



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

8TH MAY 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C)

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY



© Chloe Le Tissier

Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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Today we hear Jesus using the image of the shepherd to describe himself and his relationship with us. When Jesus uses the image and symbol of the shepherd, the people to whom he was speaking would have understood what he was talking about immediately. But what does the image of Jesus the shepherd mean for us today? While sheep all look the same to us, a shepherd knows each of them individually. When a shepherd calls a sheep, the sheep recognises the voice and responds. Just as the shepherd knows the sheep, the sheep knows and trusts the shepherd.

We are not sheep! But the Lord knows and loves each of us as individuals. We are not all the same to Jesus. He loves each of us personally and intimately. If a shepherd cares for his sheep with great love and devotion, how much more does Jesus love and care for each of us?

Jesus does not force us to listen to his voice when he calls us. He invites us to follow him freely. The choice whether or not to respond is ours. We may take our time in responding, but Jesus will never stop calling us by our name; he will wait until we do respond. Jesus calls, and offers us the fullness of life; he offers us the fullness of *his* life. Jesus came so that each of us may have life and have it to the full. This fullness of life is offered to us here and now, not some time in the future.

As we continue our journey through Easter, may each of us realise how deeply and personally Jesus loves us. When Jesus calls us by our name, may we answer in faith, gratitude and gratefulness. May we follow where he leads us.

PRIESTS TRAINING FUND

This weekend there will be a second collection in support of the Priest Training Fund, which benefits parishes in the Diocese of Westminster by providing us with new priests. The formation of our priests is of top priority - it is our future. This Fund pays for the training and education of 17 seminarians, from our own Diocese, at our seminary, Allen Hall, as well as two students in Rome, also from our Diocese. In 2021 we also celebrated the ordination of four men from Allen Hall to the priesthood, to serve as our future priests.

It costs on average £25,000 per man, per year of formation - that is about £150,000 to form and educate a new priest, who makes a lifetime commitment to Christ and the Church. Your donations will be collected as you leave Mass today. Donation envelopes are available. If you can Gift Aid, please don't forget to tick it off. This is an important appeal, supporting as it does the provision of priests for our Diocese. Please continue to pray for vocations, and for our seminarians.

A SAFE PLACE

Despite hearing of high numbers of Covid, it's very good that so much of life appears to be returning to normal. Throughout the pandemic your patience, and understanding, has been much appreciated. As in other parishes, we continue to follow the guidance, received from the Bishops, which is still in place, that hand gel is dispensed on arrival and departure, that unless exempt, everyone should continue to wear masks in church, and windows or doors are left open. During the pandemic, parishioners commented how safe they felt in church, hopefully, with everyone's cooperation, that continues to be the case.

THE SYNODAL PATHWAY IN OUR PARISH

Westminster Diocese has shared its Bishops Report reflecting the input from the all its Parishes, link below. We are encouraged to read that the ideas and experiences from our Parish resonated with many others, and the Bishops report is very much in the spirit of the views shared in our own Parish. The next step will be for all the England and Wales Dioceses to produce one national report which is amalgamated

into the European report, and then goes to the Vatican. When you hear of this process, it is easy to think we are such a tiny part of so many voices, however, when all the voices produce a rich harmony, we can be encouraged to reflect the spirit of synodality is present in the process.

<https://rcdow.org.uk/synod/westminster-diocese-bishops-synod-report/>

SUPPORTING UKRAINE

While the situation in Ukraine continues to cause shock and distress, it's good to hear of the many initiatives which are being undertaken, both locally, and further afield. Amongst the churches in Harpenden, different steps are being taken, including one church housing four families while, in general waiting to see what the needs might be. It would be good to know if any parishioners are housing, or have offered to take in refugees; if so, it would also be good to know what support might be offered through the parish.



CONFIRMATION ENROLMENT

As a Parish we remember in our prayers our 42 Confirmation Candidates who will be enrolled during Mass next weekend. We ask our Lord, for love and guidance for them, as they begin their journey towards receiving the Holy Spirit through the Sacrament of Confirmation.



THANK YOU

Maura & Marie would like to say a very big thank you to everyone that donated to the Easter Flowers and the Remembrance Lillies collection. Such a wonderful collection enabled them to decorate the church so beautifully for the season of Easter.



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.



DR TONY DE KRETZER RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Dr Tony de Kretzer who died in April and served the people of Harpenden for many years until his retirement in 1988 when he moved to Devon. Tony was a much loved GP working from The Village Surgery (Yew Tree Cottage in Tony's day) and a parishioner of Our Lady of Lourdes. His funeral was in Exmouth on 6th May.

DWG PLANT SALE SATURDAY 28TH MAY FROM 10AM - 2PM

The Developing World Group warmly invite you to a sale of plants at 23 Sibley Avenue. Enjoy refreshments and cake in the garden where everyone is welcome. Admission £2 (cash only please)



CHILDREN'S LITURGY GROUP 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.

PARISH WALK WEDNESDAY 11TH MAY



Join us this Wednesday 11th May for our parish walk. We meet outside our Lady of Lourdes, after Mass, and set off at 10.00 for a walk taking about an hour around Rothamstead Park examining the beautiful

signs of nature all around us. We end the walk with coffee at a local cafe but if the weather is wet and cold we make straight for the cafe for a good chat! Please ring or email me if you have any queries Tel. 01582 621960 email janet.evers1938@gmail.com

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



MASS INTENTIONS NEXT WEEK

<p align="center">SATURDAY 7th May 12.00 Noon 6.00pm</p>	<p>Easter feria Baptisms Hall and Sinclair Families FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C) Brian Armitage RIP</p>
<p align="center">SUNDAY 8th May 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p>FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C) People of the Parish Geraldine Burke RIP (Anniv) Lori Houlihan RIP (Anniv) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</p>
<p align="center">Monday 9th May 9.15am</p>	<p>Easter feria Charles Cunningham RIP (Recently Deceased)</p>
<p align="center">Tuesday 10th May 9.15am</p>	<p>Easter feria Zoom Code 846 8231 6518</p>
<p align="center">Wednesday 11th May 9.15am</p>	<p>Easter feria Martin Stears-Handscomb (Spec Ints)</p>
<p align="center">THURSDAY 12th May 11.00am</p>	<p>Easter feria Special Intention Zoom Code 843 3670 2322</p>
<p align="center">FRIDAY 13th May</p>	<p>Easter feria</p>
<p align="center">SATURDAY 14th May 6.00pm</p>	<p>ST MATTHIAS Apostle FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C) Confirmation Enrolment Mass Terry Mahabir RIP (Anniv)</p>
<p align="center">SUNDAY 15th May 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C) People of the Parish Vincent Nathan RIP (Anniv) Toni Crabtree RIP (Recently Deceased) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</p>