



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)
24TH JANUARY 2021



VirginMoneyGiving

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: harpendensg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk Tel: 07881 785 299

As we live through this third lockdown, so it may be that our pace of life is different. Different because we are working from home, and don't have to travel a distance to work, different too because the children are being home-schooled. For some, especially parents, there may be extra pressure juggling work and schooling, while some may feel less pressurised with no traveling to work, perhaps a more relaxed life, and that may be welcome!

Today's Gospel though doesn't encourage being 'laid-back'! In fact, it is a sense of 'fierce urgency' that seems to grab Jesus and the disciples. In these opening chapters of Mark's Gospel everything happens 'at once' or 'immediately'. There is a sense of hurry; the time has come, the kingdom of God is near, and Jesus needs helpers to work alongside him. Simon, Andrew, James and John are certainly ready, so ready that they are prepared to leave behind their livelihoods, and even their families, to attend to the urgent business of spreading the Good News.

Jesus asks the same of us, his modern-day disciples: 'Follow me'. We are summoned too. We are challenged to set aside our worldly concerns, to see the world in a new way, and to begin a new adventure with Jesus. For every person in our world who is suffering or oppressed or in need, there is a 'fierce urgency of now'. The work of the kingdom is too immediate to wait.

When Jesus called the disciples, we hear that 'at once' they followed him. They didn't appear to need time to think, or make arrangements, they heard the call, and responded straightaway, they recognised something in him. May we too hear the call of Jesus, and be ready to respond to the needs of today.

MASS TIMES

Our Mass times are presently: Saturday (Vigil) 5.00pm, Sunday 9.00am and 10.30am*, Tuesday*, Wednesday and Thursday* at 9.15am. If you wish to attend one of the Masses on Saturday or Sunday, you can request up to two places via the parish website, for three, or more places, please email, or telephone, the parish office. If you are attending a weekday Mass, no need to advise in advance, you will be asked your name as you arrive, or you can use the NHS Track and Trace App to record your presence.

*These Masses are live-streamed, for details see below.

OPEN FOR NOW!!

As the restrictions increase, and places of worship are allowed to remain open, so it puts an additional responsibility on everyone, who is attending Mass, to ensure the safety, and well-being, of themselves and others. While churches haven't been instructed to close, either by the Government or the Diocese, some parishes have made the decision to do so. For ourselves, it is a matter of remaining open for now, while we continue to have sufficient helpers, this will be kept under review, and we will be guided by what is in everyone's best interests: parishioners, stewards and Parish Priest. If you do decide to come to church please follow the guidance of the stewards, wear a mask, sanitise your hands when



entering and leaving, and do not mingle with anyone outside of your household or support bubble. If you suspect you may have Coronavirus symptoms, have been in touch with anyone who has, or if you are feeling unwell, do not come to church.

STAY HOME SAVE LIVES

Staying home is loving your neighbour.

Wearing a mask is loving your neighbour

Keeping your distance is loving your neighbour

Washing your hands is loving your neighbour

Let's keep loving our neighbours.

WRAP UP

One of the guidelines for trying to keep safe is to ensure that the church is well ventilated. With the present very cold weather, having to leave the doors open, even with the heating on is not ideal! So, if you are coming to Mass, it is probably a good idea to wrap up warm, with some extra layers.



IN OUR INTERESTS

It seems at this time that we are being subjected to all manner of rules and guidance, which we know is in all our interests. Regarding the celebration of Mass, we are advised that this should not be unduly prolonged, at this time, which is why the second reading and the intercessions are being omitted.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION



The present guidelines make it difficult to have a regular time for Confessions. Canon Dwyer is happy to hear confessions, for anyone who would like to do so. If you would like to celebrate this sacrament please email:

anthonydwyer@rcdow.org.uk, or

telephone the parish office, to arrange a time.

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 by Coronavirus, and to pray for everyone in our parish also. Every Tuesday, starting this week, we will resume praying together via Zoom. For the code see below. This will be for a short time, not more than ten minutes.



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.

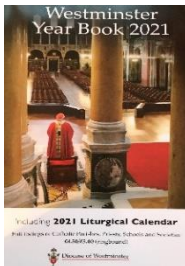


CATHOLIC PAPERS

For quite 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.



PARISH OFFICE

In line with current government advice, our office administrator, Melanie is working mainly from home. This means that the phone may not always be answered during parish office hours (9.30am-12.30pm), Monday to Thursday, and you may not get a response to a voicemail immediately. The best way for parishioners to contact the parish office at the moment is by emailing harpenden@rcdow.org.uk



YOUR SUPPORT

Once again, a big 'thank you' to everyone who has continued to support the parish since the first lockdown. Like many of you we continue to have expenses, that we have to cover. The familiar ways in which you can support the parish are by using the offertory envelopes, or by setting up a standing order with the parish, this is especially helpful. Like many other parishes in the Diocese, we now have another way in which you can give your support, and that is via Virgin Money Giving. Below is the link to the Parish Website if you would like to donate to the parish using Virgin Money Giving, <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/harpenden/donate/> or use the QR code at the top of the newsletter.



