



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

20TH MARCH 2022
3RD SUNDAY OF LENT (C)



© Chloe Le Tissier

Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

Presbytery: 1, Kirkwick Avenue, Harpenden AL5 2QH Tel: 01582 712245

Email: anthonydwyer@rcdow.org.uk

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

Website: parish.rcdow.org.uk/harpenden

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

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

Parish Safeguarding Representative Mrs Brigid Brennan

Email: harpensg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk Tel: 07881 785 299

Today's gospel begins with two warnings about the need for repentance. It ends with a parable about a non-productive fig tree, and a faithful "gardener God". The warnings include two examples of untimely deaths, one reported to Jesus, and then used by him to illustrate the urgent need for repentance, the other, reported by Jesus as a further illustration of his point.

With respect to the first example, Jewish history recounts instances of Pilate's cruelty, but makes no mention of his execution of Galileans, and the mingling of their blood with their sacrifices. Neither is there any other record of the collapse of the Siloam tower, and the resultant death of eighteen people. Jesus insists that those killed are no more sinful, and no more deserving of death, than any of their fellow Galileans or Jerusalemites. They are certainly not being punished for their sins and those who make such a link between suffering and sin have got it all wrong.

So why does Jesus twice assert, "If you do not repent you will all perish in the same way" or "as they did"? The answer seems to lie in the constant need for self-reflection, and the missed opportunity for conversion, or reconciliation, in the case of sudden and unexpected death. In other words, Jesus is telling his listeners, "Don't be caught unawares; turn your life around in the direction of the gospel while you are alive and well". "To repent" literally means to think again. It can have the sense of expanding one's vision or one's horizons, to think beyond the narrow confines of one's own interests and one's own little world. In the context of Jesus' teaching, it is a call to take seriously the message of God's kingdom, to get in closer touch with God.



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 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. The groups are now up and running and if you'd like to join or find out more please contact Rachel Lee rachellee987@gmail.com or Julia Roche juliaandnigel057@gmail.com 01582 760295 or 07891083251

LENTEN ALMS

During Lent it is customary to donate what is saved, through self-denial, to the Lenten Alms. In this Diocese the Lenten Alms are donated to the 'Cardinal's Appeal', which supports initiatives run by parishes and Caritas Westminster to enable people on the margins to lead a life of dignity and worth. You can view two short films about the impact of your previous support, on the website www.CardinalsLentenAppeal.org.uk. Your contributions to the Cardinal's Appeal, can be placed in the box, on the right, in front of Our Lady's altar. If you wish to Gift Aid your donation, envelopes are available in the porch.

SUGGESTIONS FOR LENT

New Beginnings - A Journey from Lent to Easter

A Lent reflection leaflet produced by Anne O'Connor with brief daily reflections.

Link: www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/resources/new-beginnings-a-journey-from-lent-to-easter/

LENT RESOURCES FROM REDEMPTORIST PUBLICATIONS

Including 'A Lenten Camino' by Janet Fearn, 'Lent Extra' and 'The Lenten Journey' with Fr Denis McBride See: www.rpbooks.co.uk/

CAFOD LENT RESOURCES

Daily Lent Reflections sent to emails from Ash Wednesday. They will include a reflection on one of the readings of the day, stories of the global family, a prayer and a suggested action.

Subscribe here: <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Lent-prayers>

LENT WEBINAR: FASTING FOR CREATION: HOW LENT CAN HELP US CARE FOR CREATION

The Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach in Washington is offering this webinar this Tuesday, 15 March. Contact ccaoprograms@columban.org for registration details.

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

ANNUNCIATION



Next Friday is the Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord. Mass will be celebrated at 7.00pm. This is an important feast, so, a good day on which to make the effort to attend Mass.

UKRAINE

We all continue to be horrified by the situation in Ukraine and, of course, to pray for everyone caught up in the conflict. This weekend there will be a second collection, for the People of Ukraine, the proceeds of which will be sent to CAFOD to distribute. If you wish to 'Gift-Aid' your contribution please use one of the CAFOD envelopes, but **do not use the CAFOD Fast Day envelopes.**

Or you can donate online

<https://cafod.org.uk/donations/picker?defaultuniversity=salttype=single&Appeal=123770>



EASTER REFLECTION

Next Thursday, March 24th there will be an Easter Reflection in words and music, in church, at 7.30pm. This will include sacred music for Lent and Easter, sung by the choir, as well as some scripture readings. Another positive Lenten activity.

