



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

16TH JANUARY 2022

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)



© Chloe Le Tissier

Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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Parish Administrator Mrs Melanie Armitage

The Parish Office is closed for the moment,

however, Canon Dwyer and Melanie are available via telephone and email.

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Website: parish.rcdow.org.uk/harpenden

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

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

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Last Sunday, as we celebrated the feast of 'the Baptism of the Lord', so we entered the season of 'ordinary' time. That phrase 'ordinary time' is perhaps slightly strange. What does it mean to be in ordinary time? And as we continue to live through the pandemic, with its restrictions and worries, you might well ask: how can we possibly say we are living in 'ordinary time?' That, of course, is true, but there is a bigger context to this time, a context which becomes apparent when we think about what we have just celebrated; the great feast of Christmas.

At Christmas we celebrated the birth of Jesus, the wonder of God taking on human flesh, and coming on earth, dwelling among us. In the light of that celebration, we might ask: how can anything ever be ordinary again? How can anything be 'ordinary' knowing that in Jesus, Emmanuel, God is with us? No matter then, whatever may happen in our lives, whatever may daunt or worry us, we live with the reality, the wonder, that God is with us.

That is what our faith enables us to live, and to celebrate. Next Sunday afternoon we have an opportunity to think a little more about how we live, love and celebrate our faith, at the 'Parish Gathering'. In recent times we have been thinking about what the mission of the parish is, and how each of us can contribute to realising that vision as 'missionary disciples'. Informing that vision, are first and foremost the Gospel, as well as the thoughts expressed in the parish survey, and in the recent meetings on the 'Synodal Pathway'.

Our faith doesn't need to be ordinary; it can be extraordinary! Everyone has the opportunity to play their part in realising the Parish Vision and, as in today's Gospel, we can allow Jesus to take and transform our efforts.

PROTECTING OURSELVES & OTHERS

When coming to Mass, or to other parish activities, in order to keep ourselves, and others, safe, please:

- Do not attend if you, or anyone in your house has COVID, or you are feeling unwell.
- Take a Lateral-Flow test before you come.

PARISH GATHERING

- "LOOKING BACK AND MOVING FORWARD" -

Next Sunday 23rd January, everyone is invited to a social gathering, at 3.00pm in Lourdes Hall, for the launch of the new Parish Pastoral Council, as well as an update on the Parish Renewal programme. This will also be an opportunity to reflect on the past year and look ahead to the next steps on our journey together. Refreshments will be provided. To help with numbers please let us know if you are coming by emailing dr.harpendenlol@gmail.com by Sunday 16th January 2022.

ATTENDING MASS

It's good to see increasing numbers returning to Sunday Mass, but there are still quite a number 'missing', even allowing for those who, for health reasons, may be anxious about attending, or maybe unwell because of Covid or another reason. That is surprising, given that Sunday, no matter what, remains the Lord's Day. The Bishops of England and Wales recently sent this message: *"Now is the time for us to return once more, physically if we are able, to the celebration of Mass on Sunday. Sunday is indeed Dies Domini, the day of the Lord. When we come to Mass on Sunday, we experience that lifeblood which the Lord wants to give to us from His glorified wounds. Being only virtually present is a poor substitute. Of course, the virtual means of communication will continue to be a valued service for those who are sick or those unable to come to Church for whatever reason on a Sunday. no broadcast is comparable to personal participation, and it cannot replace it. The Lord stresses this physical contact when he says in*



St. John's Gospel, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life." This physical contact which we have with the Lord at Mass is vital, indispensable and irreplaceable for us as Catholics.

ANOTHER STEP

Throughout the Pandemic we have followed the guidance of the Government, and the Bishop's Conference. Recently we received the following, from the Bishop's: "There is now very strong evidence to support that the main mode of this variant's viral transmission is through aerosols, and that the risk from surface and touch transmission is very small



indeed. As such, the strict regimes of church cleaning that were recommended at the beginning of the opening of churches for public worship are no longer necessary.

