



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

21ST 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

On this first Sunday of Lent, we are invited to embrace the wilderness. The past year has given us experience of wilderness as our world battled a pandemic. Many people were afraid, isolated, alone, and uncertain of what the future would bring. Humanity was adrift in what seemed like a desert moment. However, wilderness can bring opportunity. It can be a time for deep reflection, where we take stock of what is most important to us, a chance to let go of things that are really not important and focus on where we are being called to be

Lent is also a time where people give up something, focus on weight loss or getting fit, take on a course, try to better themselves in some way. And these can be good things, but Lent is so much more than that. It is a retreat time, a time to make room for something deeper. It is a spring-cleaning sort of time, an opportunity to ask, 'what needs clearing out in my life so that I can make more room for God?' 'What changes am I being called to embrace?' Without change we cannot grow, and things fast become stale in our lives. God is always urging us on because God knows just what possibilities there are for each of us. Lent offers us the opportunity to make space for something new, to let go of that which is keeping us from living life to the full.

The Gospel today is short, Jesus is sent into the wilderness, into the desert, and we too are invited into a desert time. Deserts give us space to reflect. Let us try to embrace this wilderness. How we make use of this time determines what will be.



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.

TAKING THE OPPORTUNITY

Lent, we can say, is a time of opportunity. A time of opportunity when, having reflected on our lives, we can think about what else we need to do if we are to draw closer to the Lord, and so be ready to celebrate the great feast of Easter. In the parish there will be the Lent Groups, and, virtual, Stations of the Cross, or you might consider attending a weekday Mass. All good ways to observe Lent. But there are other things you might think about, such as making time to call a lonely person, finding extra time for prayer, or reading a spiritual book or some of the Bible. What is important in Lent is that we do something, that we don't allow this God-given opportunity to slip by, unmarked in some way.



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 Lenten devotion, individually, or as a family, as the 'Stations' will be transmitted via Zoom. This devotion, with photographs of our Stations of the Cross, can be accessed, at 6.00pm each Sunday, and afterwards on the website. The Zoom code to access them is:
834 2619 3453

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.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY

Family Fast Day is on Friday 26 February 2021. Abdella lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. It takes him ten hours a day to collect water. He says his life is being wasted as he has no time for anything else. You can hear about him for yourself: https://youtu.be/x8NOXN45t_A Give today to reach vulnerable communities around the world with water and to provide other vital support. Donate online at cafod.org.uk/give or by using one of our envelopes. You can also easily give via text. Text LENT to 70460 to donate £10.* (Plus standard rate message)



Fast, pray and give

LENTEN ALMS

It's customary during Lent to donate, what we save from self-denial, to benefit others. In recent years we have been asked to support the 'Cardinal's Appeal' which help fund initiatives in parishes, schools and charities in three mission areas which are more critical than ever. Marriage and Family Life, Youth and Evangelisation, Caritas Westminster: putting our faith into action by serving those in need. This year, the Cardinal is asking us to think about families who are struggling to put food on the table. Poverty is deepening across our Diocese and the need for foodbanks and supermarket vouchers has accelerated. Through your generosity we're continuing to provide food for those people most in need. Please take a donation envelope, from the church. You can use the QR code to make your donation online.



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 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.

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.

FUNERAL

Please remember in your prayers Felicity Walters, who died recently, and whose funeral takes place on Thursday at 1.30pm. Due to the current restrictions, only those invited by the family may attend.

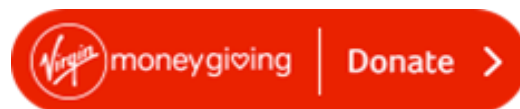
- Please note that there is no Mass at 9.15am on Thursday.

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. 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.



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.



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.

