



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

12TH DECEMBER 2021
3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)
GAUDETE SUNDAY



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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 Parish Office is open Monday to Thursday, 9.30am to 12.30pm

Telephone: 01582 712245 or email: harpندن@rcdow.org.uk

Website: parish.rcdow.org.uk/harpندن

twitter: https://twitter.com/rc_olol?lang=en

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OLoLHarpندن>

Parish Safeguarding Representative Mrs Brigid Brennan

Email: harpندنsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk Tel: 07881 785 299

This Sunday's Gospel continues last week's focus on John the Baptist and his role in preparing the way for Christ. Last week we heard of John's appearance in the desert. Today John challenges the crowd, to repent, and tells them they must show evidence of their repentance. Repentance, must be observable in one's actions. Here, Luke is continuing to set up two important themes of his Gospel message: the Christian faith is expressed in one's actions, and the call to salvation is extended to everyone, Jews and Gentiles.

In response, the crowds ask John for specifics. What must we do? John replies by naming concrete actions: crowds should share their food and cloaks; tax collectors should be just; soldiers should act fairly. The concern for justice is a hallmark of Luke's Gospel.

When the crowd begins to wonder if John the Baptist might be the Messiah, John makes it clear that his ministry is in preparation for the Messiah. John the Baptist knows his place and role in God's plan of salvation. By encouraging the crowd to act similarly in accordance with their stations in life, John's teaching suggests that each person has a role to play in God's salvation. It is the great mystery of our salvation that God permits and even asks for human cooperation in his divine plans.

The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is a Latin word that means "rejoice." This name is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass, which is also echoed in today's second reading from the Paul's letter to the Philippians. This Sunday is marked by lighting a rose candle instead of a purple one on the Advent wreath. It is a reminder that the Advent season is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

PARISH ADVENT CALENDAR



DECEMBER 2021

1 ADVENT IS A SEASON OF WAITING AND ANTICIPATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST	2 WE ARE COLLECTING DONATIONS FOR NOAH AND KEYSTAGE HOUSING	3 RUCKSACKS, SHAVING ITEMS, LAUNDRY DETERGENT, SOAP	4 MENS WINTER, MENS NEW SOCKS & UNDERWEAR (S/M)	5 CHOCOLATE ORANGES, CHOCOLATE SELECTION BOXES, BISCUITS	6 LIVE SIMPLY PUTTING OUR FAITH INTO ACTION TO PROTECT THIS EARTH
7 CAFOD-CONSIDER SIMPLE MEAL, WORLD GIFT, PRAYER FOR CAFOD	8 EAST OF THE IMMACULATION CONCEPTION OF MARY	9 WE ARE COLLECTING DONATIONS FOR NOAH AND KEYSTAGE HOUSING	10 CAN OPENERS, MUGS, CUTLERY SETS	11 CANS OF SOFT DRINKS, CARTONS OF JUICE, BOTTLES OF WATER	12 HATS, GLOVES, EAR MUFFS, HEAT PADS, HOT WATER BOTTLES
13 ROT NOODLES, TINS OF FOOD	14 DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP ARE SUPPORTING	15 THE HOLY FAMILY WERE REFUGEES. HOW DO WE WELCOME REFUGEES?	16 HYGIENE BANK-TAKE A LOOK AT THEIR CHRISTMAS APPEAL/ WISHLIST	17 BOTS AND PANS, SMALL KITCHEN ELECTRICALS (KETTLES/TOASTERS)	18 FACE/ BODY WIPES, DEODORANT, TOOTHBRUSHES, TOOTHPASTE
19 CAKES, CRISPS	20 SVP HARPENDEN: TURNING CONCERN INTO ACTION	21 FOODBANK-UHT MILK DONATIONS 1ST SUNDAY EACH MONTH	22 SYNODAL CHURCH PROCESS: LISTENING TO EACH OTHER	23 WE ARE COLLECTING DONATIONS FOR NOAH AND KEYSTAGE HOUSING	24 PRAY FOR ALL OUR PARISH

PARISH ADVENT CALENDAR

Hopefully, you won't have missed the Parish Advent Calendar, located in front of the Church. Inside each box are messages and reflections for Advent, the amazing work of our Parish, and some of the associated charities we support. The Parish Homelessness Group are also having a donation drive for the homelessness organisations NOAH Enterprise and Keystage Housing.

