



# OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)  
29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 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

Today, we begin the great Season of Advent. There are two messages that we will hear over the next four weeks. One message and set of values will come to us from the media and the shops, telling us that unless we spend, we won't be happy! This most definitely is 'fake news.' However, there is a very different message offered to us through the gospels, and the liturgy of Advent. We are being asked to prepare a way for the Lord, to stay awake, to make a straight a path for the Lord and to get ourselves ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus. This is most definitely is 'Good News! We are called to be ready, to be prepared and to wait in joyful hope.

Modern life, with it's technology, doesn't make us good at waiting. We expect things to happen in an instant. However, Advent asks each of us to do the very opposite. During this time of preparation, we are being asked to take some time to be still and silent as we prepare for Christmas. We may not be able to ignore the shops, and the advertisements over the next few weeks, neither can we ignore the words and message of Jesus in today's gospel: *'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come... what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'*

We are to stay awake, to focus on what is important. We are called not to ignore Advent. But, rather to prepare, and get ready as best we can. It would be so sad, that if after the shopping and all the other preparations we missed Advent and its joyful and hopeful message.

In what ways can I prepare a way for the Lord this Advent as I get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas?

## CELEBRATING MASS AGAIN

As the second lockdown ends so, it is most certainly good news, that we can begin, once again, to celebrate Mass with a congregation. **We will be re-starting next Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.** Masses will continue to be celebrated at the same times, as we have been doing until recently: Saturday 5.00pm, Sunday 9.00am and 10.30am; Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 9.15am. The Sunday 10.30am Mass, and the Masses on Tuesday and Thursday, will continue to be live-streamed. If you wish to attend any of these Masses please let us know. Up to two people can request a place, via the parish website:

[parish.rcdow.org.uk/harpenden](http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/harpenden)

For three places, and upwards, please email or telephone the parish office.

## DON'T FORGET

When you come to Mass, you are asked to:

- Wear a mask, or face covering
- 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
- Limit interactions with anyone you are not attending church with.

## LIVESTREAMING

Masses and Services will be live-streamed on Zoom, and YouTube this coming week:

DAY	TIME	ZOOM CODE
Sunday - Mass	10.30am	860 9226 9193
Tuesday - Mass	9.15am	880 6396 4591
Tuesday Praying Together	7.30pm	845 3209 5805
Thursday - Mass	9.15am	830 9683 2001

## FIRST COMMUNION 2021

At last we are now in a position to begin to register children, in year 3 and above, for First Holy Communion in 2021. If you would like to register your child you will find the form on the parish website, alternatively you can request a form by contacting the parish office. Completed forms and copies of Baptism Certificates should be returned no later than December 14<sup>th</sup>. Dates for preparation, and First Communion celebrations, have still to be decided, and will be advised, with further information, during January. **NB** if your child was Baptised in Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden you do not need to send us a copy of their Baptism Certificate.



## STAYING IN TOUCH

During the first lockdown, a number of dedicated



volunteers attempted to make contact with as many parishioners as possible. This was very successful, and much appreciated. With the second lockdown now coming to an end, and with Christmas approaching, we are very conscious that it is likely that there will be some

parishioners, who find themselves leading very solitary lives. It goes without saying that if you are need of support, or even just a chat, do please let us know, and we will put you in touch with someone. There's nothing wrong in asking for a little support. In the meantime, our original volunteers, and a few more, are going to start telephoning round again, over the next few weeks. We hope our data base is up to date, if you don't receive a call, do let us know.

## RECEPTION REFERENCES



Parents who need the Certificate of Catholic Practice (CCP) completed, are asked to drop the form into the presbytery, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope. Canon Dwyer will

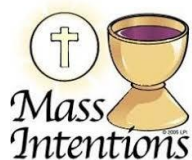
complete the forms, as appropriate, and, will as necessary, make contact by telephone or virtually. A copy of the CCP can be provided but, for it to be completed, parents will need to provide the full name, address and date of birth of the child. **Although the closing date for applications is January 15<sup>th</sup>, it would be very helpful if parents could send the CCP for completion by the beginning of December.**

### ST DOMINIC SCHOOL - ENTRY TO RECEPTION CLASS SEPTEMBER 2021

The application process has begun. Due to constraints during the pandemic open mornings will not be possible this year. Please see the school website for details, and for further information about making an application <https://www.stdominic.herts.sch.uk/Our-School/Admissions/>

### MASS STIPENDS

The question is sometimes asked: what the appropriate amount to donate is, when requesting a Mass to be offered? In Westminster Diocese, the guidance is that the suggested offering is £10. The offering, contributes to the upkeep of the priest, who celebrates the Mass, but doesn't receive a set salary. In earlier times, the Mass Stipend was seen as keeping a priest for a day.



