



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

17TH OCTOBER 2021

29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)



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Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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Last Sunday Pope Francis opened the two year Synod on the future of Church, and this weekend Cardinal Nichols will initiate the Synodal journey in our Diocese. Below are some reflections from the Pope's homily:

Three verbs characterise the Synod: encounter, listen, and discern. Like Jesus, we too are called to become experts in the art of encounter. This involves an openness to God, taking time for prayer and adoration, and listening to what the Holy Spirit tells us. It also requires openness to others, as well as courage and a willingness to allow ourselves to be challenged by the presence and the stories of others.

Pope Francis said that a true encounter only comes through listening to others, noting that Jesus listens not just with the ears, but with the heart. When we follow Jesus in listening with the heart, people feel they are being heard, not judged; they feel free to recount their own experiences and their spiritual journey.

The Pope invited us to ask ourselves if we are good at listening, if we allow others to express themselves. He said that the Holy Spirit is asking us to listen to the "questions, concerns, and hopes of every Church," and to the challenges and changes presented by the world around us."

Pope Francis stressed that "encounter and listening are not ends in themselves," but must lead to discernment. Whenever we enter into dialogue, we allow ourselves to be challenged, to advance on the journey."

The Synod is a journey of spiritual discernment that takes place in adoration, in prayer, and in dialogue with the Word of God. In these days of the Synod, Jesus calls us to empty ourselves, to free ourselves from all that is worldly, including our inward-looking and outworn pastoral models; and to ask ourselves what it is that God wants to say to us in this time - and the direction in which He wants to lead us."

Pope Francis concluded, expressing the hope that we might be "pilgrims in love with the Gospel and open to the surprises of the Spirit." He urged us not to miss out "on the grace-filled opportunities born of encounter, listening, and discernment."



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MASS TIMES

Saturday (Vigil) 6.00pm

Sunday 8am, 9.45am and 11.30am*

Monday, Tuesday*, Wednesday and Thursday*

Mass this week at 9.15am.

There is 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.

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.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Last weekend it was good to be able to tell you that the process to establish a Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) has begun. A PPC can be an important part of parish life, and provides an opportunity for Parish Priest and parishioners to come together to reflect on the life of the parish, to plan for the future, and to discern the mission we are being called to, as disciples of Jesus Christ today. The PPC will be comprised of 12 parishioners, four of whom will be elected. Would you be willing to become a member of the PPC? Would you be willing to put your gifts and experience at the service of the parish? If so collect a nomination paper either from the porch, or the website. Complete it and return it to the parish office by November 8th. If you want to know some more about the PPC please visit the parish website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/harpenden/the-parish-pastoral-council/>

SYNOD 2023

This weekend preparations for the Synod begin with Cardinal Nichols celebrating Mass in Westminster Cathedral, on Saturday at 6.00pm. All are welcome at the Cathedral, the Mass will also be live-streamed. To view go to <https://westminstercathedral.org.uk/> and click on the link for live-streaming. Each parish has been asked to name someone who can coordinate the response in each parish community. Our representative will be Sally Faiz. Next week we will give you the dates of the three meetings that we have been asked to hold. This process is a listening process for everyone, those who come to church,



those who attend sometimes, and those who attend very little, if at all. If you have any suggestions as to how we can engage with any of those who are not regular attenders, Sally would like to hear from you, and can be contacted at: sallyfaiz@googlemail.com

FIRST COMMUNION

Last Sunday afternoon we had the first of our First Communion celebrations for this year. Yesterday, Saturday, a second, and final, group of children received Jesus in Holy Communion for the first time. These are lovely moments for the children and their families, as well as for the Catechists and the parish. Our hope and prayer is that these occasions are the first of many encounters, for these children, with Jesus in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.



ALTAR SERVERS

It is good to have Altar servers, once again, assisting at Mass. For the time being there will be a rota, indicating when to serve. Parents will have received a short questionnaire asking when their children can serve; those who haven't returned this yet are asked to send it back to Samantha Russell at sammgale@yahoo.co.uk. Please note that for the time being no new servers are starting, or being trained, it is hoped to have some new recruits in the new year.



SINGING IN CHURCH

Now that the congregation is permitted to join in the singing at Mass, while wearing a mask, you are invited, encouraged, to join in the hymns and Mass parts. If you are coming to one of the Masses, at which there is singing, please remember to bring the leaflet with you.



SCHOOL FORMS - A CHANGE OF DATE!

There is a second date for parents whose children are due to transfer to secondary school in September 2022, to meet the Parish Priest. Canon Dwyer will be available in the undercroft, between 5.30pm and 6.30pm, tomorrow Monday 18th October. Please note the change of the date.

PARISH OFFICE



The Parish Office will be closed next week as Melanie will be on holiday.

HARVEST FAST DAY

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the CAFOD Harvest Fast Day collection, either in church or via online or text. To date £831.30 has been donated through the parish. If you haven't yet done so, it's not too late to add your contribution. You can place your contribution in a CAFOD envelope, and drop it through the presbytery letter box, or you can donate online through the CAFOD website or by using a CAFOD envelope. You can also easily give via text. Text CAFOD10 to 70580 to donate £10*. Or choose to give any whole amount between £1 and £20 by texting CAFOD, followed by the amount you would like to donate, to 70580. *Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text CAFODNOINFO to 70580.



