



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)
14TH FEBRUARY 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

Jesus, in today's Gospel, cures a leper by the healing touch of his hand. A leper was completely outcasted from society due to the huge stigma surrounding the disease, which was highly contagious but was also seen as a punishment from God in Jesus' time. Jesus is moved with pity for this man and reaches out to him. Jesus sends the man to the priests, as a testimony to them. Jesus' 'pity' also conveys anger at the leper's situation. It is the religious hierarchy of Jesus' time who have alienated this man. What they are incapable of doing (healing him), Jesus has done by 'stretching out his hand' in love.

A question for us from this Gospel today might be, who are those our society outcast? Who is alienated in our communities? What moves you with pity? Who is it that we need to reach out to at this time?

Jesus, in Mark's Gospel, is forever asking people to keep quiet and not tell anyone about what he does. Yet, after such a radical encounter with God which frees this man from all that keeps him trapped, of course he wants to shout from the roof tops. Why would Jesus want his miracles to be kept a secret? Jesus wants to be able to fulfil his mission without attracting the wrong kind of attention. Eventually those who are against him will use encounters like this one to compile evidence against him. For now, the less they know the better. We might think today of those who bravely speak out, even if it means they are punished in some way. May all of us have the courage, like the man who is healed in the Gospel today, to proclaim the truth, even if it costs us.

MASS TIMES



Saturday (Vigil) 5.00pm,
Sunday 9.00am and 10.30am*

If you wish to attend one of the above Masses you can request up to two places via the parish website, for three, or more places, please email, or telephone, the parish office.

Tuesday*, Wednesday and Thursday* Mass at 9.15am.

No need to request a place in advance.

*These Masses are live-streamed, for details see page 4.

When you come to Mass:

Please follow the guidance of the stewards,
wear a mask, sanitise your hands when entering and leaving,
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.

ASH WEDNESDAY



Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, when we begin the season of Lent, 40 days during which we are called to prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Masses will be celebrated at 9.15am and 6.00pm, and the ashes blessed and safely distributed. Don't forget that Ash Wednesday is a day

of fasting and abstinence, when we are to eat less than usual, and to refrain from eating meat.

The 9.15am Mass will be live-streamed, see below. If you wish to attend either mass, please request your seat/s in the usual way.

PRAYER AT HOME FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

If you are unable to come to Mass, on Ash Wednesday, the Cardinal suggests that families pray together at home, to mark this important day. Attached with this newsletter is a suggestion for what you might do, or scan the QR code for the link on the Parish Website.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

This year, although we can't gather in church for the Stations of the Cross, there is still an opportunity to follow this traditional devotion. A recording is being made of reflections, together with photographs of our Stations of the Cross, which can then be accessed, and then follow the Way of the Cross, individually, or as a family. Details of how to access this, will be in next weeks newsletter, and posted on the website during the week.

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.



LENT GROUPS 2021

Due to the current situation we shall be offering the opportunity for sharing in Lent Groups via Zoom. As last year's groups were interrupted by Covid and many of us had bought Evangelii Gaudium and the study booklet, we shall begin again using this wonderful document.

Those who signed up for 2020 will be contacted by email with details of how to access this year's meetings. If, on the other hand, you did not sign up previously please contact Rachel Lee rachellee987@gmail.com to indicate your interest and to receive more information e.g. obtaining copies of the document. We look forward to prayerful and fruitful meetings.

CONFIRMATION 2021

We are starting to think about how we might manage to offer some sort of preparation course for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, for candidates currently in Year 9 or above at school. As yet, plans are not finalised as to how we can conduct our sessions, whilst adhering to Covid 19 guidelines, but the health and safety of our candidates and catechists will be of paramount importance.

Initially, we would like to open the application process, to enable us to have an idea of the numbers wishing to join our course for later this year. If your child would like to apply, please refer to the parish website :- www.parish.rcdow.org.uk/Harpenden or scan our QR code and click on the link for Confirmation 2021. and click on the link for Confirmation 2021. You will be able to download or print off an application form which must be filled in and emailed to Melanie in the parish office on harpenden@rcdow.org.uk by no later than Monday 22nd February.



