



OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

**11TH JANUARY 2026
BAPTISM OF THE LORD (A)**



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Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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As we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord today, so our celebration of Christmas concludes, although we might note that in other places, such as Rome, the celebration continues until February 2nd, Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. In one sense though, it is not strictly correct, to speak of Christmas coming to an end, because the reality of Christmas, God-with-us, does not come to an end. God, in His son Jesus, has entered our world, and God is with us forever. He is with us every day of our lives, that is the wonder of Christmas, that God has chosen to be with us always. We continue then to celebrate Christmas, God present to us, God with us always, in every circumstance of our lives.

I hope for all of you that Christmas has been a joyful, happy and peaceful time, a time that you remember with fondness and gratitude. Here, in our parish, we are very fortunate in the way in which we can celebrate Christmas. We are able to celebrate well because so many people generously volunteer their time, contributing to our celebrations, in a variety of different ways.

There are many people to thank for what they do, not least our Altar Servers, Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and our Choirs and Musicians, all of whom enable us to celebrate prayerfully and reverently. Thank you also to those who arrange the flowers, and to those who clean the church, and thank you too to those who welcome everyone to Church. And there are others too, who, quietly, carry out all sorts of work, which enable us to celebrate as we do. Christmas, like Easter, is a time when, in a particular way, many play their part, so that together we can give glory to God, and for that we can be very grateful.

THANK YOU

Not only do many people generously give of their time at Christmas, but so many of you show your generosity and kindness in other ways also. Thank you for your generous offerings on Christmas Day, and as well for the cards, and other gifts received. Your kindness, and thoughtfulness, are very much appreciated.

THANK YOU

Thank you so very much for your donations to Keystage Housing and NOAH Enterprise for the Christmas gifts and to our Parish Youth Group who wrapped the majority of these on Saturday 13th December.

We collected around 1/3 of the gifts needed. Together with other donations to Keystage Housing, we have provided gifts for 220 men and 45 women!

LIVESIMPLY QUOTE

"The heart is the place where external reality has the greatest impact, where the deepest searching takes place, where the most authentic desires are discovered, where one's ultimate identity is found, and where decisions are formed. It is only by returning to the heart that a true ecological conversion can take place . . . We must shift from collecting data to caring; and from environmental discourse to an ecological conversion that transforms both personal and communal lifestyles. For believers, this conversion is in fact no different to the one that orients us towards the living God. We cannot . . . call ourselves disciples of Jesus Christ without participating in his outlook on creation and his care for all that is fragile and wounded."

*Pope Leo XIV, International Conference
"Raising Hope for Climate Justice",*

BANISH THE WINTER BLUES SUPPER

This very popular annual event will be held on **Saturday 7th February at the Lourdes Hall**. Tickets will be on sale after all the Masses beginning **Sat/Sun 17/18 January, priced £25**, which will include a two-course supper and featuring Lulu & the Hullabaloo Blues/Jazz band. Proceeds will go to the Developing World Group's project **WorkAid** to meet the costs of a service and repair facility centre for sewing machines in Zambia to develop local skills, empowering young people to help themselves. Come as a group or join us on your own on our Parish Table. Contact marva@cpoauk.com/07943837277 if you want a group booking or if you would prefer to pay on-line. **EVERYONE** is welcome.

SING FOR - 13

We are looking to have an extravaganza for this, our 13th project! Each one has been a joyful mix of community singing, gathering and fundraising. Some singers have joined in with all of the Sing 4 12 projects so far and others just one or two - if you have never been along to witness first-hand the light-hearted and spirit-lifting experience of Sing 4 then here is your opportunity.

REHEARSAL DATES:

In the Undercroft 7.30pm – 9.00pm

Tuesday 13th January

Tuesday 20th January

Tuesday 27th January

Tuesday 3rd February

CONCERT DATE:

Saturday 7th February at 3.00pm

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The purpose of Children's Liturgy of the Word, is twofold, it is for the benefit of both children and parents. Its purpose is to communicate the Gospel Readings to children, of school age, at a level appropriate to them, and also to allow the parents, to remain in church, in order that they can participate in the Mass, as fully as possible. Therefore, we ask that:

- Only children in Reception Class, and above, participate in the Children's liturgy.
- Parents remain in church, to participate in the Mass, while the children are adequately cared for by the Catechists.

"JOIN IN WITH THE FINAL HYMN!"

Children at the 9:45am Family Mass are welcome to join the music group for the final hymn. Make your way to the back of the church after the announcements with your hymn book and helpers will be handing out percussion instruments. Children there for a First Holy Communion meeting please stay at your seats with the catechists and sing extra loudly! We also welcome singers and instrumentalists to help on an ad hoc or regular basis. Please come and speak to us after Mass or contact Catherine Roche on catherine2.roche@gmail.com for more details."



LOST PROPERTY

There is now a large amount of lost property in the box on the table outside the repository. If you believe any of these items are yours, please reclaim them as soon as possible as anything unclaimed in the next 2 weeks will be given to charity.

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



FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

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



GETTING MARRIED?

Couples intending to marry are required by the Diocese to give at least six months' notice. Pre-marriage preparation offers an important opportunity to reflect not only on the wedding day itself, but on the lifelong commitment of marriage, as well as to look at the other necessary arrangements. Anyone hoping to marry within the next year should contact Canon Dwyer as soon as possible. If you know of any couples planning to marry in the coming year, please draw their attention to this notice.



