



OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (B)
10TH JANUARY 2021



Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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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

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Christmas might already seem to be a distant memory, but we are still in the Christmas season and, if we follow the tradition in Rome, it will continue until February 2nd, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. For most of us though the decorations and trees, the cards and the lights, as well as the cribs, will have been taken down by now. Christmas, this year was very different. Here in church our numbers, understandably, were well reduced; probably about one third of the numbers that normally attend. And, no doubt, in many homes' things were different, with relatives and friends absent, and vacant places at the table. Whatever the differences though, Christmas was still celebrated.

Thanks to our willing stewards, cleaning the church after each Mass, and with the help of two other priests, we were able to celebrate six Masses, and to do so with singing at all the Masses, and with altar servers too. Numbers may have been small, but we still celebrated Christmas. So, a big thank you to all who worked so hard: church cleaners, flower arrangers, singers, organists, altar servers and of course, to the stewards. Thank you for enabling us to celebrate Christmas, as well as we could.

Another 'thank you' to everyone who contributed to Christmas offering, thank you for your generosity. And thank you too for all the cards I received, as well as for the other gifts, as always, your generosity is much appreciated.

As we begin another year, there is, inevitably, anxiety and worry around, just as there is the question: when will we get back to normal? But there is also hope, as people start to receive the vaccine. And there is also the hope that our Christmas celebration brings, the hope we have in knowing that in Jesus, Emmanuel, God-is-with-us.

I wish you, and your families, a happy and peaceful new year!

STAYING OPEN!



Although the Prime Ministers announcement on Monday evening, concerning the spread of the Coronavirus, was disturbing and worrying, it was good, nonetheless, to learn that

places of worship will not be required to close, as in previous lockdowns. The guidance states that: *"You can leave home to attend or visit a place of worship for communal worship You should follow the guidance on the safe use of places of worship and must not mingle with anyone outside of your household or support bubble when attending a place of worship"*. For more information please visit:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/949536/NationalLockdownGuidance.pdf

Making sure our church, is as safe as it can be, puts a responsibility on each of us. In the first place to follow the above guidance, but also not to attend church if you suspect you may have Coronavirus symptoms, have been in touch with anyone who has, or if you are feeling unwell.

MASS TIMES

Masses continue to be celebrated, as follows: Saturday (Vigil) 5.00pm, Sunday 9.00am and 10.30am*, Tuesday*, Wednesday and Thursday* at 9.15am. *These Masses are live-streamed, for details see below. If you wish to attend, one of these Masses, you can request up to two places via the parish website, for three, or more places, please email, or telephone, the parish office.

TOGETHER IN PRAYER

Although only a comparatively small proportion, of the parish, can attend one of the six Masses celebrated each week, we can still be united, in prayer. While the threat of the Coronavirus

continues, we can continue to pray for everyone who is affected by it. And we might think of doing that each evening, at 7.30pm. Just pausing, either individually, or as a family, and offering a prayer for everyone who is affected, in any way.

DO SAY!

With this further lockdown, I am very conscious that there may be parishioners, of various ages, who are living alone, perhaps distanced from family, or who have little contact with other people. For such people this may not be the happiest or easiest of times. If this is the case, and particularly if you are in need of help or support, or simply would just like to have a chat, don't be afraid to get in touch. There's nothing wrong in asking for a little support. If that is the case please contact the parish office.

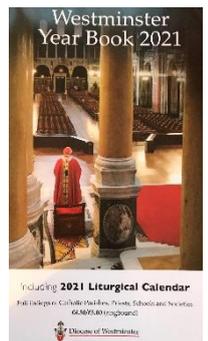
CATHOLIC PAPERS

For quiet some time the sale of the weekly Catholic Papers has steadily decreased, and until recently only three or so parishioners were purchasing a copy. Although, those who read these papers, pay for them, there are other expenses, as we are required to take a minimum number, all of which we don't sell, but have to pay for. So, from January we have decided not to stock these papers. We know that this will be disappointing for the regular readers, but the papers can be ordered directly, and will be posted free of charge from 'The Universe'. Please click:

<https://thecatholicuniverse.com/product-category/subscriptions/> to place an order.

WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOK

The Diocesan Directory for 2021 has now arrived. This contains details of all the parishes and priests in the Diocese, as well as other useful information. As the repository is closed, if you would like a copy, price £4.50, please contact the parish office.



FIRST COMMUNION 2021

Thank you to those parents who have registered their children for First Holy Communion in 2021. Registration for this year's preparation, and celebration is now complete. Dates for preparation, and First Communion celebrations, have still to be decided, and will be advised, with further information, during this month.

LIVESTREAMING

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

PLEASE NOTE NEW ZOOM CODES FROM THIS SUNDAY

DAY	TIME	ZOOM CODE
Sunday - Mass	10.30am	835 0841 8205
Tuesday - Mass	9.15am	859 0668 7104
Thursday - Mass	9.15am	876 2019 6525

PARISH OFFICE

Melanie is, working from home for all Parish enquiries please email the parish office harpenden@rcdow.org.uk, or telephone 01582 712245.



FOR THE CHILDREN

While the obligation to attend Mass remains suspended, it falls to each, if we are not attending Mass, 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>

PEACE SUNDAY

Peace Sunday is celebrated on January 17th this year. It will challenge us in a country that has enjoyed more or less 75 years of peace to think outside of our domestic borders to be in solidarity with those overseas ravaged by war and conflict and to examine our own complicity there through passive support of weapons manufacture and investment. We can all help to do this by supporting the work of Pax Christi ('the Peace of Christ'), the International Catholic peace organisation, by making a donation at 'paxchristi.org.uk'. The inspiration and values of Pax Christi are: PEACE - based on justice. A world where human rights are respected, basic needs are met, people feel safe and valued in their communities and we care for our common home. RECONCILIATION - a process which begins when people try to mend relationships - between individuals or whole countries after times of violence or dispute. NONVIOLENCE - a way of living and making choices that respects others and offers alternatives to violence and war. Pax Christi would really value your support.

You can read Pope Francis' message for the 54th Day of Peace at

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-12/pope-francis-peace-day-message>

Laudato Si

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 9TH JANUARY

Christmas Feria

VIGIL MASS 5.00PM

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (B)
Martin Newham (Sp Ints)

SUNDAY 10TH JANUARY

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (B)

9.00AM
10.30AM

Peter Blessing RIP
Kathleen Callinan RIP (Months Mind)
Zoom Code 835 0841 8205



MONDAY 11TH JANUARY

Feria
Margaret Foulds RIP

TUESDAY 12TH JANUARY
9.15AM

Feria
Sr Carmela (Jubilee Ints)
Zoom Code 859 0668 7104

WEDNESDAY 13TH JANUARY
9.15AM

Feria
Sr Regina (Sp Ints)

THURSDAY 14TH JANUARY
9.15AM

Feria
Sylvia Ross RIP
Zoom Code 876 2019 6525

FRIDAY 15TH JANUARY

Feria

SATURDAY 16TH JANUARY

Feria
2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Caitronia Kelly RIP

VIGIL MASS 5.00PM

SUNDAY 17TH JANUARY

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9.00AM
10.30AM

Jim Gallacker RIP
Pauline & Ted Coakley RIP
Zoom Code 835 0841 8205

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