



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

11TH DECEMBER 2022

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)
(GAUDETE SUNDAY)



© Chloe Le Tissier

Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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Parish Administrator Mrs Melanie Armitage

The Parish Office is open Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 12.30pm.

Telephone: 01582 712245 or email: harpenden@rcdow.org.uk

Website: www.catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk

twitter: https://twitter.com/rc_olol?lang=en

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OLoLHarpenden>

Parish Safeguarding Representative Mrs Brigid Brennan

Email: harpensg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk Tel: 07881 785 299

Parish Pastoral Council ppc@catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk

This Sunday is called Gaudete Sunday or the Sunday to Rejoice. This weekend we light the rose coloured candle on our Advent Wreath. We are encouraged with these words of hope, 'rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.' The first reading from the Prophet of Isaiah tells us that the desert and dry land will bloom and be filled with flowers. We are also told that 'our God is coming to save us.' So, we have every reason to rejoice and to be happy. The birth of Christ is almost upon, but not yet. The second reading for the Letter to St. James asks to 'be patient until the Lord's coming.' We are to wait prayerfully and patiently as a farmer waits for seeds that were sown to produce their crop. It's a slow process!

John the Baptist is in prison. From his cell, he hears what Jesus is saying and doing. He sends his own followers to Jesus to ask if he is the one the people have been waiting for. Never one to give a simple or straight answer, he asks John's friends to tell him what they see themselves; the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are healed, the good news is proclaimed to the poor and even the dead raised to life.

The Jesus that came to the deaf, blind, poor and crippled in the gospel, is the same Jesus that comes to us, not only at Christmas but every day of our lives. The birth of Christ is celebrated at the darkest part of the year. Christ comes to enlighten not only our world but to enlighten each of our own personal lives as well.

SEASON OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS



ADVENT REFLECTION GROUP

A group will meet each week of Advent.
Subject:- The Hope of Christmas by Amette Ley. Using the 99 words of Pope Francis, the author shows us the different ways in which hope is manifested in these weeks leading to the birth of Christ.

Dates of meetings:-Wednesdays 30th Nov/7/14/24th December

Time:- 2pm - 3:30pm

Venue:- 23, Sibley Avenue, AL5 1HF

Please respond to:-

juliaandnigel057@gmail.com

Please think of joining us even if you can't manage all four.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Next Sunday 18th December at 6pm, we have our Parish Carol Service.

A traditional service of carols and readings, by candlelight, followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Undercroft.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Details of everything that is happening in church for the rest of Advent, and over Christmas, will be found in the Christmas leaflet. Copies are available today, so please collect one. You might also think of taking one for someone who may not attend church regularly, or maybe hasn't returned since the end of the pandemic.

WARM SPACES

Alongside some of the other Harpenden churches, hopefully we will be able to go ahead with offering a warm, and welcoming, space, on a Tuesday between 12noon and 3.00pm, in the

Undercroft. There is still room for anyone else who might like to volunteer and, obviously, the more people who volunteer, the less onerous will be the commitment for everyone. For those who have offered to help, or are willing to do so, there is a meeting in the Undercroft tomorrow, Monday 12th, at 7.30pm. There is still room for more volunteers. Anyone else, willing to assist, please contact the parish office.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

This weekend there will be another chance for you to donate to the Christmas Flowers collection so that the church can be decorated for the Christmas season. The collection will be at the end of Mass, and you can also donate by using the Card Machine, select Christmas Flowers. Thank you as always for your generosity.



ALTAR SERVERS

Thank you to those parents, who have indicated that their children are willing to train to become Altar Servers. If there are any other children, or young people, who would like to be included, please send their names to the parish office, no later than tomorrow, Monday. Training will begin very shortly.



CHRISTMAS IN THE REPOSITORY

The repository has a wide selection of Christmas items, including Cribbs, Christmas Tree decorations, Christmas candles, children's Christmas books, Advent calendars, and a selection of Christmas cards, both traditional and modern. Come and view the Christmas stock after Mass before we sell out!

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday 12th December, open again on Tuesday from 9.30am as normal.



FOR THE CHILDREN AT CHRISTMAS



CHILDREN'S NATIVITY SERVICE - CHRISTMAS EVE 2022

We are pleased to say that we will be having a Children's Nativity again this year. The service will be at 5.00pm on Christmas Eve, and is a lovely reminder to the children about the reasons for celebrating this great feast. This year we are dramatising the story "Leah, the Innkeeper's Daughter" which will be read by an adult, but we do need a cast of many - (shepherds, angels, wisemen, townsfolk etc.) So, if you would like your child to take part please come to the rehearsal in church on Friday 23rd December at 10:00am to 12.30pm, when we will be reading the story to the children and asking for them to take various parts (There are no speaking parts!) Your child does need to be at this rehearsal to take part on Christmas Eve. We have some costumes, but if you have anything suitable then they would be most useful.