CATENIAN ORGANISED

PARISH CHRISTMAS DINNER, SUCCESS.

Thank you for the tremendous support everyone gave to the Christmas dinner held on Wednesday 17th December. 73 people attended to make it happy, relaxed, and special social occasion. Grateful thanks to Alison Langer's Monday Choir who freely gave their time to sing and then lead the collective carol singing.

The raffle held to gain funds for a parish defibrillator raised £650, a brilliant result and young Dara Fernandez, saxophonist, who entertained us on arrival, collected £175 for the Stroke Association. So, congratulations to him, the choir and to everyone who came. For more information on how to join Harpenden, Luton & District Catenian Circle contact dennis@denniscooper.uk

ST DOMINIC'S SCHOOL NURSERY, YEAR 1 and YEAR2 - PLACES AVAILABLE

St Dominic Catholic Primary School has spaces available in the nursery, year 1 and year 2 Classes for the current academic year and welcomes enquiries from parents from those year groups who are interested in a rounded catholic education that includes academic, religious and social skills. St Dominic's has recently been assessed by OFSTED and rated as OUTSTANDING.

RECEPTION ADMISSIONS

The Admissions process for Reception places for September 2026 is open and will close on 15th January 2026. If you would like a tour of the school for entry into Reception 2026, please contact the school office.

NURSERY OPEN MORNINGS

St Dominic's will be hosting Nursery Open Mornings on Monday 12th January at 9.15am and again on Friday 23rd January at 9.15am. Please contact the school office on 01582 760047, for more information or to book a place on the tours.

**Nurse applications open on
15th January 2026 and close on the 2nd
March 2026**

For more information please contact 01582760047 email:
admissions@stdominic.herts.sch.uk

HELP NEEDED

HARPENDEN CHILD CONTACT CENTRE

A new Chair is needed to head up Harpenden Child Contact Centre, a small Harpenden based charity, offering supported contact facilities to separated families. The successful candidate will lead a small team of experienced and supportive trustees, working with them, the admin team and other volunteers to provide the best service we can for our families. The current Chair is our parishioner, Brigid Brennan, who will be stepping down in May 2026 so the appointment would ideally be made by the end of March 2026 and confirmed in May at the Charity's AGM. Mentoring and support will be provided. For more information, please contact HCCC on 07842 167767 or harpendenccc@gmail.com; or Brigid on 07881 785299 or at brigid.brennan@virginmedia.com. More information about HCCC can be found on their website <https://harpendenchildcontactcentre.org.uk>

FRIDAY AFTERNOONS AT SPACE IN SOUTHDOWN.

Banish the winter blues as we are invited to sing along to favourite songs old and new played by the Harpenden Guitar Ensemble (which includes John Saliot) Tickets £5 includes tea and cake ... from Southdown Hardware or phone 07899 536580

LIVING IN AN AI WORLD

Do you want to know more about how AI will affect you in the coming years.? If so come and listen to a talk by Canon Tim Ball, a lively and interesting speaker, who will be giving this talk at Ss Alban and Stephen's Church Hall, 14 Beaconsfield Road, Saturday January 17th at 11.00am. Organised by the Herts Circle of the Newman Association Contact Janet Evers if you need a lift on janet.evers1938@gmail.com

MASS INTENTIONS

<p>Saturday 10th January</p> <p>Vigil Mass 6.00pm</p> <p>Sunday 11th January 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p>Christmas Feria</p> <p>THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (A) People of the Parish</p> <p>Johanna Gregory RIP (Anniversary) James McDermott RIP (1st Anniversary) Gu Family (Special Intentions) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</p>	<p>PLEASE PRAY FOR:</p> <p>Recently Deceased Micheal O’Riordan RIP Paddy Underwood RIP</p> <p>RIP Anniversaries Johanna Gregory RIP James McDermott RIP</p> <p>Prayer for the Faithful Departed Loving God, we remember those who have died. Grant them the peace of Christ, and let Your perpetual light shine upon them. Comfort all who mourn and strengthen our hope in the resurrection. Amen.</p>
<p>Monday 12th January 9.15am</p>	<p>Feria Sr. Nora (Special Intentions)</p>	
<p>Tuesday 13th January 9.15am</p>	<p>Feria Ngozi Chidi-Odili (Special Intentions)</p>	
<p>Wednesday 14th January 9.15am</p>	<p>Feria Micheal O’Riordan RIP (Recently Deceased)</p>	
<p>Thursday 15th January 11.00am</p>	<p>Feria Paddy Underwood RIP (Recently Deceased)</p>	
<p>Friday 16th Jan</p>	<p>Feria</p>	
<p>Saturday 17th January 12.00 Noon</p> <p>Vigil Mass 6.00pm</p> <p>Sunday 18th January 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p>St Anthony, Abbot Baptism Bailey & Meneghello Families</p> <p>2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Caitriona Kelly RIP (Anniversary)</p> <p>Ellen Harries RIP (Recently Deceased) People of the Parish Tom Conway RIP (Recently Deceased) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</p>	

CONFESSIONS

SATURDAYS 10.30AM – 11.00AM & AFTER THE 6.00PM VIGIL MASS