FIRST COMMUNION

Thank you to those parents who have registered their children for First Holy Communion Preparation, later this year. It had been hoped that we would, by now, have been in a position to provide information about the preparation, as well as provisional dates for the First Communion celebrations. Unfortunately, the unpredictable situation, prevents us from doing so. Once things are, hopefully, clearer we will be in touch.



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



CONTACTLESS

Although it is not particularly comfortable to talk about, the parish is dependent on parishioners for financial support which, enables the life of the parish to continue.

We are very fortunate to have so many parishioners, who have continued to give their support since the first lockdown last March. That said I am also aware that, for some, because of changes in circumstances, caused by the pandemic, it is not possible to give support at this time, and that is perfectly understandable. Many parishioners give their support by envelope, and others by standing order, all of which is much appreciated.

We now have two further ways in which you can give your support. As you will have seen, contributions can be made via 'Virgin Money Giving', please use the QR code at the top of the newsletter.



Also, along with a number of other parishes in the Diocese, we have been asked to participate in a trial for 'contactless' giving. A contactless giving point is now located in the Church porch. To make an offering using contactless giving, select the amount you wish to donate and tap the top of the machine with your phone or card.



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.

Apologies, but for this week only we will not meet on Zoom.



RETIRING

After almost 20 years as caretaker of Lourdes Hall Terry Guy retires from this role, this weekend. Terry has looked after this piece of parish property with great diligence. His gentle, dependable, way has been much appreciated by parishioners, who used the hall, as have the other groups who used these facilities. We thank Terry for all that he has done, and wish him a happy retirement with Joan, and to enjoying more time of the golf course!! In his place we welcome Simon Lowe, whom we look forward to working with.

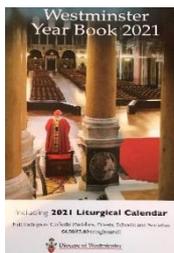


PARISH DIARIES 2021

Parish diaries, for the coming year, are available free of charge please take one and if you know someone who would like one please take one for them also.

WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOK

The last few copies of The Diocesan Directory for 2021 are still available. If you would like a copy, price £4.50, please contact the parish office.



ST DOMINIC NURSERY



The application process for Nursery places is now open for children born between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018. Our Early Years provision enables parents to access 30 hours free childcare with Nursery morning sessions running Monday - Friday, 8.45-

11.45am and an optional Lunch Club and afternoon Pre-School run by *Friends Together* running until 3.30pm. Wrap around care offered by *Friends Together* also means that care for children is

available between 7.50am and 6pm, should this be required.

For further information please visit our website www.stdominic.herts.sch.uk or contact the school office on 01582 760047. Application closes on 1st March 2021.

NURSERY REFERENCES

Parents who need the Certificate of Catholic Practice (CCP) completed, are asked to drop the form through the presbytery letterbox, **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. The closing date for applications is March 1st.



PARISH NEWSLETTER

As the pandemic continues so, the weekly newsletter will only be available electronically. Parishioners on the newsletter distribution list or parish database will continue to receive an electronic copy of the bulletin each week. It is also available on our website and can be accessed here. For anyone who cannot access it electronically, it is possible to have a copy posted, if you request one from the Parish Office. Alternatively, if you are aware of anyone without a computer, or internet access, you might think of printing off a copy for them.

VACCINATION

It's good hearing that quite a number of parishioners have had their Covid vaccine, and are grateful to have received it, while a few have some concerns. You may have heard that Pope Francis has had his Covid-19 vaccination, and is calling on everyone to receive their jab as an ethical obligation to protect their own health and those around them. He said: "I believe that ethically everyone must take the vaccine," he said in an interview with an Italian TV station, "It is an ethical choice because you are risking your health, your life, and you are also risking the lives of others."