The children need to be primary school age and if they are taking part in the nativity they will need to be in church at 4.30pm on Christmas Eve. Please let me know as soon as possible if they would like to take part, in the Nativity Service so far 8 children are signed up we need more children and some boys please.
(contact Ginny St John Glew, 01582 620322 or email ginny.sjg@gmail.com)

CALLING ALL CHILDREN

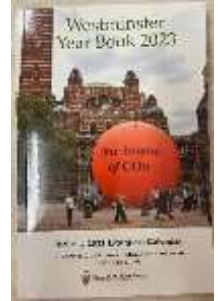
The 9.45am Mass on Christmas Day will be the Christmas Family Mass. So, children if you like dressing up, come to this Mass, dressed as a favourite Nativity character. There may be something for each of you as you leave Mass. If a child has a particular allergy please let the helpers know, who are distributing the goodies!

PARISH DIARIES 2023

Parish diaries, for the coming year, are now available free of charge in the porch and the Repository. Please take one and take one also for a friend or family member that isn't able to attend Mass themselves.

WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOK 2023

The new Year Book 2023 has arrived. This is a very useful book and contains the Liturgical Calendar for 2023 along with full listings of Catholic Parishes, Priests, Schools and Societies the price is £5 and these can be found in the Repository.



PARISH WALK

WEDNESDAY 14TH DECEMBER 10.00AM

This will be our last walk of the year so I hope as many of you who can will join us. We'll meet at the usual time after Mass and have a sort walk before retiring for a drink and festive mince pie or two in a local hostelry Janet



01582 -621960

janet.evers1938@gmail.com

SEEKING WORK

A Parishioner is seeking work as a Carer. Very experience and has good references. For further information, please contact the Parish Office or Canon Dwyer.

HOMELESSNESS SUPPORT GROUP

Following the delivery of the donation bins for NOAH and Keystage, we wanted to let you all know of another way to support these amazing organisations if you are able to, via **AMAZON WISH LISTS**. The link to **KEYSTAGE'S** is <https://amzn.eu/3HSwWDw>: our contact there has chosen to make it more Christmas focused but has said that after Christmas she will make it more generic. For **NOAH** the link is <https://amzn.eu/1YCWRpo>. Our contact there has mentioned that it is being updated so different things may be added over time. We do want to emphasise that we know there are many good causes out there and also how

difficult things are financially, particularly at the moment so please don't feel under any pressure to donate to the bins **and** the Wishlists - or indeed to either. If you are able to contribute in some way, this will be very much appreciated by both NOAH and Keystage.

If anyone is interested in becoming more involved with the group, please contact Monika Westgate at monikamoko@hotmail.com.

We have now agreed with both NOAH and Keystage to house one each of their donation bins which have arrived and can be found in the courtyard of the Church.

For NOAH, (Blue Bin) they ask for clothing (no undergarments, unless they are brand new and packaged); coats and jackets; shoes; toys; and bric-a-brac. You can also Gift Aid your donations for them by filling out a Gift Aid form, copies of which will be kept at the back of church and also in a plastic pocket attached to the bin. The donations will either go directly to those in need, or will be sold in their charity shops to raise income and continue to fund their services.



Keystage (Yellow Bin) have asked for tinned foods and non-perishable foods e.g. cereals, biscuits, chocolate; and socks, gloves, scarves and toiletries.

Thank you all so much for your ongoing support which is much appreciated by both NOAH and Keystage. If anyone is interested in becoming more involved with the group, please contact Monika Westgate at monikamoko@hotmail.com.

WISHLIST ADDRESS UPDATE

If you have problems in sending to the gift registry address it appears this is due to the Amazon settings. Please try entering the address manually. **For NOAH that will be 141 Park Street Luton Beds LU1 3HG.**

For KEYSTAGE it will be Park West House 29 Park Street West Luton LU1 3BE

FESTIVE FAMILY CONCERT

A festive family concert will be held in Church today Sunday, at 5.00pm by Kathryn McGuiness and her Saxophone Quartet. Tickets are Adults.

Tickets and more information can be found <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/harpenden/our-lady-of-lourdes-church>

YOUTH OF THE PARISH

YOUNG ADULTS BRUNCH . SATURDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2022 - 11AM TO 3PM
<https://nymo.org/brunch/>

Northampton Youth Ministry Office will be hosting an extended young adult brunch at the Church of Our Lady Help of Christians, in Luton. If you are aged 18- 35yrs you are invited to join the team for a brunch and some incredible teaching.