CHURCH TOILETS

The toilets in church are open. Anyone using them is asked to use the wipes provided to clean any surfaces that are touched. If children use the toilets, parents must accompany them, and ensure that anything touched, is wiped after use.

ST DOMINIC'S SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

It's that time of year again. Reception for children starting in September 2022. Open days at St Dominic's school are in the morning 9.30am to 10.30am on Thursdays 11th November, Tuesday 16th November, Thursday 25th November. To request a place on the Open Morning please fill in the form that will be on the website



<https://www.stdominic.herts.sch.uk/Our-School/Admissions/> or call the school on 01582 760047 to reserve a place. We ask that they don't bring children or toddlers to the open morning.

SUPPORT FOR THE HOMELESS

During the Lenten groups, many of us were struck by Pope Francis's call to us to get out and make a practical difference - often it's hard to know how. Two of our parishioners are very involved in just that - James O'Grady with Keystage Housing and Peter Ward with NOAH, two very different organisations, but both based in Luton and helping the homeless in practical and inspiring ways. It would be good to set up a support group in the Parish to support their work if enough people were interested - to provide volunteers, raise funds and organise donations of e.g. clothes etc. To provide more information, James and Peter will be talking briefly at every Mass this weekend. **There will then be the opportunity to learn more at a presentation of the work of both organisations in the Undercroft on Tuesday 19th October at 7.30pm with a view to spreading the word and establishing a support group and details of those prepared to volunteer and/or provide some support.** Both Keystage and NOAH would love to know they are in our prayers and if our support can be by our actions as well, we might in some small way be following the call of Pope Francis.

LIVE-STREAMING

Masses and Services will be live-streamed on Zoom, and YouTube this coming week.

DAY	TIME	ZOOM CODE
Sunday - Mass	10.30am	836 6789 4285
Tuesday - Mass	9.15am	882 6349 6596
Thursday - Mass	9.15am	852 5159 5807

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY
PARISH CHRISTMAS
FAIR:



This will be on Saturday
4th December Lourdes Hall from 10 am - 1 pm.

FOR THE CHILDREN

While the obligation to attend Mass remains suspended, it falls to us, 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>

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE OF REPARATION & PRAY FOR THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

There will be a pilgrimage to Walsingham on Saturday 23rd October 2021 led by Bishop Mark Davies

A coach will be leaving Harpenden at 7.30am and tickets cost £17.50 for an adult and £8 for a child (Includes Priory entrance) please contact Geraldine Ward on 07971028415 if you would like to book a place. For more details visit

www.prolifepilgrimage.org

WALK WITH AMAL
ISN'T IT GREAT!

Amal will be welcomed at Westminster Cathedral with a special prayer service. 25th October at 2pm. She will also visit Canterbury Cathedral and St. Paul's. At each stage of Little Amal's journey she has been welcomed by artistic and cultural events. Have you been following? The Walk celebrates resilience, courage and hope. Little Amal walks for tens of thousands of children who have fled war and persecution. They need support to get an education and rebuild their lives. The arrival of Amal in Manchester on 3rd November marks the end of her epic journey. There are refugees who have come to Hertfordshire. How will we, as a parish, welcome them? A cultural event is being planned in late November when someone from Herts Welcomes Refugees will give us a talk and we will showcase the talents of our parish in music, poetry and storytelling. Look out for further information and if you have a talent contact Margaret Cox on 01582 713727

COP 26 IN HARPENDEN

The United Nations Harpenden Branch are meeting at 10.30 for 11.00 am at Park Hall, Leyton Road, AL5 2LX next Saturday, 23 October. Simon Grove, St Albans Green Councillor will talk on "How can we respond effectively to the climate crisis?"

All are welcome.



MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

<p>Saturday 16th October 11.00am</p> <p>VIGIL MASS 6.00pm</p>	<p>feria First Holy Communion Mass (2) 29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) Sarah Cullinane RIP</p>
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<p>Sunday 17th October 8.00am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p>29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) People of the Parish Frank Flanagan RIP (Anniv)</p> <p style="color: blue;">Zoom Code 836 6789 4285</p>
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<p>Monday 18th October 9.15am</p>	<p>ST LUKE, Evangelist</p>
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<p>Tuesday 19th October 9.15am</p>	<p>feria</p> <p style="color: blue;">Zoom Code 882 6349 6596</p>
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<p>Wednesday 20th October 9.15am</p>	<p>feria</p>
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<p>Thursday 21st October 9.15am</p>	<p>feria Joan Gardner RIP (Anniv) Zoom Code 852 5159 5807</p>
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<p>Friday 22nd October</p>	<p>feria</p>
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<p>Saturday 23rd October 11.30am & 12.30pm</p> <p>VIGIL MASS 6.00pm</p>	<p>feria Baptisms 30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) John Horne RIP</p>
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<p>Sunday 24th October 8.00am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p>30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) People of the Parish</p> <p style="color: blue;">Zoom Code 836 6789 4285</p>
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CONFESSIONS - BY PRIOR ARRANGEMENT WITH CANON DWYER