



Contactless
Giving

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

10TH MAY 2026

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)



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Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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“Beloved: in your hearts honour Christ the Lord as holy.” These words take us straight to the centre of the Christian life. Before anything we say or do, there is this quiet, interior act: giving Christ his rightful place within us. To honour him as holy is to recognise who he is—the Lord of our lives—and to allow that truth to shape our priorities, our decisions, and our way of seeing the world. It is not simply a matter of outward practice, but of an inner orientation. When Christ is truly honoured in our hearts, everything else begins to fall into place.

From that inner foundation flows the call to witness: *“always be prepared to make a defence to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.”* This is not about being argumentative, or having all the right words ready, or always having the last word! Rather, it is about being attentive and ready. If Christ is at the centre of our hearts, then hope will naturally take root there too—a steady, quiet confidence in God’s presence and promises.

People notice hope, especially in a world that can often feel uncertain or anxious. They may ask directly, or simply observe the difference in how we live. When that moment comes, we are invited to speak simply and honestly about the source of our hope: our relationship with the Lord.

The challenge is not first to find the right explanation, but to live a life shaped by Christ. When we honour him as holy within, our words and actions begin to point towards him. Then, when we are asked, we can respond with sincerity, drawing others gently towards the hope we have found.

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

Next Thursday, 40 days after the feast of Easter, we celebrate the feast of the Ascension of the Lord. On this day we remember how Jesus returned to his Father, leaving his disciples with the instruction to *'Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit'*. **Masses on Thursday will be celebrated at 9.15am and 6.00pm.**



FIRST COMMUNION

It's that time of year, when we celebrate some more of the Sacraments. Yesterday, 20 children made their First Holy Communion, receiving Jesus for the first time. A lovely moment for them, and their families, as they continue in their journey of faith. Let us keep them, in our prayers, hoping that this is the first of many communions, many special encounters, as Jesus gives himself to them.

PRIESTS TRAINING FUND

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Priests Training Fund. To date £2,345 has been donated. Because this is such an important collection, assisting in the formation of priests, for our parishes, the fund will remain open for a few more weeks. If you haven't yet contributed, it is not too late to do so. Contributions can be left in the Parish Office. If you wish to 'Gift-Aid' your contribution please be sure to use and complete, one of the collection envelopes. Gift-aiding does make a difference, increasing your donation by 25p for each pound donated at no extra cost to yourself as long as you are a UK tax payer. Please note, it is necessary to

complete the 'Gift-Aid' declaration on the collection envelope, even if you have already completed a declaration for your parish contributions.

PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

Vocations to the Priesthood are essential to the life of the Church. We all have a duty to promote Priestly Vocations, and that is particularly true for parents in families, and for all in the parish. From Good Shepherd Sunday, until Pentecost, the Archbishop invites each of us to pray for Vocations to the Priesthood. Below is the Diocesan Prayer for Vocations, which we can all make. We will be making this prayer at all Masses, during this time. You are also invited to make this prayer individually, as families, or in other gatherings. Copies of the prayer are

WESTMINSTER PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

God our Father,
you give us the Sacraments
as signs and instruments
of your love and mercy.
Draw from amongst your disciples
men who are willing to serve
your Church generously as priests in
the Diocese of Westminster,
to minister to your people
and to proclaim the Gospel to all.
Send your Spirit to guide and
strengthen them, to be their
companion on the journey, as they
discern your will for their lives.
This prayer we make through
Christ our Lord.
Amen
Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Pray for
us
St John Southworth Pray for us

available in the porch, if you haven't

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO SPAIN

Following the success of the Lourdes pilgrimage last year, we are planning another one, but this time to Spain, from 5th to 10th October 2026. Do consider being part of this potentially wonderful experience, by emailing dennis@denniscooper.uk Brief outline of Schedule. Flight to Madrid & hotel check-in. The pilgrimage will include a visit to the English Collage at Valladolid, and an optional walking tour of Madrid. Visits to Avila (famous for being the home of St Teresa) and the magnificent 12th century Wall, A day visit to Segovia, renowned for it's connection with the Spanish Mystic, St John of the Cross. The final, full day, will include a trip to Salamanca, famous for it's two cathedrals, and two universities. The cost includes flights, 5 nights half board accommodation, airport duty and taxes, one 20kgs suitcase. Cost per person in a shared room is approx. £950 tbc subject to a minimum group size 20 and potential airline price increases due to external forces. Hence why a speedy response is encouraged.

already done so, please take a copy.