Please place donations in the boxes located inside the front door of the church on the left.

There is also mini advent calendar above to remind you of the items that are needed. You can bring them to the Church any day of the week.

If you require any further information please contact Cathy Seaton : cmann100@hotmail.com

KEEP SAFE

It's Good to see that almost everyone, coming to church, is wearing a mask. As you know the guidance from both the government and diocese, is that we continue to do so in crowded places. So do keep wearing a mask, unless exempt. In that, and other ways, we continue to do what we can, to stay safe, and help to keep others safe also.



CHRISTMAS MASSES

- **Request your Place** -

The situation around Covid continues to create considerable uncertainty. In everything that is done our aim is to try and ensure that everyone is as safe as possible in church. With this in mind it is necessary to have some control over the numbers coming to church for the Christmas Masses, and for everyone to have a seat, so that large numbers are not standing, and packed closely, together at the back of the church. It will, regretfully, be necessary to ask that for the four Christmas Masses, everyone who wishes to attend requests a seat in advance. This is far from ideal, but is necessary if we are to try and ensure our church is as safe as possible. If you would like to request a seat please do so via the website,

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/harpenden/events/> from Monday 13th December. For these four Masses all seats in the church, including the side seats, will be available to everyone. However, anyone who needs to 'socially distance' should contact the parish office, and an appropriate arrangement can be made.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Details of everything that is happening in church over the next few weeks will be found in the Christmas leaflet, which has been emailed to you with the Newsletter, copies are available in the porch for Parishioners who do not receive the email/have a printer. Do please collect a copy, and note that there are a few changes to the regular schedule.



ELECTED!

Following the recent election it's good to be able to tell you that Tony Fields, Eddie Gaynor, Jon Newham and Fernanda Paukstys have been elected to the Parish Pastoral Council. Our thanks to them for offering to serve the parish in this way, and also to the other two candidates who offered themselves.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE



Reconciliation, going to Confession, is an essential part of our preparation for Christmas. This Advent, happily, we are once again to have our Penitential Service. This will take place on Monday 20th December at 7.30pm.

BAZAAR & PARTY

Last weekend was a busy but enjoyable weekend. On Saturday the Christmas Fair took place, raising £2125. While on Sunday an enjoyable celebration took place for Mgr Turner's 'significant' birthday. It was good to see many parishioners making the effort to attend on both days, and enjoying both events. A big 'thank you' is due to the Ladies Group who played a large part in both events, along with other helpers who generously gave their time. Two lovely parish events, and good to see so many sharing in our parish life.

thank
you!

SYNODAL PATHWAY 2023

We have now had three in person and remote sessions to converse with each other about our experiences with and hopes for the Church both in our parish and globally. Thank you so much to all those who have taken part. We have had some excellent conversations - sometimes challenging but also reinforcing the strong desire we have to connect and engage with each other as a Catholic community.

We will continue our Synodal conversations into January, with the deadline for our submission to the Diocese on the 19th January. There will be a youth meeting organised by young parishioners in January, details to come. If you would like to contribute please do either reach out for a conversation (please email caroleacox@btinternet.com), send in your observations on the questions previously circulated or gather a group of friends to have an informal chat and feedback your collective thoughts to sallyfaiz@gmail.com or michelle.heys@gmail.com. As ever, we are keen to hear thoughts from those disengaged from the Church for whatever reason.

FUNERALS

MARY KELLY RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Mary Kelly who died recently, her Requiem Mass will be on Monday 13th December at 12 Noon.

JOHN JACK JUBB RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of John Jubb, his Requiem Mass will be on Wednesday 15th December at 11.00am.

ALEXANDER MCALEAR RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Alexander McAlear who died recently, his Requiem Mass will be on Friday 17th December at 11.00am.

MARGARET WOODHOUSE (JEAN) RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Margaret Woodhouse (Jean) who died recently, her Requiem Mass will be on Monday 20th December at 11.00am.

MARY HOCKRIDGE (JO) RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Mary Hockridge (Jo) who died this week, more details to follow once the funeral has been confirmed.

We remember all the families in our prayers at this time. May they Rest in Peace.

RECEPTION APPLICATIONS

There is a further opportunity, for parents who are applying for places in Reception, in Catholic Schools, to have the Certificate of Catholic Practise (CCP) completed. Canon Dwyer will be available to meet parents, in the undercroft between 5.30pm and 6.30pm, tomorrow, Monday 13th December. Please note this is the final opportunity to have the CCP completed.

