



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT (B) LAETARE SUNDAY
21ST 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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At the start of today's gospel, some Greeks, who are followers of Jesus, come to Jerusalem. They are travellers, outsiders, and would like to meet Jesus in person. But when Philip and Andrew relay the request, Jesus begins to talk about how his 'hour' is coming. It is the last we hear of the Greeks, who disappear from the story altogether.

But they are important nonetheless. Firstly, they indicate that word about Jesus is spreading. More importantly, they prompt Jesus to reveal that, when his hour comes, he will draw 'all people' to himself. In the space of a few short verses, we go from a brief mention of a group of foreigners seeking Jesus, to Jesus making it clear that his saving mission is for all people, of all nations, both Jews and Gentiles - including these Greeks! There is no suggestion from Jesus that some groups are 'in' and others 'out'. All are included. All are invited. All are welcome.

As we continue our journey through Lent and soon into Holy Week, we listen carefully to these words of Jesus. He came for everyone. He wishes to draw all people to himself. Notwithstanding the current restrictions on gatherings and public worship, let us take this time to reflect on the world we would like to build when things open up again. Are we open to everyone, including 'outsiders'? Do our homes, parishes and communities radiate welcome, where all who enter experience God's love?

'For some, the good news is that there are insiders and outsiders and they are the insiders. For others, the good news is that there are no outsiders.'

(Rachel Held Evans)



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.

HOLY WEEK

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday, when we begin the most important week in the Church's year. Although not everyone can participate in the celebrations in church, we can still follow these last great events of Our Lord's life. If you can't come to church, you can follow on the live-streaming.

Full details of what is taking place, will be found in Holy Week & Easter leaflet. Please note the additional celebrations that have been arranged. As is usual now, if you wish to attend a particular celebration, up to two places can be requested via the parish website, and three or more places, by contacting the parish office.

- *The Bishops of England and Wales, in line with guidance, received from the Congregation in Rome, have issued guidance on the Holy Week services. Inevitably these will be different due to Covid restrictions. For example, we are unable to have our normal processions, the washing of the feet, individual veneration of the cross, votive candles or communal singing.*



Holy Week

PALM SUNDAY

On Palm Sunday, the palms will be blessed and, safely, distributed at each Mass. As well as the regular Masses at 5.00pm (Saturday) and 9.00am and 10.30am Masses, there is an additional Mass at 12noon.



ALTAR OF REPOSE

On Maundy Thursday, the tradition is that, after the Mass of the Lord's Supper, the Blessed Sacrament is taken, in procession, to the Altar of Repose, where the people can gather to pray, until late in the evening. This year, like other parishes, we can have neither the procession, nor the Altar of Repose. There will, however, be an Altar of Repose in the parish of Maiden Lane. Everyone in the diocese is invited to join in prayer, paying a virtual visit to the Diocesan Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament at Corpus Christi, Maiden Lane:

<https://corpuschristimaidenlane.org.uk/live/>.

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.



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 another opportunity next Saturday.

Confessions will be heard, in the undercroft, on Saturday 27th March between 11.00am and 12 noon. If these times are not suitable, Canon Dwyer is happy to meet at other times.



EASTER OFFERING

The offering on Easter Sunday, as on Christmas Day, is one of the main sources of income, for priests who work in parishes. Those who support the parish, using the planned giving envelopes, will find a 'Easter offering envelope', amongst their envelopes.

Parishioners who support the parish in other ways, may wish to use one of the Easter envelopes, that will be found in the church porch. Contributions will be collected at the Easter Masses. Those, presently, not attending Mass, may wish to drop their contribution into the presbytery letter box. Your support, in so many ways, is much appreciated.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY

Next Tuesday, 23rd March, is the first anniversary of the lockdown.

The Cardinal asks that we observe that day with prayer, by joining in the minute's silence at midday, and by participating in the doorstep vigils of light at 8pm.



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**



CENSUS 2021

The Census takes place today, 21st March. To complete the survey, please visit www.census.gov.uk and enter the unique access code received by your

household at the beginning of March. Paper questionnaires can be requested if preferred. For more information, visit www.census.gov.uk or call 0800 141 2021.

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.

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 Mass this 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.



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	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>

THE GREAT ADVENTURE BIBLE TIMELINE

Starting on Wednesday the 7th April, and running for eight consecutive weeks until the end of May, the Great Adventure Bible Timeline is an innovative way to dive deeper into Scripture, and bring alive the great narrative story of Salvation History.

The course is completely free to sign up to, and in this extended year of the God Who Speaks, offers an excellent opportunity for Catholics to develop a richer understanding of the Bible.

To sign up for this excellent course, please go to <https://comeandsee.org> and click on the registration button."

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 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.

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 Tom Carey, and Marion Feehan and also, for those whose anniversaries occur at this time particularly Maureen Martin. 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

<p align="center">SATURDAY 20TH MARCH</p> <p align="center">VIGIL MASS 5.00PM</p>	<p>Lent feria</p> <p>5TH SUNDAY OF LENT (B) Joe Borg RIP</p>
<p align="center">SUNDAY 21ST MARCH</p> <p align="center">9.00AM 10.30AM 6.00PM</p>	<p>5TH SUNDAY OF LENT (B)</p> <p>People of the Parish Nuala Costello RIP Zoom Code 813 4662 7845</p> <p>Stations of the Cross Zoom Code 834 2619 3453</p>
<p align="center">MONDAY 22ND MARCH</p>	<p>Lent feria</p>
<p align="center">TUESDAY 23RD MARCH</p> <p align="center">9.15AM</p>	<p>Lent feria</p> <p>Marion Feehan RIP Zoom Code 897 0976 4306</p>
<p align="center">WEDNESDAY 24TH MARCH</p> <p align="center">9.15AM</p>	<p>Lent feria</p> <p>Tim Naughton RIP</p>
<p align="center">THURSDAY 25TH MARCH</p> <p align="center">9.15AM</p>	<p>THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD</p> <p>Maureen Martin RIP (Anniv) Zoom Code 860 9031 3471</p>
<p align="center">FRIDAY 26TH MARCH</p>	<p>Lent feria</p>
<p align="center">SATURDAY 27TH MARCH</p> <p align="center">VIGIL MASS 5.00PM</p>	<p>Lent feria</p> <p align="right">HOLY WEEK</p> <p>PALM SUNDAY (B) Frank McConnachie RIP</p>
<p align="center">SUNDAY 28TH MARCH</p> <p align="center">9.00AM 10.30AM 12.00 Noon 6.00PM</p>	<p>PALM SUNDAY (B)</p> <p>People of the Parish Harry Davis RIP (Anniv) Zoom Code 813 4662 7845 (NEW CODE)</p> <p>Stations of the Cross Zoom Code 834 2619 3453</p>

CONFESSIONS - BY PRIOR ARRANGEMENT WITH CANON DWYER