**Quite a number of Masses have been booked during the pandemic, but no stipend has yet been received. Stipends, stating the intention and date requested, can be placed through the presbytery letter box.**

### PRAYING TOGETHER



It has been good to hear from parishioners that they have taken up the invitation to pray together as a family, every evening at 7.30pm, and, so for those unable to attend Mass, to still be united. It has been suggested that Canon Dwyer, and others, might lead this

prayer once a week. This week it will be on Tuesday at 7.30pm. You might like to participate; it will last no longer than 10 minutes. For the link: see 'Livestreaming'  
**The Zoom link is: 845 3209 5805**

### JIGSAW FESTIVAL

We, and High Street Methodist Church, are working together to arrange this festival next June, with all the proceeds going to two local charities, Azalea and Workaid. The response from you, and Harpenden as a whole, has been tremendous, with 294 jigsaws made (at 17 November) and nearly 7 months to go! You can see some of the wide



**HARPENDEN Jigsaw Festival**

variety of completed jigsaws and read the stories behind them from their 'assemblers', on Facebook. NB You don't need a Facebook account to view the page, simply search for Facebook (Harpenden Jigsaw Festival). Please see Facebook, or our website ([harpendenjigsawfestival.co.uk](http://harpendenjigsawfestival.co.uk)), or email us on [harpendenjigsaws@gmail.com](mailto:harpendenjigsaws@gmail.com), to find out more on getting involved by donating unmade jigsaws, making them etc. But a big thank you for what you have already done.

### CHRISTMAS STAMPS

Christmas stamps are now on sale at the Post Office. This year they are liturgical, featuring stained glass windows from various churches. While churches do not benefit from such stamps, it is nonetheless good to request the 'religious' stamps. If they are not purchased it may be the case that commercial, not religious, stamps will be produced, and a little opportunity to maintain the message of Christmas is lost.



### FOR THE CHILDREN

With the suspension of public Mass, it falls to each of us to do what we can, to nourish our faith. Parents may find the following links, useful



to do something with the children, particularly on Sundays:

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy>

<https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/catechesis/childrens-liturgy/>

<https://www.facebook.com/colourandshapeonline>

## ADVENT WREATH

We have our very fine Advent wreath in church, but how about having your own at home? This can be a simple drawing to colour, or make something more elaborate. The wreath is a sign of God's unending love for us and each candle represents stages on the journey to the light of Christmas.

To make your own wreath visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOwLEzLxMHY/>

<https://www.pathwaystogod.org/resources/ignatian-insight/4-ways-celebrate-advent-home-your-family>



## OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Over the next few weeks uncollected Planned Giving envelopes, will be posted through your letterbox.



## PARISH OFFICE



Melanie is, working from home at the moment. For all Parish enquiries please email the parish office

[harpenden@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:harpenden@rcdow.org.uk),


or telephone 01582 712245.

## ST DOMINIC'S ADMISSION POLICY

The Governors are consulting on a proposed change to the Admission Policy for September 2022. The consultation will run for 6 weeks from Monday 26 October 2020 to Sunday 6 December 2020. Any responses should be sent to the Governing Body by the closing date. Please see the school website for further details -

<https://www.stdominic.herts.sch.uk/Our-School/Admissions/>

**MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK**

<p><b>SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER</b></p> <p align="center">5.00PM - 6.00PM</p>	<p><b>Feria</b> Erroll Yates RIP (Anniv)</p> <p>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament <b>CHURCH IS OPENED FOR PRIVATE PRAYER</b> <b>Live Streamed Via YouTube</b></p>
<p><b>SUNDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER</b></p> <p align="center">10.30AM</p>	<p><b>1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)</b></p> <p>Cornelius Dennehy RIP (Anniv) <b>Zoom Code 860 9226 9193</b></p> 
<p><b>MONDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER</b></p>	<p><b>ST ANDREW, Apostle, Patron of Scotland</b> Jean Munkenbeck RIP</p>
<p><b>TUESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER</b></p> <p align="center">9.15AM</p> <p align="center">7.30PM</p>	<p><b>Advent Feria</b> Joan Gaire RIP <b>Zoom Code 880 6396 4591</b></p> <p><b>PRAYING TOGETHER</b> <b>Zoom Code 845 3209 5805</b></p>
<p><b>WEDNESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER</b></p> <p align="center">9.15AM</p>	<p><b>CHURCH REOPENS FOR MASS TODAY</b> <b>Advent Feria</b> Tommy Doran RIP (Anniv)</p>
<p><b>THURSDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER</b></p> <p align="center">9.15AM</p>	<p><b>St Francis, Xavier, Priest</b> Nicholas Ryan RIP <b>Zoom Code 830 9683 2001</b></p>
<p><b>FRIDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b></p>	<p><b>Advent Feria</b></p>
<p><b>SATURDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b></p> <p align="center">11.30AM &amp; 12.30PM</p> <p align="center">VIGIL MASS 5.00PM</p>	<p><b>Advent Feria</b> Baptisms</p> <p>Walter Nichollas RIP (Anniv)</p>
<p><b>SUNDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b></p> <p align="center">9.00AM</p> <p align="center">10.30AM</p>	<p><b>2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)</b></p> <p>People of the Parish</p> <p>Sadie Woods RIP <b>Zoom Code 860 9226 9193</b></p> 

**CONFESSIONS - BY PRIOR ARRANGEMENT WITH CANON DWYER**