



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

3RD APRIL 2022
5TH SUNDAY OF LENT (C)



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Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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The Gospel today continues to offer lessons about God's mercy and forgiveness. Last Sunday we heard the Parable of the Prodigal Son from the Gospel of Luke. Today we hear not a parable, but the report from John's Gospel of an encounter among Jesus, the scribes and Pharisees, and a woman caught in adultery.

As Jesus is again teaching the crowds in the vicinity of the Temple, the scribes and the Pharisees approach Jesus, bringing a woman who has been caught in the act of adultery. They put to Jesus the question of what ought to be done in this case. According to the Law of Moses, those caught in the act of adultery were to be stoned to death.

Jesus avoids the trap, however, by offering an answer that was not anticipated by those who posed the question. Jesus, after writing on the ground with his finger, addresses those who stand before him and suggests that the one without sin cast the first stone. Jesus then returns to his writing.

It's easy to imagine the scene as the Pharisees and the elders disperse, one by one. Jesus has eluded the trap they had prepared. We might also give credit to the elders and the Pharisees who do not, in the end, claim to be sinless and worthy of passing judgment.

Jesus' response to those who accuse the woman is more than a caution to us about making judgment of others. It is a profound lesson in divine mercy and forgiveness. As sinners, we are all unworthy to judge the sins of others. Yet Jesus, the one without sin offers us his mercy and forgiveness. Redeemed by Jesus' compassion, we are sent to sin no more and to live in God's love and peace.



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>



HOLY WEEK

HOLY WEEK

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday, when we begin our Holy Week Journey to Easter. Details of everything happening in Holy Week, will be found in the Holy week leaflet, that has been emailed to you, some copies are available in the porch of the Church. Even more importantly do think about participating in the events of Holy Week, as much as you can. Having been restricted from doing so, for the last two years, do take this opportunity to participate in this most important of weeks.

PALM SUNDAY

Next Sunday, Palm Sunday, the palms will be blessed and distributed at each of the Masses. The 9.45am Mass will begin slightly earlier at 9.30am on Church Green. The blessing of palms will take place there, with the parishioners, from St Nicholas', followed by processions to our respective churches.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE

The Lent Penitential Service, will take place on Monday of Holy week, April 11th, at 7.30pm. Celebrating Reconciliation is an important part of our preparation for celebrating the Feast of Easter, so do make an effort to be part of this important celebration.

EASTER OFFERING

The offertory on Easter Day, along with the Christmas offertory, is for the clergy of the parish. Together with Mass Stipends and Stole fees, this collection forms an essential part of clergy income. Envelopes for your contributions, will be found in the porch.

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, it is hoped, will be happening in our parish. If you didn't receive a copy last week, do collect a copy today, and, very importantly, do take a few minutes to read it.



UKRAINE

Thank you very much for your contributions to the collection, for the people of the Ukraine.

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

Last Sunday's Gospel, reminded 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.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Parish Pastoral Council, have started meeting. 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>

CHILDREN'S LITURGY GROUP

The Children's Liturgy group will be returning to the 9.45am Mass this weekend and on the following dates 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.

EASTER FLOWER COLLECTION

There is still time to donate to the Parish Easter

Flowers 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.

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.



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 this Thursday 7th April at 11.00am, for Patricia 13th April at 11.00am and for Robert 25th April at 12 Noon.

We remember the families of Jennifer Patricia and Robert in our prayers at this time and May they all Rest in Peace.

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

EASTER IN THE REPOSITORY

In the repository we have a wide range of books for Easter suitable for children of all ages, including sticker books, activity books, explaining the Easter Story. Please take a look as these will help younger children understand the true meaning of Easter. These and the infant, junior and adult Day to Day books for Easter are all reasonable priced. We also have a range of Easter cards and Easter plaques,

LIVE-STREAMING

Masses will be live-streamed on Zoom, and YouTube this coming week. Please see page 6 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 2nd April
12.00 Noon

Lent feria
Baptism Clegg Family

VIGIL MASS 6.00pm

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT (C)
Frank McConnachie RIP

Sunday 3rd April

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT (C)

8.30am
9.45am
11.30am

Tim & Margaret Gaynor RIP (Anniv)
People of the Parish
Robert Dare RIP
Zoom Code 883 7014 5568

Monday 4th April
9.15am

Lent feria
Ian Ross RIP

Tuesday 5th April
9.15am

Lent feria
Tony Southwell RIP
Zoom Code 846 8231 6518

Wednesday 6th April 9.15am

Lent feria
Special Intention

Thursday 7th April
11.00am

Lent feria
Requiem Mass Jennifer Large
Zoom Code 843 3670 2322

Friday 8th April
7.00pm

Lent feria
Paddy Stewart RIP
Mass followed by Stations of the Cross

Saturday 9th April
12.00 Noon

Lent feria
Oluwole-Opeyemi Family

VIGIL MASS 6.00pm

HOLY WEEK
PALM SUNDAY (C)
Johanna Gregory RIP

Sunday 10th April

PALM SUNDAY (C)

8.30am
Meet on Church Green at 9.30am
11.30am

People of the Parish
James Duff RIP
Mary Margaret Fallon
Zoom Code 883 7014 5568

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