



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B) 25TH APRIL 2021

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY



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

In Jesus' time, being a shepherd was not a pleasant job. Sheep became easily lost and the shepherd's job was to guide them back to safety. There were many dangers and the sheep were totally dependent on the shepherd. Shepherds would round up their sheep in the evening and guide them into their pen. But it had no gate, so the shepherd would have to lie across the space in case the sheep were attacked in the night. The shepherds literally lay down their lives for their flock. St John compares the sacrifice of the shepherd to the 'hired hand' who is not really committed to the flock. He does what he has to but flees at the first sign of trouble.

This Good Shepherd Sunday the Gospel describes Jesus as the 'genuine' Shepherd who wants a personal relationship with each one of us and who would lay down his life for us. The Gospel emphasises the importance of relationship as the shepherd knows his flock and cares for them. They 'Follow Him' and it is not a Facebook or Twitter type of following, rather it is a genuine relationship. Everyone matters to the Good Shepherd, regardless of their situations. We are told 'I know my own and my own know me'. We are called today to follow Jesus in a more personal more intimate way. Even when we stray off the path and get lost, it is then especially that the Good Shepherd comes looking for us.



MASS TIMES

Saturday (Vigil) 5.00pm

Sunday 9am 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, telephone, the parish office.

Monday, Tuesday*, Wednesday and Thursday* Mass this week at 9.15am.

No need to request a place in advance.

*These Masses are live-streamed, for details see below.

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.

ROOM IN CHURCH

Since churches reopened it has been good to see that some parishioners have taken the opportunity to attend Mass, but a large percentage have not and, particularly, noticeable is the absence of many of the young families. This is not easy to understand, as children attend school, and most families go shopping. Many of those who come to Mass will say how safe they feel in church, safer than in the supermarkets! Usually, on a Sunday, there are spaces available and, if numbers indicated, we could return to the practise of having three Masses on Sunday mornings. If you haven't been to Mass, please think about it, come and see how safe the arrangements are and, most importantly, let us strive to be the Body of Christ, gathered together.

PRIEST'S TRAINING FUND

This weekend there is a second collection in support of the Priest Training Fund, which benefits the parishes of the Diocese of Westminster by providing us with new priests. The formation of our priests is of top priority - it is our future. The Priest Training Fund pays for the training and education of seminarians at our seminary, Allen Hall. There are currently 20 students for our Diocese. 18 at Allen Hall, and currently 2 studying in Rome. Last year 2 students, were ordained for our Diocese. It costs on average £25,000 per student, per year of formation - that is about £150,000 to form and educate a new priest, who makes a

lifetime commitment to Christ and the Church. I know that you will be generous in your support of this appeal, and ask you to continue to pray for vocations and our seminarians. Donation leaflets are available today - you can use this envelope to make a one-off donation or to set up a regular donation to the Priest Training Fund. If you can Gift Aid, please don't forget to tick it off.

FIRST COMMUNION

Details of this year's preparation, and First Communion celebrations, have been finalised and emailed to all Parents. Please check junk/spam folders if you have not received an email from the Parish Office. Thank you for your patience!



CONFIRMATION



Plans are almost complete for this year's Confirmation preparation, and we hope to be sending out the necessary information, to parents and candidates very shortly.

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
Tuesday - Mass	9.15am	897 0976 4306
Thursday - Mass	9.15am	860 9031 3471

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



THANK YOU

Marie & Maura would like to say a very big thank you to everyone that donated to the Easter Flowers and the Remembrance Lillies collection. Such a wonderful collection enabled them to decorate the church so beautifully for the season of Easter.

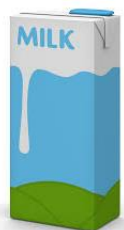


PARISH NEWSLETTER

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.

FOODBANK MILK & JUICE NEEDED

Milk and Juice collections for the Foodbank are resuming: the need is as great as ever. The numbers of people depending on Foodbanks is increasing. So please, if you can bring a carton of UHT milk or Long-Life fruit juice to the church on Saturday or Sunday, even if you are not attending Mass, or donate at one of the Supermarkets or online at [St Albans & District Foodbank](#)



THANK YOU FROM CAFOD

Thank you!

Thank you for your generous support for CAFOD this year and your latest donation of £1,615.00 which we received on 9th April 2021. It means

so much to us that you have reached out to our brothers and sisters around the world, when life here at home is quite changed. Thank you so much for being there for all our global family.

Thank you and God bless
Michelle Oakford - Head of Supporter Relations

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>

HARPENDEN LIBRARY

I'm delighted to let you know that Harpenden library has re-opened to the public on Monday 12th April. Things will be a little different, and some services won't be available initially. Visitors will be able to enter the library for up to 15 minutes to browse the bookshelves and to use the self-service kiosks for borrowing and returning items. Social distancing measures will be in place including queue management, screens on enquiry desks, hand sanitiser stations and quarantine areas for returned books. Customers will also be expected to wear face coverings during their visit. In addition, the People's Network computers will be available in one-hour slots for customers who have made a booking in advance. There will be 15 minutes between bookings to allow for cleaning. During lockdown, many local residents have been making full use of our library resources online, including e-books, e-audio books, digital newspapers and magazines, online courses and the Online Reference Library, however I am sure you will agree that re-opening Harpenden library is an important step for our local community.



You can find the latest information about [Hertfordshire libraries re-opening plans](#) and our online services on our [website](#).

If you are still unsure about being in the building, we have a service called *Grab + Go* available. For adults we have packs of 3 items, either *Pick & Mix* or *Crime & Thrillers*, for children, 6 items in a pack either *Picture Books* or *Books for Babies and New Parents*.

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 Paul Damil, and James Cowley. and also, for those whose anniversaries occur at this time particularly Valerie McGarry and Diana Newham.

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 24TH APRIL

VIGIL MASS 5.00pm

Ss Erkenwald and Mellitus, Bishops

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)

Valerie McGarry RIP (Anniv)

SUNDAY 25TH APRIL

9.00am

10.30am

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)

People of the Parish

Diana Newham RIP (Anniv)

Zoom Code 813 4662 7845

MONDAY 26TH APRIL

9.15am

Easter feria

Giovanni Pontiggia RIP

TUESDAY 27TH APRIL

9.15am

Easter feria

Tom Carey RIP (Recently deceased)

Zoom Code 897 0976 4306

WEDNESDAY 28TH APRIL

9.15am

Easter feria

Michael Farragher RIP (Recently deceased)

THURSDAY 29TH APRIL

9.15am

St Catherine of Siena, Virgin & Doctor

Eilean Quinn RIP (Recently deceased)

Zoom Code 860 9031 3471

FRIDAY 30TH APRIL

Easter feria

SATURDAY 1ST MAY

VIGIL MASS 5.00pm

Easter feria

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)

Mary Timlin RIP (Anniv)

SUNDAY 2ND MAY

9.00am

10.30am

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)

People of the Parish

Neville Gray RIP

Zoom Code 813 4662 7845

CONFESSIONS - BY PRIOR ARRANGEMENT WITH CANON DWYER