FLAME 2023 - SATURDAY 4TH MARCH 2023 - 12PM TO 5.40PM RISE UP
<https://cymfed.org.uk/flame/>

This year's confirmation candidates will be joining thousands of other young catholic people at the OVO Wembley Arena on Saturday 4th March 2023 for an inspiring day of prayer, adoration, catechesis, reflection, celebration and praise. Everyone else aged School Year 9 (and not already in the confirmation course) through to University age are invited to join them for the day to experience this UK's largest catholic youth conference.

Tickets are £20 plus travel. Please contact the parish office, or Anne Pesez anne.pesez@gmail.com before mid January if your child is interested in coming.

LOOKING FOR A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?

Fr. Mike Schmitz has produced this highly successful Bible in a Year podcast. Each podcast is about 20-25 mins and includes readings and a reflection. Search for 'The Bible in a Year' from any podcast app. If you have tried to read the Bible in a year before, but given up in February, this podcast is for you! Alternatively, starting on 1st Jan 2023, 'The Catechism in a Year' - Fr Mike Schmitz will guide listeners through the whole Catechism in 365 days. Search for 'The Catechism in a Year' from any podcast app.

SING FOR ...4 JANUARY 2023

Please put the dates in the diary - something to look forward to in January ! Adults and children are invited for this charity-fundraising singing project - more details to follow but there is a choice of Tuesday OR Sunday rehearsals.

Tuesday 10th January 7.30-9.00pm Undercroft

Tuesday 17th Jan, 24th Jan, 31st Jan AND to widen the opportunity for more/ families to take part in this project :

Sunday 15th January 3.00-4.00pm Undercroft

22nd Jan, 29th Jan

Performance SUNDAY 5th FEB 2pm
Rehearsal, 3pm CONCERT

Please email katiemjack@yahoo.co.uk to book a place £35 for the project per family



LIVESIMPLY QUOTE

A person who could afford to spend and consume more but regularly uses less heating and wears warmer clothes, shows the kind of convictions and attitudes which help to protect the environment. There is a nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions, and it is wonderful how education can bring about real changes in lifestyle. Education in environmental responsibility can encourage ways of acting which directly and significantly affect the world around us, such as avoiding the use of plastic and paper, reducing water consumption, separating refuse, cooking only what can reasonably be consumed, showing care for other living beings, using public transport or car-pooling, planting trees, turning off unnecessary lights, or any number of other practices.

(From Pope Francis letter, Laudato si, Ch 211)

UNIVERSE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

The Universe Catholic Weekly

Is true to its mission of being "a light to guide the world, and a mirror to reflect it" Keeping Catholics informed about their faith, and bringing them ever closer to God. In order to keep our high standard going and maintain a strong weekly Catholic voice at a time when it is much needed in the world, please consider taking out a subscription.

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michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk

We invite you to submit articles/news and celebrations about your local parish activities

Please see link below for this week's Universe Catholic Weekly.

<https://universecatholicweekly.co.uk/universe-weekly-newsletters/december-2022/UNIVERSE-02-DECEMBER-2022.pdf>

MASS INTENTIONS NEXT WEEK

<p>Sat 10th Dec 12.00 Noon</p> <p style="text-align: right;">6.00pm</p>	<p>Advent feria Baptism McEvoy Family</p> <p>3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A) (Gaudete Sunday) Aggie Kelly RIP</p>	
<p>Sun 11th Dec</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p>3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A) (Gaudete Sunday)</p> <p>People of the Parish Deceased members of the Choir Anne Harrison RIP (Anniv) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568.</p>	
<p>Mon 12th Dec 9.15am</p>	<p>Advent feria Luke Kealy RIP (Anniv)</p>	
<p>Tue 13th Dec 9.15am</p>	<p>St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr Frank Mulligan RIP (Recently Deceased)</p>	
<p>Wed 14th Dec 9.15am</p>	<p>St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor John Kenny RIP (Recently Deceased) Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help</p>	
<p>Thur 15th Dec 11.00am</p>	<p>Advent feria Charles LeMahieu RIP (Recently Deceased)</p>	
<p>Fri 16th Dec</p>	<p>Advent feria</p>	
<p>Sat 17th Dec</p> <p style="text-align: right;">6.00pm</p>	<p>Advent feria</p> <p>4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A) People of the Parish</p>	
<p>Sun 18th Dec</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p> <p style="text-align: right;">6.00pm</p>	<p>4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)</p> <p>Margaret Hughes RIP (1st Anniv) Bernard St John Glew RIP John McKenna RIP (Anniv) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568.</p> <p>Carol Service by Candlelight</p>	

CONFESSIONS - SATURDAYS

10.30AM - 11.00AM & AFTER THE 6.00PM VIGIL MASS

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE MONDAY 19TH DECEMBER AT 7.30PM