



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (B) LAETARE SUNDAY
14TH MARCH 2021



VirginMoneyGiving

Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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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

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Today, the 'middle' Sunday of Lent, is known as Laetare Sunday - Laetare means 'Rejoice!' We tend not to think of Lent as a time to rejoice, but signs of joy are central at Mass today, such as the rose-coloured vestments instead of the usual Lenten purple. The shadow of the cross still looms large, but we look forward with hope to Easter, when light will conquer the darkness.

We are offered an opportunity today to pause and reflect on our Lenten journey. In our gospel we hear that 'the person who lives by the truth comes out into the light'. On the other hand, Jesus says that those who 'prefer darkness to the light' live in fear that their actions will be exposed.

We hear a lot of talk these days about transparency. Some questions we might ask ourselves this Lent are: Am I living a truthful life 'in the light'? Am I honest in my dealings with others, trying always to choose what is right and just, or are there things I do in secret that are unkind or dishonest? Am I attentive to the needs of others or am I more inclined to think of myself? Lent offers us the opportunity to step out into the light, to allow the light of Jesus to sweep away any darkness or destructive habits and to begin again.

'We proclaim the resurrection of Christ when his light illuminates the dark moments of our existence, and we are able share it with others; when we know when to smile with those who smile, and weep with those who weep; when we accompany those who are sad and at risk of losing hope; when we recount our experience of faith to those who are searching for meaning and happiness (Pope Francis)



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.

ATTENDING MASS

Although the obligation to attend Mass is still suspended, it is good to see that a reasonable number choose to attend Mass. Each weekend three Masses are celebrated, and there is room for more. Those who do attend often comment how safe they feel in church, safer, they say than in the supermarkets. There are stewards at every Mass, and the church is sanitised after every event that takes place. If you haven't attended for a while, you might think about doing so.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

An important, indeed vital, part of our preparation for Easter is celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The present guidelines make it difficult to hear confessions in the church so, as in Advent, there will be two opportunities over the next two Saturdays. Confessions will be heard, in the Undercroft, on Saturdays 20th and 27th March between 11.00am and 12 noon. If these times are not



suitable, Canon Dwyer is happy to meet at other times.

ST PATRICK'S DAY

Next Wednesday, 17th March, is the feast of St Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland. Mass will be celebrated at 9.15am.



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**



SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH

Thank you to everyone, who has continued to support the Parish, financially, since the first lockdown last March. For some, circumstances will have changed, and it will not have been possible to offer any support, which is understandable. You can give your support by Standing order, or by using planned giving envelopes. For details please contact the parish office. It's also possible to make a contribution, using the 'Contactless' machine in church, or via Virgin Money giving.



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.



EASTER FLOWER COLLECTION

The Parish Flower Arrangers will have their annual Easter Flower Collection after all Masses this and next weekend. If you are watching Mass via live streaming and would like to contribute to the flowers please pop your donation through the Presbytery letterbox and mark the envelope



Easter Flower Collection. In addition, a Lily may be purchased (at £5) in memory of a loved one. Please write the name of the loved one on an envelope, place the donation of £5 inside and hand it in with the flower collection after Mass / post through the Prebytery letterbox. Their names will then be added to a remembrance book which will be displayed in the Church during the Easter season.



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.

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.



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: **Please note NEW MASS CODES from this Weekend.**

DAY	TIME	ZOOM CODE
Sunday - Mass	10.30am	813 4662 7845
Sunday - Stations of the Cross	6.00pm	834 2619 3453
Tuesday - Mass	9.15am	897 0976 4306
Tuesday - Praying Together	7.30pm Passcode	893 2503 5739 607760
Thursday - Mass	9.15am	860 9031 3471

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 FAMILY FAST DAY

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> There is still a chance to donate to this cause. 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)

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.

2021 CENSUS

Do you have an elderly relative/ neighbour who has no access to the internet?

I'm pleased to inform you that it is possible to book our Public PCs at Harpenden Library once again.

The sessions are free for Library Members, last up to an hour and must be pre-booked by 8:30 AM on that day. We aren't currently able to accept drop ins, it all has to be pre-booked.

Here's a link to the online booking system.

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/pcbooking/login.aspx>

If anyone needs to access a computer and is unable to use the booking system online, they can make a booking over the phone through our Customer Service Centre on this number - 0300 123 4049.

LET US PRAY

On Mothering Sunday, we give thanks for our mothers and carers and pray for your abundant blessings on them in this life and the next. We pray also for those for whom this day is difficult.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

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 John Moran and Neville Gray and also, for those whose anniversaries occur at this time particularly Mary Earley. 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 MARCH

Lent feria

VIGIL MASS 5.00PM

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (B) (LAETARE SUNDAY)
People of the Parish

SUNDAY 14TH MARCH

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (B) (LAETARE SUNDAY)

9.00AM

May Doyle RIP

10.30AM

Nellie Mulvihill RIP (Months Mind)

Zoom Code 813 4662 7845 (NEW CODE)

6.00PM

Stations of the Cross

Zoom Code 834 2619 3453

MONDAY 15TH MARCH

Lent feria

TUESDAY 16TH MARCH

Lent feria

9.15AM

Trisha & Gordon Lewis (Spec Ints)

Zoom Code 897 0976 4306 (NEW CODE)

WEDNESDAY 17TH MARCH

ST PATRICK, Bishop, Patron of Ireland

9.15AM

Tom Carey (Spec Ints)

THURSDAY 18TH MARCH

Lent feria

9.15AM

Kathleen Moran RIP

Zoom Code 860 9031 3471 (NEW CODE)

FRIDAY 19TH MARCH

**ST JOSEPH, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Patron of the Diocese**

SATURDAY 20TH MARCH

Lent feria

VIGIL MASS 5.00PM

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

Joe Borg RIP

SUNDAY 21ST MARCH

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

9.00AM

People of the Parish

10.30AM

Nuala Costello RIP

Zoom Code 813 4662 7845 (NEW CODE)

6.00PM

Stations of the Cross

Zoom Code 834 2619 3453

CONFESSIONS - BY PRIOR ARRANGEMENT WITH CANON DWYER