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
Sunday - Stations of the Cross	6.00pm	834 2619 3453
Tuesday - Mass	9.15am	859 0668 7104
Tuesday - Praying Together	7.30pm Passcode	893 2503 5739 607760
Thursday - Funeral	1.30pm	865 2344 7319

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>

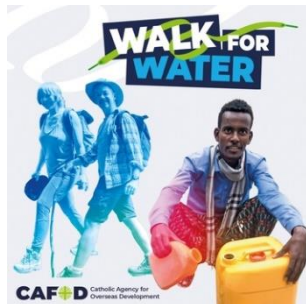
<https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/catechesis/childrens-liturgy/>

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

CAFOD'S BIG WALK FOR WATER

This Sat 20 Feb at 2 pm

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 on Saturday 20 February at 2

pm. Parishioners & our Parish CAFOD volunteer Bridget and Steve French are taking part to raise funds to reach more families with clean water. If you would like to sponsor them please go to

Justgiving.com/fundraising/bridget-french .

Whatever you can give will make a difference, so thank you. Alternatively, could you Walk for Water as a personal Lenten challenge by walking 10,000 steps a day, every day, for 40 days? Find out more at cafod.org.uk/walk

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](https://www.petitiononline.com/2020/02/fairtrade-and-climate-justice) to help create a more sustainable future for farmers and our planet.

YOUR JIGSAWS

Already over 600 jigsaws have been completed for the Harpenden Jigsaw Festival on 4-5 June, which we and High Street Methodist Church are jointly organising. Please can you keep hold of your jigsaws; and let us know at harpندنjigsaws@gmail.com if you are happy to donate them to us once government restrictions allow for them to be transported. All the proceeds from their sale at the festival will go to the charities, Workaid and Azalea. For the latest information on how the preparations are going including photos of our completed jigsaws and Scruffy the WonderDog videos, please see our Facebook page (Harpenden Jigsaw Festival) and follow us - you don't have to have a Facebook account to view the page. Or view our website harpندنjigsawfestival.co.uk. Thank you.



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 Patrick McGuane, and Clemente Palumbo and also, for those whose anniversaries occur at this time particularly, John Cheevers and Denis Mann. 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.

TO OUR CATHOLIC UNIVERSE AND CATHOLIC TIMES READERS IN THE PARISH:-

At the moment you are unable to collect your paper when you come to Mass, but you can get it delivered direct to your home every week, **POST FREE**.

Please go to www.thecatholicuniverse.com or call them on 0161 820 5722 and they will arrange this for you.

SPECIAL OFFER 3 MONTHS :-	£25.00
SPECIAL OFFER 12 Months:-	£99.00
DIGITAL COPY:- 12 Months:	£55.00

OR

DIGITAL COPY/AND HARD COPY FOR:-
£115.00 (EASTER SPECIAL OFFER)

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 20TH FEBRUARY

VIGIL MASS 5.00PM

Lent feria

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

John Cheevers RIP (Anniv)

SUNDAY 21ST FEBRUARY

9.00AM

10.30AM

6.00PM

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

People of the Parish

Patrick McGuane RIP (recently deceased)

Zoom Code 835 0841 8205

Stations of the Cross

Zoom Code 834 2619 3453

MONDAY 22ND FEBRUARY

THE CHAIR OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE

TUESDAY 23RD FEBRUARY

9.15AM

Lent feria

Clemente Palumbo RIP (recently deceased)

Zoom Code 859 0668 7104

WEDNESDAY 24TH FEBRUARY

9.15AM

Lent feria

Denis Mann RIP (Anniv)

THURSDAY 25TH FEBRUARY

9.15AM

1.30PM

Lent feria

NO MASS

Funeral Mass for Felicity Walters RIP

Zoom Code 865 2344 7319

FRIDAY 26TH FEBRUARY

Lent feria

SATURDAY 27TH FEBRUARY

VIGIL MASS 5.00PM

Lent feria

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

People of the Parish

SUNDAY 28TH FEBRUARY

9.00AM

10.30AM

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

Margaret Ann Kenyon RIP

Bridget Flanagan RIP (Anniv)

Zoom Code 835 0841 8205

CONFESSIONS - BY PRIOR ARRANGEMENT WITH CANON DWYER