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



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
Ash Wednesday	9.15am	825 3283 8014
Thursday - Mass	9.15am	876 2019 6525

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>

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 5th March 2021

This year's World Day of Prayer will be a little different! In Harpenden we are gathering on Zoom at 10.30am to celebrate the service from home. This year's service has been prepared by the women of Vanuatu. If you would like to join us, please contact Teresa Newham on (01582) 766403 or email marbretherese@googlemail.com for the Zoom details and an order of service (or if you can't join us but would like an order of service anyway). Last year in the UK alone the World Day of Prayer raised and distributed over £100,000 to more than 30 projects at home and abroad, and urgently needs your support. If you would like to make a donation please visit www.wwdp.org.uk.

DO YOU LIKE CHOCOLATE? FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT - 22 FEBRUARY TO 7 MARCH 2021

How much do you spend on your favourite bar? Did you know that the average income for cocoa farmers is 74p per day (Fairtrade Report), which is less than half of what is required to achieve a living income for a farmer? We in the UK must play our part in supporting the world's poorest people to escape poverty. What can I do?

1. Please choose Fairtrade products. Not just chocolate, but also tea, coffee and the clothes we buy. "Textile production contributes more to climate change than international aviation and shipping combined" (House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee, 2019).
2. Make a noise by sharing information about Fairtrade companies and cocoa farmers.
3. Take action on climate change. Please sign this petition for [fairtrade-and-climate-justice](#) to help create a more sustainable future for farmers and our planet.

HARPENDEN MAGIC SHOW

The Mayor will be hosting a Virtual Magic Evening on Saturday 13 March at 6pm. The performance is c.30 mins in duration and it's £5 minimum donation per household to join in. The show is suitable for adults and families. You can donate to join the Show via the Town Mayor's Fundraising Page:

<https://www.harpenden.gov.uk/town-mayors-fundraising>

CAFOD'S THE BIG WALK FOR WATER - SAT 20 FEB 2021

This Lent, CAFOD invites you and the whole Catholic community of England and Wales to join the Big Walk for Water virtual event. Help give the boot to water poverty across the world by walking a 5-mile route (or a distance you choose) on **Saturday 20 February** at 2 pm. Alternatively, would you like to use your daily exercise time to take part in the Big Walk for Water and raise funds to reach more families with clean water and other vital support. Could you Walk for Water as a personal or family Lenten challenge by walking 10,000 steps a day collectively, every day, for 40 days? A Just Giving page is already available for you to use: Walk.cafod JustGiving Find out more at cafod.org.uk/walk & <https://youtu.be/usdO1bFDFRY>

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 Julian Greenwood, Kathleen Moran, Joe Borg and Patrick McGiane and also, for those whose anniversaries occur at this time particularly, Frank McConnachie and Peter Vasquez.

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 13TH FEBRUARY

feria

VIGIL MASS 5.00PM

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

People of the Parish

SUNDAY 14TH FEBRUARY

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

9.00AM
10.30AM

Paul Rogers RIP

Frank McConnachie RIP (Anniv)

Zoom Code 835 0841 8205

MONDAY 15TH FEBRUARY

feria

TUESDAY 16TH FEBRUARY

feria

9.15AM

Genaro Cibelli RIP

Zoom Code 859 0668 7104

SEASON OF LENT

WEDNESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY

ASH WEDNESDAY

9.15AM

Stephen St John Maule RIP

Zoom Code 825 3283 8014

6.00PM

Joe Borg RIP (recently deceased)

THURSDAY 18TH FEBRUARY

Lent feria

9.15AM

Peter Vasquez RIP (Anniv)

Zoom Code 876 2019 6525

FRIDAY 19TH FEBRUARY

Lent feria

SATURDAY 20TH FEBRUARY

Lent feria

VIGIL MASS 5.00PM

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

John Cheevers RIP (Anniv)

SUNDAY 21ST FEBRUARY

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

9.00AM
10.30AM

People of the Parish

Patrick McGuane RIP (recently deceased)

Zoom Code 835 0841 8205

CONFESSIONS - BY PRIOR ARRANGEMENT WITH CANON DWYER