



OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)
20TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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Listening to today's parable it might be said that it is intended to bring comfort to everyone who does the minimum, those who arrive at the last minute.

In Jesus' time, if an employer needed some workers, he would go to the marketplace, look at those on offer, and select the most promising. Therefore, by the eleventh hour, what was left? Only the most unemployable. The idea that any employer would come along and take these people on, and to pay them the same wages as the others, was unthinkable. We can understand why those who had worked all day long objected so strongly when the eleventh-hour people were treated as equals.

But as heard in the first reading: 'my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts'. Jesus is making the point that God is generous. His generosity is extended to everybody, even to sinners and Gentiles. We must not limit God. We must not imagine that he is small minded like ourselves. 'My thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways are not your ways', says God.

God does not work on the merit system. A good thing too! Which of us would be happy that God would treat us according to what we have earned or according to strict justice? The truth is, to a greater or lesser degree, we are all eleventh-hour workers. Therefore, we all stand to benefit from God's extraordinary goodness.

It is not the length of the service we have given that matters but the amount of love we have shown. What matters is the spirit we bring to it. Our main concern must not be rewards, but simply the joy of serving God.

MASSES

It is good that this week the number of Masses celebrated increases. Mass times are now: Saturday, the Vigil Mass at 5.00pm, and on Sundays at 9.00am and 10.30am. On weekdays Masses are celebrated on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 9.15am. The issue we have is that every time the church is open, and after every Mass, the pews, and other parts of the church have to be sanitised. If more of you would volunteer to help, that would be so helpful, please contact the parish office with your name and telephone number. Please be reassured that social distancing is strictly observed, that face masks must be worn and that the distribution of Holy Communion is carefully organised. If you would like to attend Mass, you can request places for up to two people via the parish website: parish.rcdow.org.uk/harpenden and for three or more please contact the parish office.

FIRST COMMUNION

Next Saturday and Sunday, at three additional Masses, some 40 or so children will, at last, make their First Holy Communion. First Communion Day is always a special day, and all the more so this year, having had to wait so long. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers.



SCHOOL FORMS

This is the time of year when applications are being made for secondary schools, and priest's references are being sought. As with so many aspects of our lives we won't be able to follow our normal practice this year. Presently, we are working out what is the safest way to proceed, for all involved. Once a decision has been made, and schools consulted, we will let you know.



YOUR SUPPORT

Thank you to everyone who has continued to contribute to the support of the parish, whether donating by standing order, internet banking, or dropping your envelope through the presbytery door. If you wish to contribute via the bank, or would like planned giving envelopes, please contact the parish office.



LIVESTREAMING

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



DAY	TIME	ZOOM CODE
Tues 22nd Sept	9.15am	892-0506-4664
Thurs 24th Sept	9.15am	868-8669-7097
Sun 27th Sept	10.30am	872-9131-5005

FROM THE REGISTERS:

BAPTISM We welcomed the following children into God's family during the month of August: Harold Jones, Annabel & Oral Hartnett, Joshua & Freya O'Neill



MARRIAGES



Congratulations to Sharon & Michael, Stuart & Clare and Samantha & John who were all married here since July

CONFIRMATION

Good news! By now all our Confirmation Candidate's Parents should have received an email from Anna Painter our Catechist informing you of the Confirmation Mass Dates. If you have not received the email, please do check your junk folder /email Anna or the Parish Office and we can make sure you have all the details. We look forward to celebrating this sacrament, and ask that you keep our young people in your prayers.



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.

MOTHERS PRAYERS GROUP

Mothers Prayers was formed to help those mothers who wished to pray together for their children and

grandchildren (www.mothersprayers.org). A Mothers Prayers group will be meeting on Zoom on Sunday evenings. For details please email Mary Figg at:

mothersprayerssharpden@gmail.com

NEWSPAPERS & DAY BY DAY BOOKS

Please remember that the Catholic Universe Newspaper, Day by Day books & Bible Alive Books are available to be purchased from the Presbytery Front Garden, they are kept in a clear plastic storage box to the right hand side behind the hedge 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 September editions of Day by Day and Bible Alive** are available this weekend, please come and help yourselves.



LIVESIMPLY

There is only a week to go now before our parish LiveSimply on-line Zoom meeting with John Paul de Quay who will present "Ecological Conversion: the Journey to 2030". With the future of the whole of Creation, and all young lives likely to be affected, and with many countries facing extreme climate crisis, we can all discover what we can do as individuals and as a community to protect what Pope Francis has led people to call Our Common Home. If you would like to join us this coming Saturday 26 September at 11.00 am, please contact Graham at graham-ryan@sky.com. You will be very welcome to join us.

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE, MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

The 2020 theme for the International Day of Peace is "Shaping Peace Together". We can celebrate the day by spreading compassion, kindness and hope. As Pope Francis has said, the gifts God has given us provides us with a deeper motivation "to seek living conditions and models of society that favour the continued flourishing of life and the development of the common good of the entire human family".

A NOTE FROM GENEVIEVE:

I'm doing the Virtual London Marathon for CAFOD! All money raised will be going to CAFOD's water projects. If running this marathon can mean more clean water for those who need it, it will be worth the pain!

Please give what you can to help end water poverty (and motivate me to keep running those 26 long miles on 4 October):

Link to the sponsorship page:

<https://celebration.cafod.org.uk/celebrations?p=fd&v=a2S4H000001HCP8UAO>

NEWSLETTER

If you are not presently receiving a copy of the Newsletter, and would like to do so, please email harpden@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. Know someone who doesn't have a computer, please pass on a copy of the newsletter.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

<p>SATURDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER</p> <p align="right">5.00PM</p>	<p>FERIA</p> <p>VIGIL MASS Tita O'Connor RIP</p>
<p>SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER</p> <p align="right">9.00AM 10.30AM</p>	<p>25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Rita Vincent (Spec Ints) People of the Parish</p> <p>Zoom Code 872-9131-5005</p>
<p>MONDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER</p>	<p>ST MATTHEW, Apostle & Evangelist</p>
<p>TUESDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER</p> <p align="right">9.15AM</p>	<p>FERIA Sr Imelda & Sr Alphonsus RIP</p> <p>Zoom Code 892-0506-4664</p>
<p>WEDNESDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER</p> <p align="right">9.15AM</p>	<p>ST PIUS OF PIETRELCINA, Priest Duncan Gallagher RIP (Anniv)</p>
<p>THURSDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER</p> <p align="right">9.15AM</p>	<p>OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM Stephen Treacy RIP</p> <p>Zoom Code 868-8669-7097</p>
<p>FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER</p>	<p>FERIA</p>
<p>SATURDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER</p> <p align="right">11.00AM 2.00PM 5.00PM</p>	<p>FERIA FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS (1) Group A FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS (2) Group B</p> <p>VIGIL MASS Tom McNicholas RIP</p>
<p>SUNDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER</p> <p align="right">9.00AM 10.30AM 2.00PM</p>	<p>26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Sarah Cullinane RIP (Anniv) People of the Parish</p> <p>Zoom Code 872-9131-5005 FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS (3) Group C</p>

CONFESSIONS - BY PRIOR ARRANGEMENT WITH CANON DWYER