



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN



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10TH MARCH 2024
4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (B)
LAETARE SUNDAY

Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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At first sight, one might wonder at the choice of the First Reading and what its relevance might be to Lent, let alone the Gospel. There is usually some link between the First Reading and the Gospel.

Because of the sins of the Jewish people, from the priests down, because of idolatry and other shameful and sacrilegious practices, and after God sent them messenger, after messenger, who were not listened to, a terrible punishment fell on the whole people. Many years later, Cyrus, the king of Persia, became the agent of God, by which God's people, were once more able to return to Jerusalem and begin to rebuild, their traditions and a new Temple.

The Gospel has a parallel theme, but, on a much higher level. Jesus, the Son of God, becomes the agent of God's salvation, not just for one sinful people but, for the sinfulness of the whole world. On this Fourth Sunday of Lent, we are coming closer to the celebration, of how that salvation, was brought about.

The Gospel makes a comparison with Moses, who was also an agent of God and a saviour of God's people. The Israelites in the desert, had been complaining bitterly about their conditions, so they were punished by a plague of serpents and many died. At God's instructions, Moses raised up a bronze serpent on a pole: ...and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

All of this is a sign of God's own love. God sacrificed his only Son, so that we might have that eternal life. John emphasises that God sent his Son, to save and not to judge or condemn. In fact, no one who puts their whole self in God's hands, through faith, can be condemned. And it is never too late, to take that step of faith.

LENT 2024



FRIDAY MASS & STATIONS

Each Friday during Lent, there will be Mass at 7.00pm, followed by the Stations of the Cross. This could be a good Lenten Practise. Giving an hour each week, to attend an extra Mass, and to follow Jesus' journey to Calvary, by making the Stations of the Cross'. Please note there is no Mass or Stations of the Cross, next Friday, March 15th. Instead, there is the Lent Reflection in Words and Music.

LENT & EASTER IN THE REPOSITORY

Come and have a look inside the Repository we have a wide range of Easter cards together with Lent reading books, colouring and activity books and magazines for children. These are ideal for preparing children to celebrate Easter. We also stock Bibles, Prayer Books, Rosaries etc.

There is still time to buy St Patrick's Day and Mother's Day cards. Do pop in after Mass you'll be surprised at what we have to offer.

LENTEN ALMS

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2024

If you can, please show your support for the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal. All funds raised go towards projects across our Diocese. Each year, the Diocese uses donations made to support the work of our services, such as Marriage & Family Life; Youth Ministry, and Education. Funds are also used to support the work of Caritas Westminster, who work for, and with, some of the most vulnerable people in our Diocese. Cardinal Nichols, has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. So, please take a donation envelope today, for more information. You can use the QR code to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity.



CAFOD LENT FAST DAY

Thank you for your contributions, for CAFOD, so far, £2,590 has been donated. If you haven't done so it's not too late to make a donation. Donations can be handed into the Parish Office. If you wish to 'Gift-Aid' your donation, please use one of the CAFOD envelopes.

SYNOD 2024

Following the two Listening Sessions, for Synod 2024, and the receipt of other reflections, all of those comments have now been amalgamated with responses from other parishes in the Deanery. They will, in turn, be included with the Diocesan Report, and

eventually the National contribution. Our parish responses, have been summarised, and will be found on the Parish website at <https://www.catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk/synodal-gatherings/>

REFLECTION IN WORDS AND MUSIC

Next Friday, at 7.30pm, the Choir will lead a Lenten Reflection, taking us through the last great events of our Lord's life. There will be spoken reflections, and musical pieces from, amongst others, Faure, Ireland and Mawby. There will be no Mass, or Stations of the Cross, next Friday, but this is another way of following the journey to Calvary.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Sacred Heart Parish in Berkhamsted, are seeking to appoint a parish administrator, working 15 hours per week. The job involves all-round parish administration, preparing parish communications and bookkeeping. For more details and to apply, please go to <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/> Deadline for applications is 15 March.

EASTER FLOWERS COLLECTION

The Parish Flower Arrangers will have their annual Easter Flower Collection after all Masses this weekend. Donations can also be



made via the card machine in the porch. 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, or post through the Presbytery 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.



DATES FOR YOUR CALENDARS

YOUTH MASSES

The next Youth Mass will be on Saturday 20th April at 6pm.

