



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

29TH MAY 2022

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C)



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Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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FROM THE CARDINAL:

The Bishops of England and Wales met together in Cardiff for a few days at the beginning of this month. Among the matters we discussed was the return of Catholics to Mass, in the light of the improved situation with Covid.

To want to attend Mass is a hallmark of Catholic faith, and we do so with deep gratitude and joy. The Bishops noted that, thankfully, the pressing challenges of the pandemic have lessened significantly. The vast majority of people have been able to resume the wide range of normal activities, no longer restricted because of Covid. Therefore, the Bishops believe that there are no longer any reasons related to the pandemic which prevent Catholics from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days. We appreciate that there will still be some Catholics who, for reasons of health, do not feel it is safe to return to Mass. It has always been the Church's understanding that any Catholic whose freedom to physically attend Mass is impeded, for example, because of ill health or caring for the sick or legitimate fear, is not in breach of the Sunday obligation.

Our Catholic communities have benefitted significantly from the online provision of Mass during the pandemic. While virtual attendance of Mass online does not fulfil the Sunday obligation, it may be of continued spiritual comfort to the sick and elderly who cannot attend in person and for whom the obligation does not apply.

In the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Lord Jesus has entrusted to us the precious gift of himself. We are a Eucharistic people for whom attendance at Sunday Mass is essential. As we look forward to the forthcoming celebration of Pentecost, the Bishops invite all Catholics who have not done so to now return to attending Sunday Mass in person. Nourished by our encounter with the risen Lord, and by his Word and his Body and Blood, we receive the strength, week by week, to serve and glorify the Lord by our lives.

✠ Cardinal Vincent Nichols

ATTENDING MASS

As you will have read, in the Cardinal's message, the obligation to attend Mass every Sunday, is to be restored from next Sunday. As has always been the case, the exception being where someone is prevented from doing so, by reason of health, or when caring for a sick person. Presently our attendance is reduced by between 200 and 300 parishioners, in other words some 40% are missing! It would be good if I could personally invite, encourage back, those who have yet to return, but that is a tall order. It is rather a duty we can all share, to encourage back the missing 40%, it's a task, a mission we can all take



on. If, you know someone who doesn't attend Mass, at present, then do encourage them to attend, let them know that they are missed, and that they will be most welcome.

BANK HOLIDAY MASS

Next Thursday and Friday are Bank Holidays, to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Usually on Bank Holidays, Mass is celebrated at 10.00am. However, next Thursday Mass will be celebrated at 11.00am.



PLATINUM PRAISE

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Harpenden Churches will be gathering for **Platinum Praise next Sunday 5th June, between 6:30 - 8:00pm, on Harpenden Common, by the Public Halls.** Everyone is welcome to join this evening of Praise and Thanksgiving for our Queens Platinum Jubilee. Help is needed for this event, including **Readers, Stewards/Marshals, Manning the information table, Stage assistant.** To offer assistance for any of these roles contact John Swain at john.swain@bethanycc.org.uk or phone 07758 652941.

Are you from a nation other than the UK?

Then "Voice of the Nations" would love to hear from you (especially if you are from a Commonwealth country). Voice of the Nations will be a significant aspect of our evening's celebration, with song, dance and music reflecting a variety of cultures in Harpenden. If you are able to bring something of the flavour of your culture to the evening please contact Damilare Adetayo on dadetayo@ywamharpenden.org or phone 07424 709676.

PRIESTS TRAINING FUND

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the recent collection for the Priest Training Fund. Your support for our 19 current seminarians, is both encouraging, and appreciated. The fund remains open for another week. If you wish to make a donation, you will find envelopes in the porch, which you can drop into the parish office, or you can make your donation online at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations through the Diocesan website. The formation of priests is of top priority, and this fund contributes to ensuring you will have priests to serve you, in the years to come.

SUPPORTING UKRAINE CAN YOU HELP?



A parishioner who will shortly be hosting a Ukrainian refugee from Kharkiv, has been asked if anyone in Harpenden could sponsor this refugee's friend (Oksana, a cook) and her 16 year old daughter (Sophie) who have been forced to leave their home in the Donetsk. That way the refugee already coming would be nearby to help them adjust to life here - neither have left Ukraine before. They would love to bring their cat too if at all possible. If you would like to find out more, please email Melanie in the parish office. Many thanks.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Canon Dwyer has a BIG Birthday coming up so we will be celebrating next Sunday 5th June in the Presbytery Garden after the 11.30am Mass. Pop in for a drink and a piece of cake. Everyone is very welcome.