CONFIRMATION 2022

Confirmation for young people in year 9 and above, will be taking place next summer. Forms for registration will be available in the new year.

SUNDAY 19TH DECEMBER

FESTIVAL OF CAROLS

This year there will be three shorter services at the following times . Please come along at the time you wish to take part in traditional carols, readings and refreshments as you leave ! For all the family , a beautiful way to start the Christmas week. Services at 3.30pm, 4.15pm and 5.00pm. Please wait to be shown in to the church at the time you have chosen !



REPOSITORY

The repository has now reopened, after the 6pm, 9.45am & 11.30 Masses, and has a wide selection of Advent calendars, Cribs, Christmas cards, Gifts, Missals, Confirmation cards, etc. Come and have a look. A volunteer is needed for the 8am Mass to help in the repository. It only involves a short period after Mass. If you can help, please contact the Parish Office.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Many thanks to those who bought hand printed linocut Christmas cards this year, this raised £195 for the church building fund.

LIVE-STREAMING

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

DAY	TIME	ZOOM CODE
Sun - Mass	11.30am	817 8184 1513
Tuesday - Mass	9.15am	881 8097 5945
Thursday - Mass	11.00am	878 2420 5059

WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOK

The Diocesan Directory for 2022 has now arrived and can be purchased from the Repository priced £4.50. This contains details of all the parishes and priests in the Diocese, as well as other useful information.



PARISH DIARIES 2022

Parish diaries, for the coming year, are now available. Please take one and take one also for a friend or family member that isnt able to attend Mass themselves.



A four-week singing project designed to bring fun and joy whilst raising money and awareness for NOAH and Key Stage Housing. Learn four song in four weeks with no previous singing experience required - it is for everyone to "Sing for" the many reasons we each may wish to sing!

Tuesday evenings 7.30pm - 9.00pm, Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Starting Tuesday 18th January for four weeks. Costs £35 per person for the four-week project.

Sing for.... projects 2 and 3 will follow later in the year starting 26th April and 13th September respectively. Be a part of all three, or as many as you wish!

Sign up on the sheet at the back of the Church or by emailing katiemjack@yahoo.co.uk

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

<p>Saturday 11th December</p> <p style="text-align: center;">VIGIL MASS 6.00pm</p>	<p>Advent feria</p> <p>3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C) GAUDETE SUNDAY</p> <p>Danny Lonergan RIP (Recently Deceased)</p>		<p style="font-size: small;">Lord, come and save us.</p>
<p>Sunday 12th December</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8.00am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p>3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C) GAUDETE SUNDAY</p> <p>Luke Kealy RIP People of the Parish Mery Almarza & Ines Sarti RIP</p> <p>Zoom Code 817 8184 1513</p>		
<p>Monday 13th December</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9.15am 12.00 Noon</p>	<p>St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr</p> <p>Debra Todd (Spec Ints) Requiem Mass Mary Kelly RIP</p>		
<p>Tuesday 14th December</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9.15am</p>	<p>St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor</p> <p>Walter Nicholls RIP (Anniv)</p> <p>Zoom Code 881 8097 5945</p>		
<p>Wednesday 15th December</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9.15am 11.00am</p>	<p>Advent feria</p> <p>Special Ints (BB) Requiem Mass John Jack Jubb RIP</p>		
<p>Thursday 16th December</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11.00am</p>	<p>Advent feria</p> <p>Elizabeth Feeney RIP</p> <p>Zoom Code 878 2420 5059</p>		
<p>Friday 17th December</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11.00am</p>	<p>Advent feria</p> <p>Requiem Mass Alexander McAlear RIP</p>		
<p>Saturday 18th December</p> <p style="text-align: center;">VIGIL MASS 6.00pm</p>	<p>Advent feria</p> <p>4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)</p> <p>John McKenna RIP (Anniv)</p>		<p style="font-size: small;">Let the Lord enter: He is King of glory.</p>
<p>Sunday 19th December</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8.00am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p>4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)</p> <p>People of the Parish Bernard St John Glew RIP Mike Gaire RIP (Anniv)</p> <p>Zoom Code 817 8184 1513</p>		

CONFESSIONS - SATURDAYS 10.30AM - 11.30AM & 7PM - 7.30PM