LIVESTREAMING

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

DAY	TIME	ZOOM CODE
Sunday - Mass	10.30am	835 0841 8205
Tuesday - Mass	9.15am	859 0668 7104
Tuesday - Praying Together	7.30pm Passcode	893 2503 5739 607760
Thursday - Mass	9.15am	876 2019 6525

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.

DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP

In 2020 the DWG funded six projects aimed at improving health, education and training in some of the most disadvantaged communities in Africa. The parish raised almost £10,000 for projects, despite being able to hold only one fundraising event, the Plant Sale, as compared with six in 2019. Thank you all for your tremendous support in such a difficult year for charities. Given Covid, we are not printing the Annual Project Report this time, but attaching it electronically to the Newsletter email. It will also be



posted on the parish website in the DWG Past Projects section.

NO TICKETS! NO BOOKING!

Mass is celebrated on Fridays at 12.00noon in St. Albans Abbey. Because this Mass is celebrated in the Nave, which can accommodate 150 people socially distanced, there is no need to pre-book to attend. You just need to wear a face covering. The Mass has been celebrated at the Abbey now for 37 years. Do give it a try if you have not already done so. You enter by the Welcome Centre.

ST DOMINIC NURSERY - ADVANCE NOTICE

On the 1st February 2021, the application process for Nursery places will open for children born between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018.

Sadly, due to the continuing constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, we have decided not to hold conventional open mornings this year.

We are very sorry that we cannot welcome new parents into the school in the usual way, but hope you will enjoy taking a look at our virtual tour which can be found on our Admissions page - Virtual tour -

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

Please visit the school website for further information on Nursery Applications

<https://www.stdominic.herts.sch.uk/Nursery-24012018155225/>

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>

HARPENDEN HYGIENE BANK

Even though we are in a national lockdown you can still donate toiletry items into the Boots and Manor Pharmacy drop boxes but if you do not wish to go into shops you can also donate to our just giving page, our Amazon Wishlist or to our Easho wishlist. Details of all these ways are on our linktree including more info

about what we do and why we need to do it: <https://linktr.ee/Thbharpendenandstalbans>

We supply toiletries to those in dire financial need at this time through local charities and community partners including supporting the Harpenden Cares foodbank (Salvation Army/Bethany Church), the main Trussell foodbank, the women's refuge, Open Door and Winter Beds project, Emmaus and others. We also now run the Luton project so are also supporting those in need up the road (including the 17,000 children living in poverty there).

CAFOD YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

Join CAFOD online this coming Saturday 30th January from 1030am to 1230 and listen to CAFOD's representative live from Ethiopia talking about how your support is enabling communities gain access to clean water. Contact westminster@cafod.org.uk for registration link and further information.

LET US PRAY

For those throughout the world who are suffering from the impact of coronavirus. May the Lord of Mercy bring them health and healing. Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who have died recently especially Rosa McPherson and Mel Armstrong and also, for those whose anniversaries occur at this time particularly, Mary Taylor, Liam Dooley and Bernard McGarry

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace.

We place in God's hand our personal needs and prayers.

We pray together our parish prayer. God our Father, pour forth your spirit upon our parish. Grant us a new vision of your glory, a new experience of power, a new faithfulness to your word and a new consecration to your service, so that your love may grow among us and your kingdom come. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. Our Lady of Lourdes Pray for us.



MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 23RD JANUARY

Feria

VIGIL MASS 5.00PM

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Special Intention (KH Sick)

SUNDAY 24TH JANUARY

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9.00AM
10.30AM

People of the Parish
Rosa McPherson RIP

Zoom Code 835 0841 8205

MONDAY 25TH JANUARY

THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL THE APOSTLE
Sr Laurentia (Jubilee Spec Ints)

TUESDAY 26TH JANUARY

Ss Timothy & Titus, Bishops

9.15AM

Liam Dooley RIP (1st Anniv)

Zoom Code 859 0668 7104

WEDNESDAY 27TH JANUARY

Feria

9.15AM

Sr Loretta (Spec Ints)

THURSDAY 28TH JANUARY

St Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor

9.15AM

Bernard McGarry RIP (Anniv)

Zoom Code 876 2019 6525

FRIDAY 29TH JANUARY

Feria

SATURDAY 30TH JANUARY

Feria

VIGIL MASS 5.00PM

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Don Clark RIP

SUNDAY 31ST JANUARY

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9.00AM
10.30AM

Monica Owens RIP
People of the Parish

Zoom Code 835 0841 8205

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