



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)

2ND MAY 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

Jesus is risen, present in every person in some way, present in a special way in his own disciples, that is, those who accept him as their Lord. Today's Gospel says that our relationship to him is similar to a tree and its branches. The branch cannot be separated from the parent tree and continue to live. Is that why many, with the name of Christian, fall away? They have never really been part of the vine?

At the same time, it is not enough to be a branch on the tree. There must also be fruit produced. It is not enough to be a Christian and "fulfil one's religious duties". What is that fruit that Jesus speaks of? We get an indication from the First Letter of John. There he says that love cannot just be in words and talk, not even in the most lovely-sounding prayers. Love, he says, is shown in action, in deeds. Only when we are loving in deed can we know that Jesus lives in us.

We have an example of this in the experience of St Paul in today's First Reading. He said that he was now a disciple of Jesus and no longer a persecutor of Christians. They didn't believe him. They felt he was an infiltrator. The leopard does not change his spots. His words were not enough. When his new-found Christian faith bore fruit, when his love was shown in action, then they knew that Jesus was his Lord.

So, we can ask ourselves: Am I really a living branch on the vine that is Jesus? Am I really a Christian that bears fruit? Am I living my life creatively so that others also benefit?

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.

MASSES THIS WEEK

- Tomorrow, Monday, is a bank holiday, so Mass is at the later time of 10.00am
- On Tuesday, the funeral of Paul Damil takes place at 11.00am, there will be no Mass at 9.15am.
- On Wednesday and Thursday Mass is at the usual time of 9.15am.

PRIEST'S TRAINING FUND

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Priest Training Fund collection last weekend. The fund will stay open for a few weeks, so If you still wish to make your donation, you can do so by dropping your contribution at the presbytery; or you can donate online through the Diocese's website. The formation of priests is of top priority, and this fund provides for the training of those preparing to serve as priests in our diocese.

FIRST COMMUNION

Plan's for this years First Communion preparation, and celebrations, are now complete. Parents, who registered their children, should have received an email with all the details. If you haven't please contact the parish office.



CELEBRATING MASS TOGETHER

The Bishop's of England and Wales have been reflecting about the need to celebrate Mass together, included in their reflection:

"It is the Eucharist, the celebration of the Mass, that makes the Church; and it is the Church, in the gift of the Holy Spirit, which makes the Eucharist. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the lifeblood of the Church. It requires our active participation and, to be fully celebrated, our physical presence.

"At this moment, then, we need to have in our sights the need to restore to its rightful centrality in our lives the Sunday Mass, encouraging each to take his or her place once again in the assembly of our brothers and sisters.

"We face the task of seeking to nurture the sense of Sunday as 'a weekly gift from God to his people', and something we cannot do without; to see Sunday as the soul of the week, as giving light and meaning to all the responsibilities we live out each day; to see the Sunday Eucharist as food for the unique mission with which we have been endowed."

- For the full message please click here: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/bishops-encourage-catholics-to-place-sunday-mass-at-the-heart-of-their-post-pandemic-lives/>

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.

CONFIRMATION

Plans are almost complete for this years 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:

NEW CODES FROM THIS SUNDAY!

| DAY | TIME | ZOOM CODE |
|-----------------|---------|---------------|
| Sunday - Mass | 10.30am | 894 6908 9284 |
| Tuesday - Mass | 9.15am | 872 7923 9813 |
| Thursday - Mass | 9.15am | 837 5376 6231 |

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



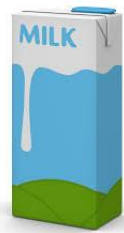
PARISH NEWSLETTER

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.

DAY BY DAY AND BIBLE ALIVE BOOKLETS

For quite some time the sale of the monthly booklets Day by Day and Bible Alive has steadily decreased, and now only one or two parishioners are purchasing a copy. Although, those who read these booklets pay for them, there are other expenses, as we are required to take a certain number, all of which we don't sell, but have to be paid for. So, from June we have decided not to stock these booklets.

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 this weekend, even if you are not attending Mass, or donate at one of the Supermarkets or online at [St Albans & District Foodbank](#)

PARISH QUIZ NIGHT

As a parish contribution to #SustFest21, the LiveSimply Environment Group are organising an online quiz night at 7:30 pm on Friday 28th May on the theme of "Climate and the Environment". The quiz will be conducted via Zoom and Kahoot, so participants will need to have one PC or tablet to connect to Zoom and one mobile phone with the Kahoot app. The quiz should last about an hour and is free to join. The questions will vary from easy to hard so anyone can join, either individually or as a family group. It should be a fun event for all! If you are interested in participating in the quiz or have any questions, please email Hugh Kelliher at hugh.m.kelliher@gmail.com.



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 JIGSAW FESTIVAL - PLEASE DIARISE!

This will now take place between 8am-8pm, on Friday 9 July and Saturday 10 July at High Street Methodist Church, along with refreshments. There will be more than 1000 completed jigsaws on display over the two days. The proceeds will be split between two charities - Workaid (a Chesham-based charity that our parish has supported before); and Azalea. We and our Methodist counterparts will be organising a rota of volunteers to run the festival, once we have decided the jobs that need to be done. We hope very much that our fellow parishioners can help us by doing short stints over the two days, and will be grateful for any home-made cakes you can provide too! Thank you for all your support so far, including by helping to make such a huge number of jigsaws.



For more information, please see our website harpendenjigsawfestival.co.uk, our Facebook page (Harpenden Jigsaw Festival) or email harpendenjigsaws@gmail.com

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 Anthony Rodricks and also, for those whose anniversaries occur at this time particularly Mary Timlin, and Fr Robert Dudley.
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 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 894 6908 9284

MONDAY 3RD MAY

10.00am

Ss Philip & James, Apostles

Fr Robert Dudley RIP (Anniv)

TUESDAY 4TH MAY

11.00am

The English Martyrs

No Mass

Requiem Mass Paul Damil RIP

WEDNESDAY 5TH MAY

9.15am

Easter feria

Colin Meyrick RIP

THURSDAY 6TH MAY

9.15am

Easter feria

John Moran RIP

Zoom Code 837 5376 6231

FRIDAY 7TH MAY

Easter feria

SATURDAY 8TH MAY

VIGIL MASS 5.00pm

Easter feria

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)

Brian Armitage RIP

SUNDAY 9TH MAY

9.00am

10.30am

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)

People of the Parish

Kathleen Moran RIP

Zoom Code 894 6908 9284

CONFESSIONS - BY PRIOR ARRANGEMENT WITH CANON DWYER