JACKIE DODDS RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Jackie Dodds who died recently, Jackie will be received into the Church on Monday 6th June at 6pm and the Requiem Mass will follow on Tuesday 7th June at 1.00pm. We remember Jackie's family in our prayers at this time.

FIRST COMMUNION IN THE REPOSITORY

We are approaching the First Communion season and the repository has a variety of gifts suitable for girls and boys such as necklaces, bracelets, pens, bibles, photo frames & albums, rosary beads, first missals and candles, together with First Communion cards and invitations.

CAFOD FIX THE FOOD SYSTEM THE PARADOX OF ABUNDANCE

Over 800 million people go hungry each day. Yet the world produces over 4 billion tonnes of food and we only need 3.7 billion tonnes to feed everyone. From all this food produced, a third is wasted. St John Paul II called this the paradox of abundance. Clearly the current global food system is not working. But as Pope Francis said, "Each of us has a role to play in transforming food systems for the benefit of people and the planet." Let's respond to his call! CAFOD's new campaign is called Fix the Food System. See www.cafod.org.uk/food for more information, including an invitation to learn about the impact of our food with our Fix the Food System: a 7-station journey. Further information to follow on what we can do here in Harpenden.,

ST ALBANS AND DITRICT FOODBANK



Milk and juice collections for the foodbank will be done next week end. So please, if you can,

bring a carton of UHT milk or long life juice to the church next Saturday or Sunday.

Thank you. Laudato Sii group



RED MISSION BOXES (MISSIO)

Please bring your Red Mission box to Mass and either leave with a Steward or take to the Sacristy. These will be emptied and returned and left at the back of the church.

Thank you

LORETO COLLEGE (ST ALBANS)

CENTENARY GARDEN PARTY

Sunday 10th July 2022 12pm to 6pm (*last admission 5pm*) Admission £5.00 per person (FREE entry for children aged 5 and under) There will be live music by the popular local band Soulfish, BBQ, afternoon tea, bar, traditional games/stalls and much more including our Centenary Raffle. A link to the ticket page and more information can be found at www.loreto.herts.sch.uk

CHOIR SUMMER CONCERT

Summer Concert at Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

Saturday 25th June, 7.30pm.

Arias and Choruses from Handel's Samson with soloists including

Alison Langer and Lawrence Thackery.

Choirs from Our Lady of Lourdes, High Street Methodist Church, St. George's Music Society and St Nicholas Church.

Guest orchestra featuring graduates from the Royal Academy of Music.

Tickets on sale from the parish office, online <https://ticketsource.co.uk/Our-Lady-Of-Lourdes-Church-Choir> (which does include a small booking fee) and at Our Lady of Lourdes Church each Sunday. £15 adults, £5 students and children.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Many hands make light work!

Would you consider volunteering your time to join the Church Cleaning Team?

Volunteers are needed to clean the Church on either Tuesday or Thursday morning. The rota would be on a four weekly basis and would only take approx. 40 minutes after morning Mass on Tuesday or Thursday. Please contact Melanie in the Parish Office if you are interested.

LOST PROPERTY

We have quite a few items in the lost property box at the back of the Church near the Repository. Please have a look through and see if any of the items belong to you. Thank you!

MASS INTENTIONS NEXT WEEK

Saturday 28th May 12.00 Noon 6.00pm	Easter feria Baptisms Cheesman & Catto Families SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C) Dominican Jubilarian's (Spec Ints)
Sunday 29th May 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C) Noel O'Sullivan RIP (Recently Deceased) People of the Parish Denise Iommi RIP (Anniv) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568
Monday 30th May 9.15am	Easter feria Stanley Mott RIP (Recently Deceased)
Tuesday 31st May 9.15am	THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Zoom Code 846 8231 6518
Wednesday 1st June 9.15am	St Justin, Martyr
Thursday 2nd June 11.00am	Easter feria Zoom Code 843 3670 2322
Friday 3rd June	St Charles Lwanga & Companions, Martyrs
Saturday 4th June 12.00 Noon 6.00pm	Easter feria Baptism Munnelly Family PENTECOST SUNDAY (C)
Sunday 5th June 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	PENTECOST SUNDAY (C) People of the Parish Gerry Maureen & Geraldine Martin RIP (Anniv) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568