Contactless Giving

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A
11TH OCTOBER 2026



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Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer
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Today we hear Jesus comparing the kingdom of heaven to a King who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He tells the story of the King who first issues invitations to selected guests to his son's wedding; the guests refuse to come. These guests refer to the Israelites, who were expecting the Messiah, yet when they were invited, they would not come; they did not believe in him. They did not accept Jesus as their Messiah.

In the second instance the King extends his invitation again elaborating further what incentives are on offer. Some paid no attention to the second invitation; others seized the messengers, treated them badly and killed them. This reflects the violent opposition that Jesus encountered in the days before his death; Jesus warned his enemies of the judgment they would receive.

Finally, the King invites all and sundry to the feast, good or bad, everyone was invited. What began as a select guest list becomes an indiscriminate one. Hearing the invitation is the first step; this is not enough however to gain access to the kingdom. Hearing must be followed by understanding and understanding must lead to action. Silent attendance is not enough.

Where do we recognise ourselves in this parable? Are we amongst the invited guests who stayed away? Perhaps we did not hear the invitation? The wedding invitation is extended to everyone, and God provides our wedding garments for us. Those that Jesus refers to as the 'chosen' ones are those that respond to the invitation to come to the feast and respond wholeheartedly to following the path Jesus has laid out for us, that is to recognise and seek God's mercy for our failings and to commit ourselves to love.

EPISCOPAL ORDINATION

Father Stephen Wang will be ordained as Bishop of Arundel and Brighton, on Monday 19th October, at 12noon. Obviously, this is a great day for him, his family and our parish. Ideally, he would have liked to invite parishioners, as well as family and friends. Arundel Cathedral is not large, so he is restricted as to how many he can invite. However, he has suggested that he will return to the parish to celebrate Mass. This Mass will take place on Sunday 8th November at 11.30am. After Mass there will be a celebration in St Dominic's School. The Ordination Mass will be live-streamed, and can be accessed at: www.arundelcathedral.uk or **https://www.churchservices.tv/arundel**

GIFT FOR FATHER STEPHEN

Father Stephen Wang, has, he recently said, been a member of our parish for over 40 years. It has been suggested that to mark his Ordination as a Bishop, the parish should present him with a gift. New Bishops require all manner of things, so I have asked him what would be useful for him. One the items he mentioned is a gold pectoral cross, which Bishops wear when they are celebrating Mass, and which he will wear at his episcopal ordination. I have told him to go ahead and purchase that. After each Mass today there will be a collection to purchase this gift.

ALTAR SERVERS



Thank you to those parents and children that attended our training session. If there are any other children, or adults, who wish to Serve, or if you have already volunteered your child, and haven't received a message about the training please advise the Parish Office.

DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP QUIZ NIGHT

Tickets for the DWG Quiz have now all been sold and we are sorry to disappoint any still hoping to attend. We are confident that our chosen charities in East Africa will receive a significant boost from the Parish's generosity.

CONFIRMATION 2027

Confirmation preparation will be starting shortly. Parents meeting is on Thursday 15th October at 8pm in the Undercroft.

MONTH OF NOVEMBER – PRAYING FOR THE HOLY SOULS

During the month of November, we especially remember and pray for all our deceased loved ones — the Holy Souls. Parishioners are invited to collect a Holy Souls sheet and envelope from the porch of the Church. Please write the names of your deceased family members and friends on the sheet, place it in the envelope provided, and return it with your offering to the Parish Office, by posting it through the **Presbytery Letterbox** or handing it in to the **Parish Office**. All names received will be included in the **Masses offered for the Holy Souls during November**.

CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY

We recently marked CAFOD Harvest Fast Day, when we were asked to deny ourselves in some way, and so show solidarity with those, in the world, who have so little. If you would still like to do so, it is not too late. Contributions can be left in the Parish Office, and don't forget

to use a CAFOD envelope if you wish to 'Gift-Aid' your donation.