OLOL YOUTH GROUP

The next OLOL Youth Group will be on Saturday 20th April after the 6pm Mass.

REST IN PEACE

MAUREEN FRANCIS RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Maureen Francis, who died recently. The Funeral will take place at West Herts Crematorium tomorrow Monday 11th March at 4.00pm. A memorial Mass will take place at a later date. We remember Maureen's family in our prayers at this time.

MARGARET MERRITT RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Margaret Merritt, who died recently. Margaret's Funeral will be on Thursday 14th March at 11.00am. We remember Margaret's family in our prayers at this time.

ALLAN HEALY RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Allan Healy who died recently. Allan's Funeral Mass will be on Monday 18th March at 11.00am. We remember Mary and all the family in our prayers at this time.

JOYCE THOMAS RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Joyce Thomas who died recently. Joyce's Funeral Mass will be on Tuesday 19th March at 2pm. We remember Alan and all the family in our prayers at this time.

ST PATRICK'S DAY LUNCH

" Important Change ..the lunch will not start until 1pm to enable people to attend Allan Healy's funeral"



This very popular annual event will be held on Monday 18th March (the day after SPD) in the Undercroft from 1pm. Tickets priced £15 will include a welcome drink, a traditional Irish meal, barnbrack and Irish Coffee and will be on sale at all the Masses this weekend. Proceeds will go to Sister Margaret's Barcelona Settlement in South Africa. EVERYONE is welcome.

KEYSTAGE HOUSING DONATION BINS (Yellow Bin)

We have received a request for Towels, and Waterproof jackets please from Keystage.


These can be left in the yellow bin in the Courtyard of the Church. They have also asked, if anyone has a TV they are no longer using and would like to donate it. Please contact Cathy Seaton if you are able to help, Cathy's email is cmann100@hotmail.com Thank you all so much for your ongoing support which is much appreciated by both NOAH and Keystage Housing.

ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 25th May 2024 at 2:30pm.

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 2024. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give Melanie in the Parish Office the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

PROTECTING THE UNBORN

An amendment has been proposed (New Clause 1), to the Government's Criminal Justice Bill, which is coming up for Report stage in Parliament in early March. This amendment seeks to change criminal law so that "no offence is committed by a woman acting in relation to her own pregnancy" at any gestation. This means that a woman who induced her abortion at home using pills (or any other method) at any stage of pregnancy, including just before natural birth, would commit no offence. This is dangerous for women and lethal for unborn babies. Please contact your MP urgently, asking them to oppose this extreme proposal. You can do this using SPUC's easy to use web tool, please pray for the defeat of this amendment, for protection of unborn babies, and help and comfort for mothers in need.

MASS INTENTIONS	
 <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: blue;">LENT</p>	
<p>Sat 9th March 3.00pm</p> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">Youth Mass</p> <p>Vigil Mass 6.00pm Sun 10th March 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p>Lent feria Musical Recital - Alison Langer & Guests</p> <p>4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE SUNDAY) Joan Crawford RIP (Recently Deceased)</p> <p>People of the Parish Maureen Martin RIP (Anniversary) Marie Ducasse RIP Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</p>
<p>Mon 11th March 9.15am</p>	<p>Lent Feria Doran Family (Intentions)</p>
<p>Tues 12th March 9.15am</p>	<p>Lent Feria Bridget Kavanagh RIP (Recently Deceased)</p>
<p>Wed 13th March 9.15am</p>	<p>Lent feria Margaret McNair RIP (Anniversary)</p>
<p>Thurs 14th March 11.00am</p>	<p>Lent feria Requiem Mass for Margaret Merritt</p>
<p>Fri 15th March 7.30pm-8.30pm</p>	<p>Lent feria The Choir will lead a Lenten Reflection, taking us through the last great events of our Lord's life.</p>
<p>Sat 16th March Vigil Mass 6.00pm Sunday 17th March 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p>Lent feria 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT Michael Murphy RIP (Recently Deceased)</p> <p>Pat Butler RIP (Anniversary) People of the Parish Maire Danielle Tichbon RIP Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</p>
<p>CONFESSIONS - SATURDAYS 10.30AM - 11.00AM & AFTER THE 6.00PM VIGIL MASS</p>	