General church cleaning is sufficient. "So, based on this guidance, the, additional, cleaning of the church during the week, and after Sunday Masses, will cease. However, it is recommended, that everyone continue to sign in, either via the list, or the NHS

App. Hand gel will continue to be provided on arrival and departure, and everyone is asked to wear a mask, unless exempt. The weekday congregation are asked to continue to 'sign' themselves in, and help themselves to hand gel. Stewards continue to be needed to assist with these tasks, and anyone else who can assist, would be much appreciated.



CAFOD
Just one world

AFGHANISTAN APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who supported the CAFOD Christmas Appeal for the people of Afghanistan. Eight million people, including children, are on the brink of starvation. As well as the fighting there, and the massive social upheaval, they have experienced the worst drought for 27 years. If you haven't yet contributed you can still do so. You can leave your donation at the presbytery, or for more information on how to donate go to the CAFOD website: cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal.

'GET VACCINATED! GET BOOSTED!'

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, is encouraging everyone to take up Covid vaccinations and boosters when offered by the NHS. He says: "The call 'Get vaccinated! Get boosted!' is more and more pressing. The need is more urgent - especially in London. I add my voice to many others... including the voice of Pope Francis who says to be vaccinated is 'an act of love' The whole



vaccination process is a question of solidarity, loyalty and togetherness'. He adds: 'There is only one answer: "You do it"'. "Yes, please act quickly. Here is real protection, for yourself and for others."

JOHANNA GREGORY RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Johanna Gregory who died on Wednesday. Johanna was a long standing member of the Parish and part of the Flower Group. Details of the Requiem Mass will follow shortly. We remember Johanna's family in our prayers at this time.

CONFIRMATION 2022

Preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, for those young people in Year 9 or above, will commence soon.

Application forms are available for collection by the candidates after all Masses throughout January. Completed forms and copies of Baptismal Certificates must be emailed to Melanie in the parish office by **Monday 31st January please.**



MUSIC AT THE '9:45'AM MASS



Are you a musician / singer interested in helping enhance the 9:45am Sunday Mass with music / hymns aimed at our younger family congregation? We are primarily looking for a keyboard /organ player to come in on our rota to play one Sunday in the month and maybe take on a leadership role to bring a new vision

to this mass' music. Please contact John Saliot on 07980 537791 or the Parish Office."

PARISH HOMELSSNESS ACTION GROUP DONATION DRIVE

A group of Year 10 students are organising a donation drive for NOAH Enterprise and Keystage Housing as part of their volunteering activity for their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. The donation drive will be taking place at Our Lady of Lourdes Hall Southdown Road next Saturday, 22nd January, from 2pm - 5pm. The group are asking for the following donations; **Keystage Housing** - crockery, mugs, induction pans, frying pans, cutlery, kitchen utensils (no sharp knives), tea towels, oven gloves, and baking trays. **Noah Enterprise** - Mens winter coats, mens shoes, good quality bric a brac for Noah's charity shop.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

BANISH THE WINTER BLUES JAZZ EVENING.

Saturday 5th February at the Lourdes Hall. Enjoy the easy listening jazz from Lulu and the Hullabalooos. Canapes will be served throughout the evening, plus coffee and tea (BYOB). Tickets (£20) will



be on sale after this weekend's Masses and proceeds will go to the Developing World Group. If you would like a ticket, but can't get to Mass, contact marva@cpoauk.com.

HAVING FUN HELPING OTHERS.

The Parish Homeless Action Group is supporting local Catenians who are organising 'Masquerade - a fun evening of opera' on **Saturday 26th February** at Holy Ghost Parish Centre, 33 Westbourne Rd, Luton LU4 8JD in aid of NOAH, the Luton-based charity working across Bedfordshire offering hope and support to people struggling against homelessness and exclusion. You may remember that Peter Ward, one of our parishioners, spoke about NOAH in church in October; and also with Keystage Housing, gave a presentation in the crypt a few days later on the work they do and the support we as a parish can try to provide. Whether you are an opera lover or not you will be enraptured by the singing and the joyous occasion, so come along to this light but professionally sung gala evening, at the same time supporting a great cause. Bid in advance to have your favourite song performed in front of you.



