



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

30TH JANUARY 2022

4TH 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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twitter: https://twitter.com/rc_olol?lang=en

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The beginning of today's Gospel repeats some of last Sunday's. Jesus, at the beginning of his public life, has delivered what today could be called his "mission statement". Today, as he speaks, Jesus says that these words are being fulfilled - in him. The Messiah they have been waiting for is now here in the person of Jesus. His Kingdom has begun to be realised in his works of healing, of reconciliation and liberation from evil powers.

At first, the crowd was amazed that one of their fellow villagers could speak with such grace and eloquence and with such authority. But it was something altogether different to put themselves in his hands. Who did he really think he was? After hearing Jesus' words about the poor reception of prophets by their own people, they were worked up into a blind rage and hatred. They wanted to push Jesus off the cliff on which their town was built.

But, we hear, Jesus passed through their midst and left them. How sad, that Jesus should walk away, that his presence was unrecognised, that he was rejected. That could be our story also. If it does, it will not be he who has abandoned us; we will have rejected him; because he will never force himself on us.

Jesus, as we heard, tells us that his words are being fulfilled. They were in his lifetime, and that continues to be the case. The mission, that Jesus initiated, continues to be fulfilled. We participate in that mission, and we do so, not when we allow Jesus to 'slip away', but when we are open, and attentive, to him, and as we continue to strive, to deepen our relationship with him.

ANOTHER STEP FORWARD

Following the announcement by the Government that the measures put in place to mitigate against Covid virus transmission, "Plan B" will be lifted in full on 27th January, the following guidance has been received from the Bishops, and agreed with Public Health officials.

- The Church in England and Wales supports the vaccination programme and encourages people to be vaccinated.
- Anyone displaying symptoms of Covid-19 should stay at home and not participate in acts of worship in church.
- Use Hand Gel on arrival & departure
- Those attending an act of worship are encouraged to continue to wear a face covering (both nose and mouth) whilst in the church building.
- Holy water stoups will be refilled.
- Congregational singing may continue and there is a general encouragement to wear face coverings while singing.
- The taking of names and contact details will cease, but those who wish can 'sign-in' using the NHS 'Track & Trace' app.



PARISH GATHERING

How good it was last Sunday to come together, and to reflect on some important happenings in the life of our parish. Some 50 or so parishioners attended, and heard an update on the Parish Renewal Programme, hearing what has happened to date, and what it is hoped will happen, as we look to the future. Much of the renewal programme has been created from comments made in the parish survey, an attempt to listen well. There was also a report of the recent consultations that took place about the 'Synodal Pathway'. It has been good to hear some encouraging comments from those who attended, and who recognised the efforts to further develop the mission of our parish. A report of the meeting will soon be available.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

After a gap of quite a few years, it's good that once again we have a Parish Pastoral Council (PPC). The purpose of the PPC is to: To advise and make recommendations to the Parish Priest on the spiritual, pastoral and social life of the parish community, and, as well, to evolve the goals that have been set, and decide on the priorities to lead to the realisation of

the Parish vision. The PPC will meet six times a year. The elected members are: Eddie Gaynor, Tony Fields, Fernanda Paukstys and John Newham. Appointed members: Sarah Shipley, Liz Bradley, Mark Quigley and Lucy Rochford. A further four members will be appointed next year.



Please keep the PPC members in your prayers as they take on this task of reflecting on the life of the parish, and working to realising the parish vision.

CHURCH FLOOR

You will have noticed the marks remaining on the church floor, from when the signs were placed there. Despite trying, in a number of ways, to remove the marks ourselves they are persisting. So, tomorrow, Monday, a company is coming to deal with them, and sand and seal the floor. **Mass on Monday will be celebrated in the undercroft, at 9.15am**, and the church will be closed all day.



WALTER GILES RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Walter Giles who died this week. Walter's Requiem Mass will be on Monday 7th February at 10.00am. 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, tomorrow, 31st January please.**



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.

ST ALBANS AND DISTRICT FOODBANK

Milk and juice collections for the foodbank are resuming after the Christmas break.

So please, if you can, bring a carton of UHT milk or long life fruit juice to the church next Saturday or Sunday.

Thank you Laudato Sii Group



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:

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.



New Year's Resolution - Volunteer for CAFOD

A vital aspect of church is people being willing to share their talents, experience and energy. Could your New Year's resolution be volunteering for CAFOD? We have lots of different ways you can get involved such as:

- **In the parish** - where you will be highlighting CAFOD's work to support communities globally who are living with injustices and in poverty.
- **In local schools** - where you'll deliver assemblies and workshops about CAFOD's work. No experience necessary. Full support, resources and regular training provided. DBS Check & references part of application.
- **Coordinating volunteers** to help us support, encourage and bring together a small group of volunteers.
- If you'd like to know more, please get in touch with Tony tsheen@cafod.org.uk

SOUTHERN DIOCESES ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

Inspired by the principles of Catholic Social Teaching set out by Pope Francis in his encyclical 'Laudato Si' and the teaching on care for the earth and one another, the Southern Dioceses are developing a Network for all Catholics and our friends who care about creation. On Monday 14 February at 12-45 Bishop John Arnold, the Bishops' Conference Lead on the Environment is giving an on-line talk. You can find more information and register free at:

[Southern Dioceses Environment Network - Speaker: Bishop John Arnold](#)

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

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
Monday 31st January 9.15am	St John Bosco, Priest Brendon O'Gormon RIP
Tuesday 1st February 9.15am	feria Richard & Diane Franklin (Ints) Zoom Code 846 8231 6518
Wednesday 2nd February 9.15am	THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD Tommy Doran RIP
Thursday 3rd February 11.00am	Ss Laurence, Dunstan & Theodore, Archbishops of Canterbury Hilda Beswick (Spec Ints) Zoom Code 843 3670 2322
Friday 4th February	feria
Saturday 5th February VIGIL MASS 6.00pm	St Agatha, Virgin & Martyr 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C) Mo Quinn RIP
Sunday 6th February 8.00am 9.45am 11.30am	5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C) Agnes Marshall RIP Bernard St John Glew RIP (Anniv) People of the Parish Zoom Code 883 7014 5568

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