SCHOOL FORMS

It's that time of year when applications are being made for places in secondary schools. Parents who require the Certificate of Catholic Practise to be signed, or other confirmation of Mass attendance, can meet Canon Dwyer, in church on **Wednesday 14th October or Tuesday 20th October, between 6.00pm and 7.00pm, on both days. Please note the change of time.**

Once the secondary forms are signed, dates will be available for the Reception forms.

EAGERLY SOUGHT



Every week since the Covid lockdown we have broadcast this 11:30am mass on Zoom and YouTube, and we could really do with an additional person or two, willing to help, either on the occasional Sunday, or perhaps on a rota, to ensure it continues giving the housebound and others access to our Masses. **If you are able to help, please contact John Saliot. 07980537791 or at 11:30 Mass. Thank You!**

YOUTH MATTERS

It was very good to resume both the Youth Friendly Mass, and the Youth Group last Saturday evening. And it was particularly encouraging that a number of young people attended the Youth Group afterwards. Thank you to those who led the session. The next Youth Friendly Mass and Youth Group take place on Saturday 7th November at 6pm.

ACCOUNTS

Each year the parish submit their accounts to the Diocese. If you are interested in knowing some more about how your money is spent, you will find details on the parish website. As details of the accounts are shared, it is an opportunity to thank everyone who faithfully contributes to the support of the parish. You will find the accounts, for the year ended 31st December 2025 at https://www.catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk/olol-financial-results/

WAITROSE SHOPPERS – ST DOMINIC'S

St Dominic's School is now in the Community Matters Boxes at the checkouts of Waitrose Harpenden. If you shop there, please pick up a few green tokens at the checkout and pop them in the St Dom's pot. This show of support will enable the school to buy valuable new resources, namely library books & IT equipment. Every token counts so thank you! St Dominic's will be one of the 3 local charities/community groups for the next 3 months (1st Oct-31st Dec).



CATENIAN NEWS

LAST CHANCE TO BE INSPIRED – Wednesday 14th Oct at Harpenden Golf Club.

All men of the parish are invited to attend dinner to listen and speak with Fr Brendan Seery, Parish Priest of Our Lady Help of Christians, Luton. Fr Brendan, who grew up in Luton, is an inspiring priest who in addition to his parish duties is studying for

a PHD in Canon Law. He has a longstanding connection with Catenians and will speak to us about the Universality of Faith, relative to men (on this occasion). This promises to be a relaxed, enjoyable, and thought-provoking evening which is open to all men in the parish. The evening starts at 7pm and after a short meeting which includes time for prayer, we will listen to Fr Brendan over dinner. Cost per person is £35 including wine. Please email dennis@denniscooper.uk to reserve your place today at the latest.

LIVESIMPLY - Advance Notice
A REPAIR FAIR AT OLOL!
Did you know that per capita, the UK is the 2nd highest producer of e-waste in the world - an appalling statistic! But wait... The LiveSimply team are excited to announce that they will be holding a Repair Fair on Saturday afternoon 24th October in association with St Albans District Fixers at Lourdes Hall. Parishioners and the public alike will be invited to bring their dead or dysfunctional portable electricals and electronics, and a team of skilled amateur fixers will attempt to save them from the grave. Nimble-fingered seamstresses will also be on hand to tackle minor repairs and alterations to clothing and fabric items. The Fixers would be very pleased to welcome anyone handy with a screwdriver and not fazed by electrics, who they would buddy with one of their own, or an additional seamstress or two to work with theirs. There may be other opportunities to be involved. For further information, contact Jon Newham jonathan.newham@googlemail.com.

ADOREMUS
This weekend the Adoremus Eucharistic Festival will take place in London, and will include Mass in Southwark Cathedral, admission is by ticket, a procession of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction, leaving St George's Cathedral at 3.00pm, making it's way to Westminster Cathedral for Benediction at 5.00pm. Later there will be an all-night vigil in Westminster Cathedral. This 2026 National Eucharistic Congress is the Bishops' invitation to renew our devotion to the Eucharistic Lord. For more information visit: Adoremus 2026 - Catholic Bishops' Conference
FOR THE YOUTH AT ADOREMUS
An Adoremus Vigil will take place on Friday 9 October, 7-9pm, at the Church of the Most Holy Trinity, 39 Dockhead, London SE1 2BS. Organised by Westminster and Southwark Youth Ministries with CYMFed, the vigil will be a time for young adults to pray together before the Blessed Sacrament.
On Saturday 10 October, join overnight Adoration at Westminster Cathedral from 8pm. The Holy Hours at 8pm, 9pm and 10pm will include reflections on Eucharistic saints, prayer led by youth ministry teams and music from One Hope Project. Teenagers and Confirmation groups are especially welcome. Mass will be celebrated at 6pm before the Holy Hours.