DEREK SAWARD RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Derek Saward who died recently. Derek's requiem Mass will be on Wednesday 27th May at 11.00am.

CAN YOU HELP?

Thank you to those who have volunteered to assist with our Parish Youth Group. Hopefully, we can soon meet, and talk

about the way forward, and what we can do for our young people. Many people, quite rightly, say 'what are we doing for our young people/'This is the right question to ask. If the parish is to provide for our young people, then the question might be reversed, and we can ask: what are you prepared to do for our young people? There is still room for more to be involved, so do think about how you can assist. If you would like more information about what is involved, please contact Canon Dwyer.

VISIT OF THE RELICS OF ST GERARD MAJELLA

Next Friday, 15th May at 7pm, St Alban and St Stephen (14 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RB) will be hosting the relics of St Gerard Majella on their tour around England and Wales to celebrate the saint's 300th anniversary. St Gerard was a Redemptorist lay-brother from the South of Italy, born in 1726. He died at only 29, but was known as a great wonder-worker even during his lifetime. He's popularly invoked as a patron of mothers, particularly expectant mothers, couples trying to conceive, and those

DIAMOND JUBLIEE 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

We warmly invite all parishioners to join us in celebrating a very special milestone — the 60th Anniversary of Monsignor Harry Turner's Ordination to the Priesthood. This joyous occasion will be marked with a Special Mass on Sunday 7th June at 11:30am. Following the Mass, everyone is welcome to continue the celebration at a parish gathering in Lourdes Hall. Please come along to give thanks, share in the celebration, and honour Monsignor Harry Turner's many years of dedicated service. All are most welcome.

looking for work. Come along to pray in front of his relics, participate in Mass, and receive a blessing with his relics.

WELCOMERS FOR THE 9.45 MASS

We are looking for additional helpers to welcome at the 9.45 Mass. If you aren't already busy volunteering and particularly if you are someone that is happy chatting to families and children and explaining the different ways in which they can help at Mass, then we really need you. We are a very friendly group and it's a great way to get to know people in the parish. Please come and chat to us if you think you might be interested.

SION COMMUNITY FAMILY AFTERNOON

17 May at Holy Ghost Parish Centre in Luton

Come, gather, celebrate and be inspired with other Catholic families from across the diocese and beyond.

Will include Mass, worship music, input for adults and children, plus time to chat with and get to know other Catholic families. Streams will be available for children and teens, so they will have space to connect and grow.

2.15pm - about 5.30pm. Free of charge - donation only. Booking required:

<https://sioncommunity.org.uk/family-and-children/#FamilyDay>

PARISH PICNIC – SUNDAY 28 JUNE

After the 11:30am Mass, please join us for our Parish Picnic in Rothamsted Park.

Bring your own food and drink, and a picnic blanket. Outdoor games are very welcome! We'll walk across to the park together after Mass. Please say a prayer for sunshine. We look forward to a wonderful afternoon together.

CATENIAN UPDATE

Catenian Dinner 13th May. Harpenden Golf Club

Enjoy a two-course meal looking over the best views in Harpenden. Parishioners are welcome to join in this social gathering by arriving from 7-15pm for an evening of relaxation, good food and fun.

You will be amongst friends so reserve places at £35 per head, including wine by emailing dennis@denniscooper.uk

Two New Catenians

Parishioners Michael Gallagher and Chris O'Loughlin, Luton & District Circle, were enrolled as members of the Catenian Association at its last meeting of Harpenden.

Catenians are a UK wide and increasingly international group of Catholic men and families who meet regularly to discuss matters of faith, support the Catholic Church and our young people, organise social events and maintain close friendships.

Catenians consider it important for likeminded people to belong to a specific 'Catholic' group, as a means of mutual support in the journey through life.

Interested in finding out more? Email Simon at simon-davies9@sky.com

STRAWBERRY SOCIAL

Save the date for this very popular annual event. It will be held on 5th July in the Presbytery garden More details will be available in the coming weeks.