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY

Thank you to everyone who made donations for the CAFOD Lent Fast day. It is not too late to make a donation. You can drop your donation into the parish office, or by visiting the CAFOD website: <https://cafod.org.uk/lent>



EASTER FLOWER COLLECTION

The Parish Flower Arrangers will have their annual Easter Flower Collection after all Masses next weekend. In addition, a Lily may be purchased (at £5) in memory of a loved one. **Please write**



clearly the name of the loved one in CAPITAL LETTERS on an envelope, place the donation of £5 inside and hand it in with the flower collection after Mass, post through the Prebytery letterbox or drop it into Melanie in the Parish Office. Their names will then be added to a remembrance book which will be displayed in the Church during the Easter season.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS WITH POPE JOHN PAUL II

On the path to ecological conversion

You are invited to join the Livesimply group today Sunday 20th March at 6.00 pm in Church for the Stations of the Cross.

DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP



The DWG would like to thank you all for your ongoing most generous support and would ask you to read the Projects Report (2021). None of this work would have been carried out without your help. Project leaflets will also be given out after Mass this weekend.

GREEN BOXES

If you have a Green box, the Annual Collection of the Green DWG Boxes will take place on 23rd/24th April please bring your boxes to Mass that weekend and leave it with one of the stewards. The boxes will be emptied and then placed in the church porch for you to collect. Thank you.

SING FOR ... PROJECT 2

Following a very successful and enjoyable Project 1, it is now time to sign up for Project 2! Open to all, with or without any singing experience. A four-week project learning a wide variety of pieces and all in aid of NOAH and Key Stage Housing.

Starting Tuesday 26th April 7.30 - 9.00pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

£35 for the four weeks, including the final Saturday charity collection event and performance.

Please email Katie Metcalfe to reserve your place:

katiemjack@yahoo.co.uk



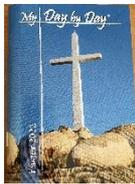
REPOSITORY GIFTS

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

EASTER DAY BY DAY BOOKS

Easter 'Day by Day' books have arrived and they are in the Repository priced £1 each.



MASQUERADE OPERA NIGHT

The Masquerade Opera Night, organised by Luton Catenians and supported by the parish Homeless Action Group, in aid of Noah on 26th Feb at Holy Ghost Parish Centre, was a tremendous success, raising £2228.75 for NOAH, the Luton based charity supporting the homeless and marginalised.

Thank You! Thank you to everyone who supported the evening and to Fr Kevin McGinnell for the use of the Holy Ghost Parish Centre. The Catenian Assoc is an increasingly international group of Catholic men and families whose motto is 'Faith, Family, Friendship'. Interested in finding out more about membership? Please email mjsinnott@btinternet.com for information.

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.

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.

LIVE-STREAMING

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

ROMERO WEEK 19-27 MARCH 2022

On Sunday 20 March at 6.00pm at St Alban's Cathedral, to mark the 42nd anniversary of the martyrdom of St Oscar Romero, Dr Edgardo Colon-Emeric will preach at Evensong. Dean of the Divinity School at Duke University, North Carolina, Dr Edgardo is a Methodist pastor and author of the highly acclaimed "Oscar Romero's Theological Vision: Liberation and Transfiguration of the Poor". Laudato Si.

HARPENDEN TRUST SENIORS FAIR

Tuesday 5th April 2022. The Eric Morecambe Centre Rothamsted Park - 10.30am - 1.30pm - **Free Entry**
A wide variety of local organisations will be in attendance to promote what is on offer for seniors locally at this popular annual event. So come along and find out what's available, either for yourself, a family member, friend or neighbour. Visitors will find a mix of charities, voluntary and commercial organisations and a wealth of opportunities, information and ideas.

CATENIAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS 6TH FORM PUBLIC SPEAKING CHALLENGE - SUCCESS

Catholic Schools from our Catenian provincial area entered students to compete in this year's provincial final, recently held at the University of Hertfordshire. In a highly contested competition, the judges, chaired by Bishop Paul McAleenan, Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster, awarded first place to Cynthia Nassali from St Mary's Catholic School, Bishop Stortford who spoke on 'Black, British and African American figures who made a difference to the world'. Raphael Monteiro, 'Confronting our past to shape our future' from Nicholas Breakspear School, St Albans took second place and third prize was awarded to Sofia Giraldo Henao, 'What the world says about women' from St Thomas More, School Wood Green, London. Cynthia will now go on to represent the province at the national final to be held in Manchester in September. This year's event attracted eleven Catholic Schools, as it continues to grow into the premier 6th Form public speaking event in the region.

For more information about this event or how to become a Catenian please email
mjsinnott@btinternet.com

SISTERS KATHLEEN & ANTOINETTE

Dear Friends of St Clares,
Many of you have been close to our sisters as they ministered in Luton and beyond for almost 50 years. Sisters Antoinette and Kathleen have deeply appreciated your constant goodness and support throughout all these years. You have been a graced inspiration to them always. However, I am saddened to say that it is time now to withdraw the sisters from their current ministries in Luton. Increasing age and poorer health have taken their toll on both of them, so it is time to slow down. In the coming months they will return to Ireland where they will retire and take on less strenuous apostolates. I know that you will keep both sisters in your hearts and prayers. You will miss their physical presence, but they have left a spiritual legacy with all of you, and this will never be forgotten. They will continue to keep you and those you love in their thoughts and in their prayers. You have formed them, as they have formed you!
Wishing you blessings,

Sister Anne Kelly OSC

Abbess General

UNIVERSE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

The Universe Catholic Weekly is thrilled to announce that we have launched our new online newspaper with the full support of our first subscriber none other than His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols.

Order your Digital 4 weeks **FREE** trial supply by calling Michelle on 0743 661 7650 or email: michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk

HOW ETHICAL IS YOUR EASTER EGG?

"Behind every luscious chocolate bar and treat we devour throughout the year, there are six million people globally who depend on growing cocoa for their livelihoods" (FairTrade Foundation, Oct 2020).



Here are 5 key facts about Fairtrade chocolate:

1. It takes around 5 years for cocoa trees to yield pods
2. Most cocoa farmers earn less than \$1 a day
3. Most cocoa farmers have never tasted chocolate
4. A quarter of Fairtrade cocoa farmers are women
5. The average age of cocoa farmers is over 50; the young are not attracted to this farming as the benefits are so poor

As a Fairtrade parish, we urge you to choose Fairtrade Easter Eggs.

[Where to buy Fairtrade chocolate](#)

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday 19th March 12.00 Noon</p> <p style="text-align: center;">VIGIL MASS 6.00pm</p>	<p>St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary Baptism Sherratt Family</p> <p>3RD SUNDAY OF LENT (C) Walter Giles RIP</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 20th March</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8.30am 9.45am 11.30am 6.00pm</p>	<p>3RD SUNDAY OF LENT (C)</p> <p>People of the Parish James Duff RIP Margaret Hughes RIP Zoom Code 883 7014 5568 Livesimply Group Stations of the Cross</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Monday 21st March 9.15am</p>	<p>Lent feria Mary Hawkins RIP</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday 22nd March 9.15am</p>	<p>Lent feria Fred Hawkins RIP Zoom Code 846 8231 6518</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday 23rd March 9.15am</p>	<p>Lent feria May Doyle RIP</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday 24th March 11.00am 7.30pm</p>	<p>Lent feria Marie Herlihy RIP (Anniv) Zoom Code 843 3670 2322 Easter Reflection</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Friday 25th March 7.00pm</p>	<p>THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD Christina Gorry RIP Mass followed by Stations of the Cross</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday 26th March 12.00 Noon</p> <p style="text-align: center;">VIGIL MASS 6.00pm</p>	<p>Lent feria Baptisms Cox & Wells Families</p> <p>4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (C) (LAETARE SUNDAY) Caitriona Kelly RIP (Anniv)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 27th March</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p>4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (C) (LAETARE SUNDAY)</p> <p>People of the Parish Anna Whittle RIP (Anniv) Nichola Davis RIP Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</p>

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