



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

20TH FEBRUARY 2022

7TH 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.

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

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

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This classic gospel message is addressed to those who listen. To hear and respond to the heart of the message that follows, namely to love your enemies and to do good to those who hate you, calls for an extraordinary expansiveness of spirit only possible for those who are totally open to the power of God's Spirit working in their lives. It is not easy to love one's enemy particularly when the enemy, the one subtly undermining or manipulating you, comes in the guise of friend.

Yet, even in the face of subtle enmity, the message is clear: do not respond in kind, respond instead with love, compassion and unreserved forgiveness. It is also important to rise above the pettiness of the other and refuse to be a victim. To the one who takes away your coat, you offer your shirt as well. In this way, the real power remains with the one who is too expansive to retaliate.

Compassion, forgiveness and love of enemies are rare commodities in international politics and in the resolution of global conflicts as well as in personal relationships. Sadly, the major trouble spots on our globe witness to constant retaliation and face-saving measures that harden positions and exacerbate division. There is ample evidence that hatred, fuelled by injustice, is begetting violence in many parts of the world.

And yet the only way to break the cycles of violence that perpetuate death and destruction is the way of compassion and love. God-like compassion requires that we, as nations and as individuals, let go of past hurts, examine our tenaciously held opinions, try to see the world from the perspective of those we mistrust and work for peace that is grounded in love

REMINDER

FOR WHEN YOU ENTER THE CHURCH

Use the Hand Gel on arrival & departure
Please continue to wear a Face Covering
If you are unwell or have COVID
please **do not** come to the Church
Thank You

BACK TO 8.30am

From next Sunday, 27th February, the first Mass, on Sunday, will return to being celebrated at 8.30am. Now that we no longer need to sanitise the church after each Mass, after almost two years of disruption, all of the Mass times are now returned to their previous times.

GETTING MARRIED?

Couples intending to get married, need to give at least six months' notice, as required by the Diocese. Pre-marriage preparation, provides an opportunity to reflect, not just on the wedding, which is for a day, but on the marriage, which is for life, as well as looking at the other necessary arrangements. Anyone getting married within the next year should be in contact with Canon Dwyer. If you know of couples hoping to marry in the coming year, please draw their attention to this notice.



ALTAR SERVERS

Some of you may have noticed that, since the resumption of the regular celebration of Mass, there has been a steep decline in the number of Altar Servers. Altar Servers, make an important contribution to the celebration of the liturgy, so it is necessary to recruit some more. Any boys or girls, who have made their First Communion, once trained, can serve at Mass. Some training will shortly be taking place for those who wish to exercise this ministry. Names please of those who would like to become Altar Servers, and those who may have not served for some time, but wish to resume, to the parish office, or have a word with Canon Dwyer.



LENT 2022

On Wednesday week we begin the season of Lent, so it is good to begin to think about how you are going to mark this special season. Once again, the faith-sharing groups will be meeting, please see the notice below. Further information is still awaited from the Diocese, as to the theme of this year's reflections.

FRIDAYS IN LENT

Friday is always a significant day, as we recall the Passion and Death of the Lord; and this is particularly so on the Fridays of Lent. Each Friday during Lent, Mass will be celebrated at 7.00pm, and will be followed by the Stations of the Cross.

LENT GROUPS 2022

The Parish of OLOL invites you to join a faith sharing group, meeting once a week for the 6 weeks of Lent. These are friendly, welcoming groups of parishioners and friends of any denomination or none. We pray, reflect and share our thoughts on a given theme (to be announced). There is no pressure on anyone to speak, just come and listen if that is what suits you best. Start:- Week beginning 28th February Please reply stating your preferences for day and time, numbering your options 1st/2nd/3rd eg 1st Mon morning/ 2nd Wed afternoon/ 3rd Tues evening rachellee987@gmail.com juliaandnigel057@gmail.com 01582 760295 or 07891083251

REPOSITORY BAPTISM GIFTS

The repository holds a range of cards and gifts suitable for Baptism, such as bibles, picture frames, crosses and rosaries. The Repository is open after each Weekend Mass, why not come and have a look. Gifts and Cards are also available for First Communion, Confirmation, Weddings etc

PARISH WALKS

Spring is in the air and the birds around me are beginning to make their nests which means the time has come to re start our walks in our beautiful Rothhamstead



Park. Some of you will have heard that I have taken over their organisation from Sue Martin. New walkers are always welcome and do feel free to join us. **We walk on the second Wednesday of the month and our first one this year will be on March 8th after Mass.** We walk for half an hour or so, everyone at their own speed and then withdraw to a nearby cafe for a drink and chat. If it's raining we go straight for the coffee. I'm sure you'd like me to thank Sue for all the enthusiasm and interesting information she put into our walks which we all enjoyed so much and wish her well. If you would like to join us please contact me: Janet Evers

Tel 01582 621960

Email Janet.evers1938@gmail.com

LIVE SIMPLY ATTACHMENT WITH THE NEWSLETTER

In response to your requests in the Parish Survey for more information about our various Parish groups and activities, our Parish Communications Team will publish every month or so a news sheet explaining briefly the aspirations and work of one of our Parish groups. This month we focus on the Live Simply Group. The News Sheet is a separate attachment that has been emailed with the Newsletter

ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL, SATURDAY 14TH MAY 2022 AT 3PM.



