shane Claiborn compares it to kudzu, a wild vine that could blanket entire mountain areas and even crack cement buildings. It's a fascinating thought, the idea of something so small causing so much mischief, holy mischief!

What is small can be looked down on, even despised. We might say what we have to offer is small, and therefore of no value or significance. Little things, small gestures can, and do, make a difference. When we offer what God has given us, then we contribute to the building of God's kingdom.

The Kingdom of Heaven is like this? Yes, growing even where it is not wanted. People in authority during Jesus' time might have had images of the 'lofty cedars of Lebanon' representing the 'reign of God.' Theirs was a grand vision. As with most of Jesus' parables, he turns things on their head. It is through the smallest of seeds that God's grace affects the world, silently making its way through the cracks.

## MASS IN CHURCH

We are now able to celebrate Mass in church, four times a week. From this weekend, a second Mass will be celebrated on Saturday evening at 5.00pm. 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](http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/harpenden). 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, this is in the interests of everyone, and I'm grateful for your patience, 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

I continue to hope 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. Remember, our parish like many others relies on many older or retired people to act as volunteers. At the moment many of these are being asked to shield and to remain indoors, so we need more of our younger parishioners to step up. 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.



## CONFESSION



It is a long time since it was possible to hear confessions in church. We have now received permission to begin hearing confessions again, subject to certain guidelines. Anyone wishing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, should contact Canon Dwyer, to make an arrangement.

## LIVESTREAMING

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

Day	Time	Zoom Code
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	10.30am	849-6412-0824
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	9.15am	811 -7131 -0842
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> July	10.30am	849-6412-0824

The best way of using YouTube is via your internet browser of choice, navigate to [www.youtube.com](http://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](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=our+lady+of+lourdes+harpenden)

## FUNERAL

The funeral takes place on Thursday, at 11.00am, of the late Joanna Roche. Please pray for the repose of her soul, and the comfort of her family.

May she rest in peace.

Due to current restrictions, as there is a limit on the number in church, only those invited by the family may attend this Mass.

- Please note there is no Mass at 9.15am this Thursday.

## FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION



I'm well aware that many of our young people, and their parents, are anxiously waiting to hear when the First Communion and Confirmation celebrations will be taking place. Plans are now being drawn up to celebrate

both Sacraments, in accord with the guidelines, after the summer break. Hopefully, very shortly, we will be able to let you know what is happening.



## THE BIBLE IN A YEAR:

This year in the Church has been a year dedicated to the God Who Speaks, encouraging Catholics to become more intimately connected to God through Scripture. Due to the pandemic, this initiative is being expanded into 2021. To help bring members of our Parish together through Scripture, we are going to launch a 'Read the Bible in a Year' reading group. A plan will be sent out to everyone who signs up, which breaks the Bible down into manageable daily readings, which will enable us to read the whole Bible, in a year. The Bible in a Year plan is set to start on 6th August, the Feast of the Transfiguration. If you wish to participate in the Reading Group, please email Jay Caracciolo at [jay3qsm@gmail.com](mailto:jay3qsm@gmail.com)

## FOUND IN CHURCH

A charm, found in church, has been handed in. If you think it is yours, please contact the Parish Office.

## HAPPY TO HELP

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.

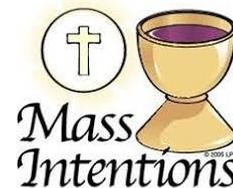
We pray for everyone affected by Coronavirus, Using whatever prayer is familiar to ourselves and our family.

## 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 Saturdays, 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. As 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

If you would like a copy of the Catholic Newspaper the Universe or a copy of Bible Alive or Day by Day for the month of July, they are available from the plastic box in the Presbytery Garden.

From October the Day by Day Books will only be available if you have requested a copy, why not try a copy, if you have never purchased one before, if you would like to receive a copy each month pass your details onto the Parish Office. 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.



## CAFOD APPEAL

CAFOD has joined with the UK Disasters Emergencies Committee to help millions of people whose lives are at risk, as coronavirus spreads across refugee camps and countries suffering conflict. You can donate at [cafod.org.uk/coronavirus](https://cafod.org.uk/coronavirus) to help CAFOD scale up its coronavirus response through our global Church family. Or use CAFOD's Summer of Hope fundraising ideas with your family and friends to transform lockdown and raise money for the appeal: [cafod.org.uk/summerofhope](https://cafod.org.uk/summerofhope). Please remember these suffering people in your prayers.

### CAFOD CORONAVIRUS APPEAL



**PAX CHRISTI** have written an Appeal to Pope Francis for Non-Violence: 'a path to action and conversion beyond Covid-19.

If you would like to add your name to the appeal, you can do so, see the link below.

Laudato Si

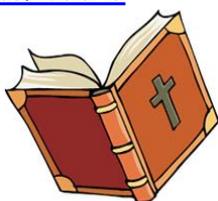
<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/40013>

## 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

If you would like a newsletter sent to you electronically please send your email address to:

[harpenden@rcdow.org.uk](mailto: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 18<sup>TH</sup> JULY**  
**VIGIL MASS**  
5.00pm

**FERIA**  
Margaret Martin RIP (Anniv)  
**MASS WILL NOT BE LIVE STREAMED**

**SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY**  
10.30am

**16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)**  
People of the Parish  
**MASS WILL BE LIVE STREAMED AT 10.30AM ZOOM CODE 849-6412-0824**

**MONDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

**FERIA**  
Elizabeth Mullins RIP

**TUESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> JULY**  
9.15am

**FERIA**  
Brian & Elizabeth Mitchell (Golden Wedding Anniversary)

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

**WEDNESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY ST MARY MAGDALENE**

**THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> JULY**  
9.15am  
11.00am

**ST BRIDGET OF SWEDEN, PATRON OF EUROPE**  
**NO MASS**  
Funeral of Johanna Roche RIP

**FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

**FERIA**

**SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JULY**  
**VIGIL MASS**  
5.00pm

**ST JAMES, APOSTLE**  
**MASS WILL NOT BE LIVE STREAMED**

**SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JULY**  
10.30am

**17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)**  
People of the Parish  
**MASS WILL BE LIVE STREAMED AT 10.30AM ZOOM CODE 849-6412-0824**

**CONFESSIONS - There will be no Confessions**