



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

27TH MARCH 2022
4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (C)
(LAETARE SUNDAY)



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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 provides us with an important insight into God's thinking. We are confronted with the attitude of God to the wrongdoer, His deep desire to forgive, to be totally reconciled with the one who has severed relations with Him. The emphasis is less on the son than on the attitude of the father.

No one can deny the appalling behaviour of the younger son. He took all that his father generously gave to him as his inheritance and used it in leading a life of total debauchery and self-centred indulgence. Eventually, he had nothing and was reduced to living with pigs, even sharing their food, something utterly abhorrent to the Jewish mind. The son, it might be said, brought it on himself.

This, however, is not the reaction of the father, who has only one thought in his mind - how to get his son to come back to where he belongs. The father does not say: "This son has seriously offended me and brought disgrace on our family." Instead, he says: "My son went away, is lost and I want so much to have him back." And he stands at the door of His house watching and waiting. His love for his wayward son never wavers, not one iota.

In wanting to experience God's forgiveness, we also need to learn how to be forgiving to others. Do we set limits to our forgiveness? To be reconciled with God we need to learn how to be reconciled with all those who are sources of conflict or pain in our lives. As we continue to learn how to forgive, we thank God that we have a Lord who is always ready to forgive, and to welcome, us back again and again.



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.**

CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Our children's Stations of the Cross will be at 11.30am on Good Friday 15th April, and will last about 45 minutes. This is a really good opportunity for children to understand and take part in Christ's Passion on Good Friday.

We are looking for children to take parts in the form of a tableau for each station. The children have to be from years 3 to 6, to take part. We need about 10 actors (no speaking parts), who will have to be in church from 9:30am on Good Friday. We will do the rehearsal, have a small break, and then perform our Stations of the Cross at 11.30am. This allows any other family members to join in The Walk of Witness in the town, and then join us in church.

If your child wants to be part of the Stations of the Cross please email Ginny (ginny.sjg@gmail.com) or phone 01582 620322 by Monday 11th April. In the event of too many volunteers we will take the first names on the list.

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>

REMINDER FOR WHEN YOU ENTER THE CHURCH

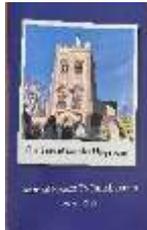
Use the Hand Gel on arrival & departure;

Please continue to wear a Face Covering

If you are unwell or have COVID please do not come to the Church Thank You

PARISH GATHERING

At the recent Parish Gathering, the background to the Parish Renewal project was explained, and various presentations were made, about some of the activities that have been set up, following on from this. All of this has now been put into a small booklet, so that every parishioner is aware of what is hoped will happen in our parish. Do collect a copy today, and, very importantly, do take a few minutes to read it.



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Parish Pastoral Council, has their second meeting, tomorrow, Monday. Minutes of the first meeting will be found on the parish website at:

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/harpenden/wp-content/uploads/sites/252/2021/10/PPC-Minutes-Meeting-held-February-2022-2.pdf>

UKRAINE

Thank you very much for your contributions to the collection, last weekend, for the people of the Ukraine. £1591.21 was contributed, and this will shortly be sent to CAFOD. You can also donate direct to CAFOD at:

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

Our prayer is also very necessary, here is a prayer for Ukraine.

PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

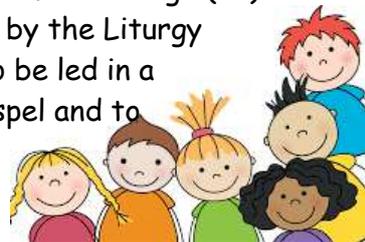
Loving God, we pray for the people of Ukraine, for all those suffering or afraid, that you will be close to them and protect them. We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices. We pray for the world that in this moment of crisis, we may reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need. May we walk in your ways so that peace and justice become a reality for the people of Ukraine and for all the world.
Amen.

OUR MISSION

Today's Gospel, reminds us of the loving Father, who looks out for his wayward son, waiting, hoping, he will return. At the beginning of Lent the Cardinal suggested we might encourage someone we know, who has not returned to the practice of attending Mass. At his mid-point of Lent, who have you encouraged? Who have you reached out to? Having that missionary desire to reach to others, is a task for all of us.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY GROUP

The Children's Liturgy group will be returning to the 9.45am Mass on the following dates - 3rd April, 24th April, 8th May, 22nd May, 12th June, 26th June and 10th July 2022. Children of school age (4+) are welcomed to the undercroft by the Liturgy team at the start of mass to be led in a simplified version of the Gospel and to complete a short activity to aid their understanding of the Lord's word.



They then re-join their parents and families in the church prior to Communion. We look forward to seeing your children there.

WE ARE RECRUITING!

The Children's Liturgy group are recruiting! We are looking for new members to join us from September 2022. Full support/training will be provided and a DBS check undertaken. You can help as little or as often as you like! It is a fun way of involving yourself in the parish and working with our young parishioners. If you are interested to know more, please email Michelle Lynch at martinmichelle74@gmail.com.

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY

Thank you to everyone who made donations for the CAFOD Lent Fast day. £2,012.00 was contributed. 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 this 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.

REQUIEM MASS DETAILS

Please pray for the Repose of the Souls of Jennifer Large, Patricia Wilkinson and Robert Andlaw who died recently. Requiem Mass for Jennifer will be on 7th April at 11.00am and for Robert will be on 25th April at 12 Noon Patricia's funeral details to follow. We remember the families of Jennifer Patricia and Robert in our prayers at this time and May they all Rest in Peace.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY LUNCH

Thank you to all who attended our lovely celebration and generously raised £1000! A wonderful couple in the parish also gave me a cheque of £500 for Barcelona, so our grand total is £1500.

A huge Thank You to Marva and the Ladies group who made all this possible. With deep gratitude, Sr. Margaret and all the people she helps in the Barcelona Settlement will remember you in prayer. Sr. Regina OP



DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP 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 now stocks a number of items for Easter, including cards, mass bouquets, children's sticker books, activity books, and children's books explaining the Easter Story. All reasonably priced. There are also copies of the Easter Day to Day books which cost £1 for adults and 80p for children. An excellent way to prepare for Easter.

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.**



LIVE-STREAMING

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

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.

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).

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

[Where to buy Fairtrade chocolate](#)



MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 26th March 12.00 Noon VIGIL MASS 6.00pm	Lent feria Baptisms Cox & Wells Families 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (C) (LAETARE SUNDAY) Caitriona Kelly RIP (Anniv)
Sunday 27th March 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (C) (LAETARE SUNDAY) People of the Parish Anna Whittle RIP (Anniv) Nichola Davis RIP Zoom Code 883 7014 5568
Monday 28th March 9.15am	Lent feria Henry Dubery RIP
Tuesday 29th March 9.15am	Lent feria Peter Hawkins RIP Zoom Code 846 8231 6518
Wednesday 30th March 9.15am	Lent feria James Duff RIP
Thursday 31st March 11.00am 7.30pm	Lent feria Peter Tipple RIP Zoom Code 843 3670 2322 Easter Reflection
Friday 1st April 7.00pm	Lent feria Mass followed by Stations of the Cross
Saturday 2nd April 12.00 Noon VIGIL MASS 6.00pm	Lent feria Baptism Clegg Family 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT (C) Frank McConnachie RIP
Sunday 3rd April 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	5TH SUNDAY OF LENT (C) Tim & Margaret Gaynor RIP (Anniv) People of the Parish Robert Dare RIP Zoom Code 883 7014 5568

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