Win the prize for the best masquerade mask. Make

up a group, bring your friends and book tickets at £32 per head (a price kept as low as possible even though the event is being staged to generate funds for NOAH) via <https://noah-masquerade-opera.eventbrite.co.uk>.

See the poster on the notice board in the porch.

LIVE-STREAMING

Masses will be live-streamed on Zoom, and YouTube this coming week. **Please see page 5 for all the details.**

ST DOMINIC'S NURSERY APPLICATIONS

Nursery applications open on 1st February and close 1st March. The

Open Mornings are as follows:

Tuesday 25th January @ 9.30am to 10.30am

Mon 31st January @ 9.30am to 10.30am

Tues 22nd February @9.30am to 10.30am

If you would like to visit there is a Sign up sheet on school website. For more information please see our Website.

<https://www.stdominic.herts.sch.uk/Our-School/Admissions/>



MASS FOR WORLD DAY OF THE SICK SATURDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2022 AT 2PM AT WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

There will be a Mass for World Day of the Sick at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 12th February at 2pm. If you would like to attend please contact Melanie in the Parish Office by Thursday 3rd February, with your name, email address, number attending the Mass and if you need wheelchair access.

BECAUSE WE CARE ABOUT OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN:

The Liverpool Catholic Archdiocese is hosting a talk by celebrated author Lorna Gold based on her brilliant book "Daring to hope: Faith and the struggle for climate justice", on how to protect our world from the real and deadly threat of climate change, and preserve it for our children and grandchildren. All parents and grandparents will want to see it. You can register for the Zoomed talk on Sunday 16 January at 2.00 pm at:

https://apis.mail.yahoo.com/ws/v3/mailboxes/@.id==VjN-GROkapsC524cDCRNGIfyft_X495LjOuDhs4CG8bSg

[NkK1r8Dktk7jBCKVX+5YD1xCR5zPQBZsc2V9LTvU903A/messages/@.id=AGeHWXA4irbRYdc-SwXEKFEUkik/content/parts/@.id=2/thumbnail?appid=YMailNorrin&downloadWhenThumbnailFails=true&pid=2](https://www.facebook.com/3A/messages/@.id=AGeHWXA4irbRYdc-SwXEKFEUkik/content/parts/@.id=2/thumbnail?appid=YMailNorrin&downloadWhenThumbnailFails=true&pid=2)



A four-week singing project designed to bring fun and joy whilst raising money and awareness for NOAH and Key Stage Housing. Learn four songs 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 this 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

Saturday 15th January

VIGIL MASS 6.00pm

feria

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

Caitriona Kelly RIP (Anniv)

Sunday 16th January

**8.00am
9.45am
11.30am**

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

Patrick & Jean Ward RIP (Anniv)

People of the Parish

James & Kay Ward RIP (Anniv)

Zoom Code 883 7014 5568

Monday 17th January

9.15am

St Anthony, Abbot

Sr Loretta (Sp Ints)

Tuesday 18th January

9.15am

feria

Ed Barry RIP

Zoom Code 846 8231 6518 (New Code)

Wednesday 19th January

9.15am

feria

Kevin Hughes (Ints)

Thursday 20th January

11.00am

feria

Johanna Gregory RIP (Recently Deceased)

Zoom Code 843 3670 2322 (New Code)

Friday 21st January

St Agnes, Virgin & Martyr

Saturday 22nd January

VIGIL MASS 6.00pm

feria

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

Owen McMeel RIP (1st Anniv)

Sunday 23rd January

**8.00am
9.45am
11.30am**

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

Gerald Ward

People of the Parish

Margaret Hughes RIP (Months Mind)

Zoom Code 883 7014 5568 (New Code)

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