



OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)
26TH 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

Over the past few weeks, we have been reading Matthew's Gospel, with its parables on the Kingdom of Heaven. Matthew uses this phrase to describe what our world might be like if we really lived like Jesus lives. This vision is not one focused on power, even though the word 'kingdom' might be misleading! It is more a web of relationships. Like the seed parables show us, God's Kingdom grows quietly, in unexpected places; like seeds, it sometimes grows in the darkness, unseen.

Today's parable focuses on treasure, something very precious. When we are obsessed with finding something, it consumes us. We will put all our resources, time or money, into finding it. In this parable, Jesus urges us to strive for the ultimate treasure, i.e. God. During the Covid-19 crisis, many people have been thinking about what is most important in their lives. A break from the 'rat race' forced many to slow down, to step back, to 'pull the emergency brake.'

We saw who the real heroes in our society are. We witnessed many acts of kindness and community spirit. We stepped back, paused. Will things be the same again after this pandemic, who knows? Hopefully, though, we will have awakened to what our 'treasure' really is.

Arundhati Roy writes: 'Historically, pandemics have forced humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew. This one is no different. It is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next. We can choose to walk through it, dragging along what has weighed us down, what hasn't served us well, our prejudice and negativity. Or we can walk through lightly, with little luggage, ready to imagine another world.'

MASS IN CHURCH

We are now able to celebrate Mass in church, four times a week: Saturday at 5.00pm, Sunday at 10.30am, and Tuesdays and Thursdays 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 for three or more, please email, or telephone, the parish office. Going on last week's experience, for the Sunday Mass, there were more requests for seats, than there were seats available, while there were vacant seats on Saturday evening. **If you do request a place, and then find you can't take it up, please be sure to let us know, as there is, almost certainly, somebody hoping for a place.**

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

You are also encouraged to:

- Limit interactions with anyone you are not attending church with.
- Wear face coverings in enclosed public spaces where there are people, they do not normally meet, such as a church.

VOLUNTEERS

Having our churches open is a great joy and, even more so, that we can now celebrate Mass again with, albeit, a small congregation. Anything we do in church, at present, puts huge responsibilities on us. We are required to take details for 'Track and Trace', to ensure social distancing is maintained, and to clean the church after every activity. While we have a number of volunteers, there is still room for more. In these demanding times it would be good if everyone who could, would assist with these tasks, at the moment it is only a comparatively small number offering their time, which is both disappointing, and not easy to understand. We are, after all, a part of the one parish family and, as in every family, each

needs to play their part, for the good of others. 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. 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 26 th July	10.30am	849-6412-0824
Tuesday 28 th July	9.15am	811-7131-0842
Thursday 30 th July	9.15am	826-6240-6032
Sunday 2 nd August	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

BAPTISMS

We now have permission, as well as guidelines, for the celebration of Baptisms. Those whose Baptisms were postponed, should already have had a message from Canon Dwyer. Anyone wanting to discuss the possibility of a Baptism, should contact the parish office.



Transfiguration. A number of people have signed up already, to join the group please contact Jay Caracciolo at jay3gsm@gmail.com

FOUNDATION GOVERNOR

St Dominic RC primary school is currently recruiting Foundation Governors, and would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in joining our team. In particular, we are hoping to hear from someone with experience in managing buildings and health & safety compliance.

Governors give their service voluntarily and no formal qualifications are necessary, although there are eligibility criteria - specifically Foundation Governors must be a practising and committed Catholic.

Governors are ordinary people, aged over 18, with a special commitment to the education and well-being of children

If you are interested in the role, then please do look at our school website and specifically [this link](#) for further information about both the role that Governors play in supporting Catholic education, and also the other Governors with whom you would be working.

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.



SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Like many other schools, our parish school, St Dominic's closed for the summer last Friday after, what has been an extraordinary four months. A big 'thank you' is extended to the Head, and all the staff, for the great amount of work they have put in to make the environment both safe and welcoming for the children in these difficult days. Hopefully, the whole school community can now have a relaxed and enjoyable summer.



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.



THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

"The God Who Speaks is a celebration throughout the Catholic Church in the UK, which aims to engage Catholics in reading Scripture. Due to the pandemic, this celebration is being extended into 2021. We are inviting members of the parish to join a 'Read the Bible in a Year' reading group. The Bible readings mix daily readings from the Old and New Testament, and will take approximately 15 minutes a day. The daily readings will start on the 6th August, the Feast of the



LET US PRAY TOGETHER

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

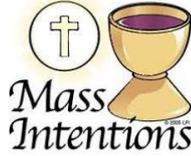
We pray for everyone affected by Coronavirus, Using whatever prayer is familiar to ourselves and our family.

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.

FOUND IN CHURCH

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

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 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. 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>



NJPN - VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

The National Justice and Peace Network last week discussed social issues arising during the pandemic and the imperative of Catholic social teaching to imagine a more just and sustainable future. For an important and challenging report follow the link below:

<https://indcatholicnews.com/news/40059>

Laudato Si

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

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 25TH JULY ST JAMES, APOSTLE

VIGIL MASS
5.00pm

MASS WILL NOT BE LIVE STREAMED

SUNDAY 26TH JULY 17TH 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 27TH JULY FERIA

TUESDAY 28TH JULY FERIA
9.15am

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

WEDNESDAY 29TH JULY ST MARTHA

THURSDAY 30TH JULY FERIA
9.15am Karol Gajewski RIP (1st Anniv)

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

FRIDAY 31ST JULY ST IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA, PRIEST

SATURDAY 1ST AUGUST ST ALPHONSUS LIGUORI, BISHOP & DOCTOR

VIGIL MASS
5.00pm

Betty & Graham Hinds (Golden Wedding Anniv)

MASS WILL NOT BE LIVE STREAMED

SUNDAY 2ND AUGUST 18TH 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