



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)
7TH 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

Once again, the Gospels continue to record the busyness of Jesus. From the Synagogue, to the house of Simon's mother in law and, after sunset his work continues as those in need of healing are brought to him. The life of Jesus is telling us that life is for service, for giving, for sharing. And, if we all did that, how enriched we all would be! The more we all give, the more we all get.

And then at the end of the day, what does Jesus do? Does he put his feet up, and relax? No, he goes off to a lonely place to pray. He needed this. He had given away so much of himself that day, that he now needed to be by himself, to recharge his batteries and, above all, to get in touch with his Father, the source of all his energy, and to restore wholeness and peace. He will come away from this experience truly energised and ready to continue to share and serve.

There is a need of all of us for rest but rest that refreshes and rebuilds, as opposed to pure escapism or dissipating activity. We rest in order to come back to a life of service not in order to get away from it. Ideally, as sculptor Eric Gill once said, our work should be our hobby, something we really enjoy doing.

We too are called to service, to bring healing to others in any way that we can, to those who are seeking, those who are lost, those who are isolated. Jesus shows us that to do this we must be connected to that Divine Presence within us and in our world.



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.

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.



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.pariah.rcdow.org.uk/Harpenden or



scan our QR code 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.



YOUR SUPPORT

Once again, many thanks to everyone who has continued to support the parish, financially, since the beginning of the first lockdown. The present Planned Giving envelopes end earlier this year, in March, which will enable future contributions to correspond with the tax year. Quite a number of envelopes are presently not being used and, as envelopes for the coming year are about to be ordered, it would be

helpful to know of anyone who may have decided, for whatever reason, to no longer support the parish in this way. It's a waste of parish money for envelopes to be ordered and not to be used. So, if you have decided you no longer wish to give your contribution by envelope, please let us know. Contributions can be made via Standing Order, this is a very easy, dependable and, presently, safe way of contributing. For more information please contact the parish office. Another way in which you can support the parish, 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.

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

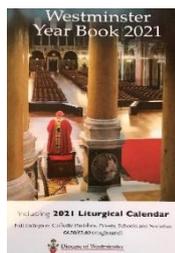
rachellee987@gmail.com to indicate your interest and to receive more information e.g. obtaining copies of the document. We look forward to prayerful and fruitful meetings.

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 - ADVANCE NOTICE



On the 1 February 2021, the application process for Nursery places will 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 to book an appointment to attend to one of our online visit mornings on Thursday 4 Feb at 1.30pm or Wednesday 10th Feb 10.00am. Applications close at 3.30pm on 1 March. 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 of The Schools website. We are also offering parents the opportunity to book a place at a virtual meeting, where you will meet our Headteacher, Clare O'Sullivan and our Early Years Leader, Amanda Corcoran. We anticipate the meeting will last approximately 45 minutes.

To support your application, a Certificate of Catholic Practice form will need to be signed.

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."

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. Every Tuesday, there is an opportunity to pray together via Zoom, for the code see below. This will be for a short time, not more than ten minutes.

Zoom Code 893 2503 5739

Password 607760



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
Tuesday - Praying Together	7.30pm Passcode	893 2503 5739 607760
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>



UHT MILK AND LONG-LIFE FRUIT JUICE COLLECTION

This Sunday, is the first Sunday in February and the collection of UHT milk and Long-Life fruit juice for those affected not only by homelessness and poverty, but by coronavirus too. It is needed more than ever now. If you can't bring a carton to the church on Sunday, you can add one to the baskets in Sainsburys or send a donation

<http://www.localgiving.org/st-albans-district-foodbank>



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.

A DAY OF PRAYER FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Monday 8th February is a Day of Prayer for victims of human trafficking. It is the Feast Day the Feast of St Josephine Bakhita, a Sudanese nun, who as a child had the traumatic experience of being a victim of human trafficking. Human trafficking now ranks as the second most profitable worldwide criminal enterprise after the illegal arms trade. The practical response of the Church and its charities, led in the main by Women Religious, is to raise awareness of this horrendous crime and to provide help and support for the most vulnerable victims. You can share a prayer at: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2019/07/prayer-traff-A4-poster.pdf>

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 Francis Beard and also, for those whose anniversaries occur at this time particularly, Bernard St John Glew.

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 6TH FEBRUARY

St Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs

VIGIL MASS 5.00PM

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Bernard St John Glew RIP (Anniv)

SUNDAY 7TH FEBRUARY

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9.00AM
10.30AM

People of the Parish
Francis Beard RIP

Zoom Code 835 0841 8205

MONDAY 8TH FEBRUARY

feria

Ben Donoghue (Sick)

TUESDAY 9TH FEBRUARY

feria

9.15AM

Alexander Larkin RIP

Zoom Code 859 0668 7104

WEDNESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY

St Scholastica, Virgin

9.15AM

Mel Armstrong RIP

THURSDAY 11TH FEBRUARY

Our Lady of Lourdes

9.15AM

Anna Kelly RIP

Zoom Code 876 2019 6525

FRIDAY 12TH FEBRUARY

feria

SATURDAY 13TH FEBRUARY

feria

VIGIL MASS 5.00PM

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
People of the Parish

SUNDAY 14TH FEBRUARY

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9.00AM
10.30AM

Paul Rogers RIP
Frank McConnachie RIP (13th Anniv)

Zoom Code 835 0841 8205

CONFESSIONS - BY PRIOR ARRANGEMENT WITH CANON DWYER