



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

7TH MARCH 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

The Gospel presents a dramatic scene where Jesus shows himself as Lord of the Temple. It's a scene where Jesus seems to be acting out of character, as Jesus with a small whip of cords physically drives out those trading in cattle, sheep and pigeons - animals to be used in sacrifices; as well as the moneychangers.

Jesus objected not to the trade as such, which was quite legitimate, but to its being done in the temple precincts, "my Father's house". "Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market." Such business should have been carried on just outside the temple precincts but we know that in our own time dealers try to get as close to the action as possible, especially if they have competition. It is also not at all impossible that the temple authorities connived at the practice and, may have even benefited, if the traders had to "rent" spaces in the Temple to do their business.

This would explain the priests' anger at what Jesus was doing. "What's going on here? What sign can you show to justify what you are doing?" Jesus replies: "Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up." They come back: "It has taken 46 years to build this temple and you can raise it in only three days?" This was indeed true and, in fact, the building had not yet been fully completed at this time.

But Jesus was speaking about another sanctuary, another temple where God lived - his own body. Through this event we are reminded during Lent of what we are preparing to remember and celebrate - the death and resurrection of Jesus.



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

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.



FROM THE POPE

Pope Francis in his [General Audience of 26 February 2020](#), affirmed, "Lent is a favourable time to make room for the Word of God. It is the time to switch off the television and open the Bible. It is the time to separate from mobile phones and connect to the Gospel". He explained, "When I was a child there was no television but there was the habit of not listening to the radio". Lent is a desert. It is a time to give up something, to distance ourselves from mobiles and connect to the Gospel. It is the time to give up useless words, gossip and slander and to talk to and be informal with the Lord. It is the time to dedicate ourselves to a healthy ecology of the heart, to cleanse it."



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.



DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP

Last year, thanks to your generosity, the DWG funded six projects abroad ranging from a borehole to an incubator for premature babies, which were all described in the DWG Project Report 2020 (see <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/harpenden/wp-content/uploads/sites/252/2021/01/2021-01-18-DWG-PROJECT-REPORT-EDITED-FINAL-VERSION.pdf>). It continues to receive numerous, hugely worthwhile project proposals to improve the life of some of the most disadvantaged communities in the world, in a sustainable way. However, its income is well below 'normal' levels as it remains practically impossible to hold fundraising events and because of the fall in collections at church due to the limits on congregation size. This Lent, please could you consider donating to the group in any way you can. New Standing Orders and donations, including your old sterling coins and notes, would boost our work and make a real difference. Please see <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/harpenden/the-developing-world-group/finance-including-sources-and-how-to-donate/> for how to help (including bank account details, Gift Aid etc). Alternatively please email Noel Whittle, the Group's Treasurer on noel.whittle@btinternet.com (mobile 07967 476536). Every little helps! Thank you.

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

The Lent groups are now underway, if you would like to join them please contact Rachel Lee rachellee987@gmail.com.

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 over the next two weekends. If you are watching Mass via live streaming and would like to contribute to the flowers please pop your donation through the letterbox of the Prebytery 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 page 4. 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:

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 - Mass	9.15am	876 2019 6525

- Apologies for the recent issues with both the 'Stations of the Cross', and 'Praying together'. Having this technology thrust upon us, without any great warning, has been a challenge; so, once again, a big 'thank you' to those who have done so much to make it possible.

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>

MOTHER'S DAY 14 MARCH AND FAIRTRADE

As a LiveSimply parish, we are committed to supporting Fairtrade. Here is another practical idea to help achieve a living wage for farmers. In celebration of Mother's Day, you may wish to consider award-winning [Divine Chocolate](#) - Fairtrade chocolate inspired by women farmers in Ghana. Divine offers mouth-watering flavours including salted caramel, strawberry and ginger! The range is also palm oil free and plastic free.



CAFOD'S BIG WALK FOR WATER

Our CAFOD volunteer Bridget and her husband Steve would like to thank everyone in the Parish for their wonderful support for undertaking the Big Walk. A total of £580 has been raised for water projects across Africa. How is the money used? £20 could buy water containers for two families.

£70 could help someone like [Abdella](#) start his own business £200 can buy bikes for engineers to service water pumps. If you would like to contribute please click here: [Justgiving.com/fundraising/bridget-french](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/bridget-french) Thank you.

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 caford.org.uk/give. You can also easily give via text. Text LENT to 70460 to donate £10.* (Plus standard rate message)

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.

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, Mary Miller and Sr Corona and also, for those whose anniversaries occur at this time. 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 MARCH

Lent feria

VIGIL MASS 5.00PM

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT (B)
Mel Armstrong RIP

SUNDAY 7TH MARCH

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

9.00AM

People of the Parish

10.30AM

Eileen Fitzgerald RIP

Zoom Code 835 0841 8205

6.00PM

Stations of the Cross

Zoom Code 834 2619 3453

MONDAY 8TH MARCH

Lent feria

TUESDAY 9TH MARCH

Lent feria

9.15AM

Kathleen Moran RIP (Months Mind)

Zoom Code 859 0668 7104

WEDNESDAY 10TH MARCH

Lent feria

9.15AM

Sr Corona (Recently deceased)

THURSDAY 11TH MARCH

Lent feria

9.15AM

Julian Greenwood RIP (Months Mind)

Zoom Code 876 2019 6525

FRIDAY 12TH MARCH

Lent feria

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

CONFESSIONS - BY PRIOR ARRANGEMENT WITH CANON DWYER