



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

9TH JANUARY 2022

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (C)



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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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After the anxiety and uncertainty, as to how we might be able to celebrate Christmas, it was good to be able to do so without any further restrictions being imposed, although, not without some anxiety. Compared to last year the numbers were much greater in church, probably three or four times as many, and how good it was to see an almost full church for every Mass, it certainly gave a feeling of moving towards 'normality'.

Our Christmas celebration was one of great joy and, as well, as with great reverence. The parish is blessed to have many people willing and ready to give their time, so that we can celebrate in the best way possible. The thanks of all of us are due to those who helped in any way at all. To those who arranged the flowers, so beautifully, as well as those who built the crib and cleaned the church, many thanks! Thanks, are also due to the choir and musicians, as well as the Altar Servers, Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. And, we are grateful to the stewards, who are still helping to keep everyone safe.

Thank you too for the offering on Christmas Day, as well as for the cards, and the other gifts that I received, as always, your kindness, thoughtfulness, and generosity are much appreciated. The last, almost, two years, have made us realise just how unpredictable life can be. However, with our faith we can look forward in hope, and with certainty, hope for better things, and certainty that, no matter what, Emmanuel, God is with us. With this in mind I wish you a happy, and blessed, 2022.

PARISH GATHERING

- "Looking back and moving forward" -

Everyone is invited to a social gathering, on Sunday 23rd January 2022 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.



ADVENT CALENDAR

The Advent Calendar has been quite a success, not just with parishioners, but it has also caught the interest of other passers-by. It has also been a success due to the generosity of those who contributed the different items, which the Noah Enterprise and Keystage Housing will be benefitting from. Thank you to the Parish Homelessness Group for their work in setting this up, and also to those who built the calendar.

Thank you!

ATTENDING MASS

It was good to see so many attending Mass over Christmas, the following two Sundays were a little different, and disappointing! Numbers were drastically reduced. 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. We will, however, continue to ask everyone 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. We continue to need the Stewards to assist with these tasks, and anyone else who can assist, would be much appreciated.

CAFOD
Just one world

AFGHANISTAN APPEAL

As a member of the Disasters Emergency Committee CAFOD has made a Special 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. Please try to give something to this Christmastime Emergency Appeal. For more information and how to donate go to the CAFOD website: cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal. A second collection will be held for this appeal will take place after all Masses today.

'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."



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 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

There will be a **BANISH THE WINTER BLUES JAZZ NIGHT** on Saturday 5th February at the Lourdes Hall. Tickets cost £20 each and will be on sale after all Masses next weekend. Music will be provided by Lulu and the Hullabaloes and proceeds will go to the Developing World Group. Watch this space for more details.

LIVE-STREAMING

Masses will be live-streamed on Zoom, and YouTube this coming week. **Please see page 4 for all the details. Please note the NEW ZOOM codes from Tuesday.**



A four-week singing project designed to bring un 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

LIVESIMPLY GROUP QUOTE

"Look at us now: we put on face masks to protect ourselves from others from a virus we can't see. But what about all those other unseen viruses we need to protect ourselves from? How will we deal with the hidden pandemics of this world, the pandemics of hunger and violence and climate change?" - Pope Francis ('Let us Dream')

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 8th January

**Christmas feria
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (C)**

VIGIL MASS 6.00pm

Mary Kelly RIP (Month's Mind)

Sunday 9th January

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (C)

**8.00am
9.45am
11.30am**

People of the Parish
Tommy Cotter RIP
Zoom Code 817 8184 1513

Monday 10th January

feria

9.15am

Trish & Gordon Lewis (Spec Ints)

Tuesday 11th January

feria

9.15am

Danny Lonergan RIP
Zoom Code 846 8231 6518 (New Code)

Wednesday 12th January

feria

9.15am

Ann Platt RIP

Thursday 13th January

feria

11.00am

John Sweeney & Family (Spec Ints)
Zoom Code 843 3670 2322 (New Code)

Friday 14th January

feria

Saturday 15th January

Feria

VIGIL MASS 6.00pm

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)
Caitriona Kelly RIP (Anniv)

Sunday 16th January

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

**8.00am
9.45am
11.30am**

Patrick & Jean Ward RIP (Anniv)
People of the Parish
James & Kay Ward RIP (Anniv)
Zoom Code 883 7014 5568 (New Code)

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