MAGNIFICA HUMANITATIS
Do you want to find out more about Pope Leo's recent letter to the church? If so, there is an opportunity to do so on Saturday 17th October when Sr MaryAnne Francalanza fcJ will lead a day of reflection, prayer and discussion centred on the themes raised in Magnifica Humanitatis. Time: 11am-4.45pm. Venue: St Alban & St Stephen, 14 Beaconsfield Road, AL1 3RB. Cost: Donations welcome. Refreshments available: tea, coffee, soup & roll. To register: Please email stalbans@rcdow.org.uk

RCDOW EDUCATION SERVICE

Thinking about a career in teaching or education? This is the final year of this grant funded opportunity. Summer Internship Programme 2027. Gain experience in a Catholic School, work alongside inspiring educators, and discover how you can make a lasting difference in the lives of young people. Last day to enrol 30th November 2026. Who can apply? Catholic undergraduate students in their second year. Places are limited, to join the final cohort of this grant funded internship initiative. Please see the poster on the noticeboard for lots more information and contact details.

A DAY WITH MARY is taking place at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 7th November 2026 (9.45am to 5.00pm). The Most Reverend Richard Moth, Archbishop of Westminster will be the Celebrant & Preacher at 10.30am Cathedral Mass on that day. Further information is available at https://www.adaywithmary.org/

SPACe

Have you been to SPACe? That's Southdown Performing Arts Centre. www.southdownspace.org It is open again after stage 1 of refurbishing and now has an extra toilet and disabled access via a ramp. There is a full programme of events including popular First Friday entertainment with tea and cakes; Jazz; Gilbert and Sullivan; Jeckyll and Hyde and Christmas Carol. Find further details and tickets on the website, flyers at the back of church or through Margaret Cox. SPACe is also seeking to employ a Performing Arts Pioneer.

FROM THE PARISH OFFICE



The Parish Office is open Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 12.30pm. Any notices for the Newsletter please email the Parish office by lunchtime on Wednesdays.

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.
https://www.catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk/category/welcome/

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

MASS INTENTIONS		
Saturday 10th October **12.00 Noon** **3.00pm** **Vigil Mass 6.00pm** **Sunday 11th October** **8.30am** **9.45am** **11.30am**	**Feria** Michael Family Baptisms Sing for 15 Concert **28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)** Eileen Swan RIP Special Intentions R & A People of the Parish Frank Flanagan RIP (Anniversary) **Zoom Code 883 7014 5568**	**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** **Prayer for the Newly Baptised** Heavenly Father, bless this newly baptised child and guide them always in Your love. May they grow in faith, hope and love, surrounded by the care of family and friends. May they always know the joy of being Your beloved children. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.** **Anniversaries** Frank Flanagan RIP **Recently Deceased** **Prayer for the Faithful Departed** 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.**
Monday 12th October **9.15am**	**Feria**	
Tuesday 13th October **9.15am**	**ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR, Patron of the Diocese** Edward Gajdowski (Special Intentions)	
Wednesday 14th October **9.15am**	**Feria**	
Thursday 15th October **11.00am**	**St Teresa of Jesus, Virgin & Doctor of the Church** Mary Hammond RIP	
Friday 16th October	**Feria**	
Saturday 17th October **12.00 Noon** **Vigil Mass 6.00pm** **Sunday 18th October** **8.30am** **9.45am** **11.30am**	**St Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr** Baptism Corderey & Scott Families **29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)** People of the Parish Anne Brophy RIP (Anniversary) Waldek Gajdowski RIP Eroll Yates RIP (Anniversary) **Zoom Code 883 7014 5568**	