KEYSTAGE HOUSING REQUEST

We have heard from Keystage Housing and they are in need of a working Hoover, any plants, plant pots, garden furniture and a working BBQ for their garden at Cherrywoods. Please contact Cathy if you are able to help

Cmann100@hotmail.com

REPOSITORY

We are now entering the seasons of First Communion and Confirmation, and the repository has been restocked with a beautiful selection of cards and gifts to mark these very special occasions. Do come in and choose something meaningful to celebrate an important moment in a young person's life. We also have a lovely range of Baptism and Wedding gifts, along with cards for all occasions and Jubilees! Pop in and have a look — you're always very welcome!

FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

Any notices for the Newsletter please email the Parish office by lunchtime on Wednesday
Thank You.



CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please let the Parish Office know if you have moved/changed any of your contact details so we can keep our records as up to date as possible.

NEW PARISHIONERS

If you are new to the Parish You Are Very WELCOME. If you would like to register with us please click on the link and complete the registration form
<https://www.catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Parishioners-Registration-Form-2025.pdf>

Completed forms can be emailed or posted into the Parish Office.

harpenden@rcdow.org.uk

GIFT AID 2025/2026

As the 2025/2026 tax year ended on 5th April 2026, we will soon be submitting our Parish Gift Aid claim.

If you are a UK taxpayer, Gift Aid is a simple way to make your donations go further—at no extra cost to you. For every £1 you give, the Parish can claim an additional 25p from HM Revenue & Customs, significantly increasing the value of your support.

Whether you donate through the card machine or by standing order, you can include your contributions in Gift Aid. All it takes is completing a short Gift Aid declaration form.

By signing up, you are helping the Parish continue its mission, maintain the church, and support our community. If you haven't yet joined the Gift Aid scheme, we warmly encourage you to do so.

Forms are available in the church porch, and completed forms can be returned to the Parish Office. If you would like more information or wish to set up a standing order with Gift Aid, please contact the Parish Office—we will be happy to assist you.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

MASS INTENTIONS

<p>Saturday 9th May 11.00am</p> <p>Vigil Mass 6.00pm</p> <p>Sunday 10th May 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p>Easter Feria First Holy Communion Mass (Group 1)</p> <p>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Irene Quinn RIP (Anniversary)</p> <p>People of the Parish Private Intentions Patsy Nolan RIP (Recently Deceased) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</p>	<p>PLEASE PRAY FOR:</p> <p>First Holy Communion Children</p> <p>Heavenly Father, Bless our First Holy Communion children as they prepare to receive Jesus in the Eucharist. Fill their hearts with love, joy, and faith, and guide them always in Your peace. Amen.</p> <p>Recently Deceased Patsy Nolan RIP</p> <p>RIP Anniversaries Irene Quinn RIP Maureen & Bill Thornton RIP Vincent Nathan RIP Frank & Mary Taylor RIP Jackie Dodds RIP</p> <p>Prayer for the Faithful Departed</p> <p>Loving Father, welcome those who have gone before us into Your peace. Comfort all who mourn, and keep us united in faith and hope until we meet again in Your heavenly kingdom. Amen.</p>
<p>Monday 11th May 9.15am</p>	<p>Easter Feria Martin Stears-Handscombe (Special Intention)</p>	
<p>Tuesday 12th May 9.15am</p>	<p>Easter Feria Maureen & Bill Thornton RIP (Anniversary)</p>	
<p>Wednesday 13th May 9.15am</p>	<p>Easter Feria Vincent Nathan RIP (Anniversary)</p>	
<p>Thursday 14th May Holy Day of Obligation 9.15am 4.30pm 6.00pm</p>	<p>THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD Blessing Ufaroh (Special Intention) First Holy Communion Group 2 Rehearsal Frank & Mary Taylor RIP (Anniversary)</p>	
<p>Friday 15th May</p>	<p>Easter Feria</p>	
<p>Saturday 16th May 11.00am 3.00pm</p> <p>Youth Friendly Mass Vigil Mass 6.00pm</p> <p>Sunday 17th May 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p>Easter Feria First Holy Communion Mass (Group 2) Sing 4 Concert</p> <p>SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Terry Mahabir RIP (Anniversary)</p> <p>Michael Kearney RIP (Recently Deceased) People of the Parish Marc White (Special Intention) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</p>	