



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT (B)
28TH 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](https://twitter.com/RC_OLOL)

Facebook: [Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden](https://www.facebook.com/OurLadyofLourdesHarpenden)

Parish Safeguarding Representative Mrs Brigid Brennan

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

From time to time we may have an enlightening moment when something suddenly makes perfect sense. It may have been a long time coming, a combination of various pieces of a jigsaw fitting together or it may be an insight you received from spiritual practice. These are special moments. We are never quite the same afterwards, something changes, even a small thing, but something in us changes. These moments move us outside of ourselves, or beyond ourselves in some way. They are moments of transfiguration.

In the Gospel today, Peter is desperate to stay on the mountain in that blissful moment with Jesus, so much so that he offers to build tents. One can understand Peter's request, after such an experience of course he would want to stay there. What moments of encounter in your own life do you recall? An encounter where you simply did not want it to end? It may be something very deep and meaningful which gave you a glimpse of God or a moment of complete contentment?

As with all blissful moments, the disciples must come down from the mountaintop. Jesus' way involves walking a very different path, a path that will not be so easy. Jesus' way is different to what Peter may have had in mind. These moments of Transfiguration strengthen us all for walking the more difficult paths, sustaining us on the way.

These days of Lent, not just because of the year we have just lived through, may have their moments of challenge too but, we keep our eyes fixed on the destination we are journeying towards, the celebration of the Lord's death and resurrection. It is this great celebration that provides us with hope, and transfigures the darkness and difficulties that we, inevitably, encounter on the way.



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.

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T from sin

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. This devotion, with photographs of our Stations of the Cross, can be accessed, at 6.00pm each Sunday. Afterwards the reflections can be found 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

Last Friday was CAFOD Lent Fast Day, when we were asked to deny ourselves in some way, in order to support some of the poorest people in our world. This year CAFOD is highlighting the need for clean water, and which the coronavirus pandemic has shown how important it is to have access to clean, safe water. You can listen to Abdella who lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia: <https://youtu.be/x8NOXN45t> CAFOD donation envelopes are available in church, and will be collected after Mass today, or can be returned to the presbytery. You can donate online at cafod.org.uk/give. 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

Thank you to everyone who has sent in their registration forms for Confirmation. Now that the Government has published it's road map out of lockdown, we can continue to make provisional plans for preparation, and the celebrations. Once we have some more information, 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.



FUNERAL

Please remember in your prayers the family of Julian Greenwood, who died recently, and whose funeral takes place on Wednesday at 11.00am. Due to the current restrictions, only those invited by the family may attend.

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

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 page 4. This will be for a short time, not more than ten minutes.

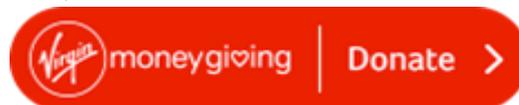


CONTACTLESS

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.



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.



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 harpندن@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
Wednesday Funeral	11.00am	818 5725 3726
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.

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)

UHT MILK AND LONG-LIFE FRUIT JUICE COLLECTION



Despite the encouraging signs we are seeing in the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, there are still many people experiencing real hardship locally, including children, living on the

margins of poverty and insecurity, there is a desperate, growing need for help with food. In the year to March 2020 the St Albans & District Foodbank provided 4000 cases of assistance; by the end of March 2021 that number will have risen to 10,000. The SVP has also seen a rapid rise of people needing help. Perhaps we need to increase the help parishioners can give by donating UHT milk and fruit juice every two weeks rather than every month, until the situation improves. Perhaps by Living Simply during Lent. The Next collection will be next Sunday, 7 March. Please remember you can also donate milk and fruit juice whenever you shop at Waitrose or Sainsburys, or donate on the St Alban's & District website



<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/finalCharityHomepage.action?uniqueVmgCharityUrl=stalbandsdistrict>

LENT & EASTER AT ST CLARE'S

The Sisters would like you to know that while the Chapel at St Clare's Convent, 3 Abigail Close LU3 1ND is still Closed - the Prayer Garden is OPEN for PRIVATE PRAYER every day from 10.00am until 6.00pm. There is ample outdoor seating that allows for privacy, silence and social distancing. Face Masks

are required at all times. The LENTEN SYMBOL GARDEN is in place for the six weeks of Lent. At the end of Holy Week, the LENTEN GARDEN will be transformed into an EASTER GARDEN. Everyone is WELCOME to come and pray in this inspirational setting.

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, Giovanni Ruggiero and also, for those whose anniversaries occur at this time particularly, Bridget Flanagan. 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 27TH FEBRUARY

VIGIL MASS 5.00PM

Lent feria

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

People of the Parish

SUNDAY 28TH FEBRUARY

9.00AM

10.30AM

6.00PM

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

Margaret Ann Kenyon RIP

Bridget Flanagan RIP (Anniv)

Zoom Code 835 0841 8205

Stations of the Cross

Zoom Code 834 2619 3453

MONDAY 1ST MARCH

ST DAVID, Bishop, Patron of Wales

TUESDAY 2ND MARCH

9.15AM

Lent feria

Giovanni Ruggiero RIP

Zoom Code

WEDNESDAY 3RD MARCH

11.00AM

Lent feria

Funeral of Julian Greenwood

Zoom Code 818 5725 3726

THURSDAY 4TH MARCH

9.15AM

Lent feria

Oonagh Lynch RIP

Zoom Code

FRIDAY 5TH MARCH

Lent feria

SATURDAY 6TH MARCH

VIGIL MASS 5.00PM

Lent feria

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

Mel Armstrong RIP

SUNDAY 7TH MARCH

9.00AM

10.30AM

6.00PM

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

People of the Parish

Eileen Fitzgerald RIP

Zoom Code

Stations of the Cross

Zoom Code 834 2619 3453

CONFESSIONS - BY PRIOR ARRANGEMENT WITH CANON DWYER