The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2022. If you are celebrating a significant anniversary, please give the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email), by 30th March to Melanie in the Parish Office.

HAVING FUN HELPING OTHERS.

The Parish Homeless Action Group is supporting local Catenians who are organising 'Masquerade - a fun evening of opera' next **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 close 1st March. The Final Open Morning is this 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/>



CAFOD'S WALK AGAINST HUNGER LENT CHALLENGE

There are 200 million children in the world whose lives are at risk from malnutrition. This Lent, challenge yourself to walk 200km, and help give hunger its marching orders. Do 5k a day, your way, for 40 days, get sponsored and you'll conquer your 200km target in time for Easter - and help people around the world to live free from hunger. To find out more or take part, go to cafod.org.uk/walk.

CAFOD, FAIRTRADE AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

Did you know Our Lady of Lourdes, is a Fairtrade parish? And Monday 21 February begins this year's Fairtrade Fortnight

In 2022 CAFOD is continuing to highlight the growing challenges that climate change brings to farmers and workers in the communities Fairtrade works with.

The facts are straightforward. Farmers and workers in countries such as Kenya, Ethiopia and Honduras, who have done the least to contribute to climate change, are disproportionately affected by it. The climate crisis is the biggest threat to the livelihoods of millions of small-scale farmers and agricultural workers in low-income countries worldwide. Farmers need better incomes and financial support to adapt to changing weather patterns and change their farming methods to ensure a low-carbon economy. By buying Fairtrade products, you show solidarity with those on the frontline of the climate crisis. You are part of the Fairtrade movement, and you have the power to drive long-term change, not only with your shopping choices but with your support in spreading the message. You can find out lots more about Fairtrade from a short YouTube presentation at:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/fairtradefoundation>

Laudato Si

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2022

This year's World Day of Prayer will take place on Friday 4th March. The main Harpenden service will take place at 10.30am at the United Reformed Church, Vaughan Road, and there will be a service on Zoom at 7.45pm. This year's service is written by the women of England, Wales & Northern Ireland with the theme "I know the plans I have for you." The World Day of Prayer raises around £250,000 each year in the UK for distribution to charity - visit www.wwdp.org.uk for details or to make a donation. For more information on the Harpenden services please see the postcards in the porch.

SITUATION VACANT



Applications for the post of Parish Administrator (part-time, 25hrs) at St Nicholas', Harpenden are now being taken. To receive details, please contact the parish office:

office@parishofharpenden.org; Tel: 01582 765524. Deadline for applications is midday, 1 March 2022. Interviews are expected to be held in the week of 14th March.

AVAILABLE FOR WORK

A parishioner, who comes recommended is seeking domestic or care work. For more information please speak to Canon Dwyer.

WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Harpenden Child Contact Centre is a volunteer-led charity proving a safe and welcoming space for children to see their parents when that might not otherwise be possible. Being involved is immensely rewarding. We are always keen to recruit new people whether as members, volunteers or trustees; at the moment we need particularly volunteers willing to help run the Centre as Coordinators. Would suit someone locally based, with an empathy for families and a few spare hours. Training and mentoring will be provided and you will be joining a friendly and enthusiastic group of people. To find out more please contact Ken Brennan ken.brennan@virginmedia.com 07913 781167 or Ric Belfield Richard.belfield@ntlworld.com 07768 502043.

LIVE-STREAMING

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

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

<p>Saturday 19th February</p> <p>VIGIL MASS 6.00pm</p>	<p>feria</p> <p>7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C) Frank McConnachie RIP (Anniv)</p>
<p>Sunday 20th February</p> <p>8.00am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p>7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)</p> <p>People of the Parish Charles Sharet (Ints) Elizabeth & Timothy O'Mahony RIP (Anniv) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</p>
<p>Monday 21st February</p> <p>9.15am</p>	<p>feria</p> <p>Margaret Hughes RIP</p>
<p>Tuesday 22nd February</p> <p>9.15am 4.30pm</p>	<p>THE CHAIR OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE Charlie Soden RIP Zoom Code 846 8231 6518 First Reconciliation</p>
<p>Wednesday 23rd February</p> <p>9.15am</p>	<p>St Polycarp Richard Sweeney RIP</p>
<p>Thursday 24th February</p> <p>11.00am</p>	<p>feria</p> <p>Denis Mann RIP (Anniv) Zoom Code 843 3670 2322</p>
<p>Friday 25th February</p>	<p>feria</p>
<p>Saturday 26th February</p> <p>12.00 Noon VIGIL MASS 6.00pm</p>	<p>feria</p> <p>Baptism - Bortoli Family 8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C) Maureen King RIP</p>
<p>Sunday 27th February</p> <p>8.00am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p>8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)</p> <p>Gerald Ward RIP People of the Parish Bridget Flanagan RIP (Anniv) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</p>

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