



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

23RD JANUARY 2022

3RD 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 open Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 12.30pm.

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Website: parish.rcdow.org.uk/harpenden

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

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Parish Safeguarding Representative Mrs Brigid Brennan

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The mission of Jesus is expressed with great force in today's Gospel. The Spirit that had come upon him in the Jordan River was leading him to proclaim a message and a way of life to teach. He had moved away from home, and had made such an impression that word about him had got back to his home place of Nazareth. We are told that he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, as he usually did... and announced the start of a new age!

His sermon would be understood by anyone who was familiar with the words of the prophets. Isaiah had stated clearly what would happen when the Messiah came. Jesus read that wonderful passage to them, then rolled up the scroll and announced "Today these words are coming true even as I speak." When he announced that he had come to replace the old Jewish love of law with a new law of love, it caused quite a commotion. At first, we are told that everyone was pleased with his basic message; but in next Sunday's gospel, we hear how this encounter ended up. Not too well, actually, but we'll have to wait until next week, to hear what happened.

Human nature has some in-built resistance to God that arises from deep within. There is some basic rebelliousness within us, a stubborn pride leading to the blindness and the oppression spoken of in today's gospel. Were to be alone, it would be impossible for me to lift ourselves out of the quicksand of my own selfishness. But we are not alone, Jesus is with us, to lead us, to save us; this is the powerful Good News announced in the Nazareth Synagogue.

PARISH GATHERING

- "LOOKING BACK AND MOVING FORWARD" -

This, Sunday, afternoon 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 introducing the recently elected, and appointed, members, this will also be an opportunity to give an update on the Parish Renewal programme, as well as giving a summary of the discussions of the 'Synodal Pathway'. There 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.harpendenolol@gmail.com, even if you haven't let us know you will be very welcome.

SAFEGUARDING

Please take a moment to read the safeguarding updates, from Brigid Brennan, our Parish Safeguarding Representative, included with this newsletter.

PARISH OFFICE

From next Monday, the Parish Office, will return to it's usual opening times: Monday to Thursday, from 9.30am to 12.30pm.



AFGHANISTAN APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who supported the CAFOD Christmas Appeal for the people of Afghanistan. To date 781.35 has been donated. 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.

BE CAREFUL



Although restrictions are reducing, it is still 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. Stewards continue to be needed to

assist with these tasks, and anyone else who can assist, would be much appreciated.

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. Johanna's Requiem Mass be on Tuesday 25th January at 10.00am. We remember Johanna's family in our prayers at this time.

- **There will be no 9.15am Mass on Tuesday morning.**

WALTER GILES RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Walter Giles who died this week. Details of Walter's Requiem Mass to follow. We remember Walter'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."



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

BANISH THE WINTER BLUES JAZZ EVENING.

Saturday 5th February at the Lourdes Hall. Enjoy the easy listening jazz/blues music from Lulu and the Hullabalooos. There will be plenty of food served throughout the evening so there is no need to eat beforehand., Tea and Coffee will be available and if you like



(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.

LIVE-STREAMING

Masses will be live-streamed on Zoom, and YouTube this coming week. [Please see page 6 for all the details.](#)

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.

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/>

PRIEST'S REFERENCE

Canon Dwyer will be available to sign Certificates of Catholic Practice, in the Undercroft, on Tuesday 8th February, between 5.00pm and 6.00pm.

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.



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 last 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

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE.

It is now three years since I was appointed the Parish Safeguarding Rep and I am so grateful to everyone involved in the groups who needed to go through the Diocesan Safeguarding procedure. We processed about 55 volunteers in 2018 and a few more since. At the moment we are processing more helpers for the First Communion Group. If anyone would like to volunteer for any of the Parish groups whether or not they involve DBS checking, do let Canon Anthony or the Group leader know.

It is the policy of the Westminster diocese that every DBS check needs updating every three years so many of you will be coming up to that anniversary soon. For those who registered their previous certificate with the DBS Update Service, when renewing their DBS check they won't need to do the online part however one form - a Safeguarding Self Declaration (DBS4) - needs to be completed; I shall then send this to the diocesan DBS team to complete the DBS re-check. If I did your ID verification the first time your DBS was processed and your ID documents have not changed (e.g., expired), there won't be a need to do ID verification again. Alternatively, please let me know if there have been any changes and we can book an ID verification again. For those who did not register their DBS certificate on the update service the first time, the full process will apply.

We strive to continue to promote a culture of safeguarding among everyone in the parish, both volunteers and non-volunteers. As mentioned before the Diocese provide really good online training in a number of safeguarding areas. Canon Anthony and I strongly encourage all volunteers working with children and/or adults at risk to enroll in the EduCare courses which are free of charge by sending an email to: safeguardingadmin@rcdow.org.uk with your full name and email address asking to be registered as soon as possible. Indeed, everyone can take advantage of these very good safeguarding online modules.

Please be reminded that any of us might come across situations involving children or vulnerable adults which cause us safeguarding concerns and we are all under a legal duty to take action in such cases. Areas affecting vulnerable adults for example might include financial abuse or neglect. For children you may be worried they are suffering some form of abuse or neglect, grooming or radicalisation. I very much hope you don't have any such concerns about anyone: but please do not hesitate to call me or Canon Anthony or send me an email to the dedicated safeguarding email address for the parish harpdensg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk if you would like to discuss whether something worrying you might need be taken further, whether or not it involves a parish member or someone that does not frequent the parish. You can also contact Social Services, either Children Services or Adult Care, for advice. Where you believe that someone is in immediate danger, the Police should be contacted immediately on 999.

Brigid Brennan, Parish Safeguarding Representative; 07881 785299;

harpdensg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

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
Monday 24th January 9.15am	St Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor Sr Nora (Sp Ints)
Tuesday 25th January 10.00am	THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL THE APOSTLE Requiem Mass for Johanna Gregory Zoom Code 846 8231 6518
Wednesday 26th January 9.15am	Ss Timothy & Titus, Bishops Barbara b'Artois RIP (Months Mind)
Thursday 27th January 11.00am	feria Liam Dooley RIP (Anniv) Zoom Code 843 3670 2322
Friday 28th January	St Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor
Saturday 29th January Baptisms: 11.30am 12.30pm VIGIL MASS 6.00pm	feria Fields & Sharif Families Laverty & Mills Families 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C) Bernard McGarry RIP (Anniv)
Sunday 30th January 8.00am 9.45am 11.30am	4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C) Margaret McNair RIP People of the Parish Jimmy & Anne Brophy RIP Zoom Code 883 7014 5568

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