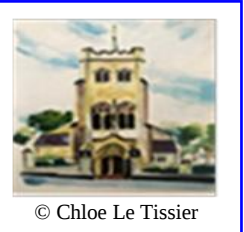




OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

12TH OCTOBER 2025

28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)



© Chloe Le Tissier

Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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Today, we hear of Jesus encountering ten lepers who cry out to him for mercy. Lepers were the outcasts of society — isolated, shunned, and without hope. Yet Jesus does not turn away. He hears their cry and sends them to the priests, and as they go, they are healed. It's a powerful moment of compassion, but also of faith — they trust Jesus' words, even before they see the outcome.

Of the ten who are healed, only one — a Samaritan, a foreigner — returns to give thanks. Jesus' question still echoes through the centuries: *"Were not all ten made clean? The other nine, where are they?"* Gratitude, it seems, is not always our first instinct, even when God blesses us.

This passage invites us to reflect on the difference between receiving a gift and truly recognising it. All ten received healing, but only one allowed that healing to deepen into a relationship with Jesus. His gratitude became an act of faith. *"Stand up and go; your faith has saved you,"* Jesus tells him — reminding us that salvation is more than physical well-being; it's about a heart turned toward God.

We, too, have been blessed in countless ways — health, family, faith, the beauty of creation, the gift of the Eucharist. Yet how often do we pause to give thanks? Gratitude transforms our perspective; it helps us see God's hand in the ordinary and opens us to deeper joy.

This week, let us be like the one who turned back — the one who recognised grace, gave thanks, and found not only healing, but salvation. It can be all too easy to say what we haven't got. From time to time though, it's good to recognise what we have received, what God in His goodness has given us. There is a time for us to count our blessings!

ROSARY FOR PEACE

October is the month of the Holy Rosary, last Tuesday being the feast of the Holy Rosary. Praying the Rosary, which takes us through the great moments of Our Lord's Life, is a long-established, traditional, practise. Pope Leo XIV has asked that Catholics across the globe unite to pray the Rosary for peace in war-torn lands, especially Gaza and Ukraine.

He said '..... "I invite everyone, each day of the coming month, to pray the Rosary for peace—personally, in the family, and in community." As we contemplate the wars, taking place in our world, we can feel quite helpless. What we can do, however, is to pray for peace, and during this month of the Rosary, we can heed our Holy Father, and offer it as a prayer for peace.



A better world needs all of us
FAMILY FAST DAY



Thank you very much for your contributions for CAFOD Harvest Fast Day, when we were asked to deny ourselves, in some way, and so show solidarity with some of the poorest people in our world. £1,805.00 Was donated. Your contributions, and self-denial, will be used to benefit some of CAFOD's projects. If you have yet to contribute, you can leave your donation at the Parish Office. If you wish to 'Gift-Aid' your contribution, please use one of the CAFOD envelopes.

SECONDARY APPLICATIONS

Canon Dwyer will be available in the Church, next Wednesday, 15th October, between 5.30pm and 6.30pm, to discuss the possibility of signing references for applications to secondary school. Please note, the purpose of these forms is to

confirm that the applicant, and their family, are practising Catholics.

SWITCH OFF!

Fortunately, we're not too often distracted by telephones ringing during Mass, most people, so it seems, remember to switch off before they arrive in church, which is appreciated by everyone. However, what is distracting is when a telephone rings, the person being called goes out and takes the call, and then returns to Mass. The message seems to be that the caller is more important, than God whom we have come to worship! Mass is less than an hour a week, we need to get our priorities right!

CONFIRMATION

PARENTS MEETING

Parents of children who have enrolled for Confirmation 2026 are invited to a meeting to discuss the Confirmation preparation programme. The meeting will take place next **Thursday 16 October at 8pm** in the Undercroft.



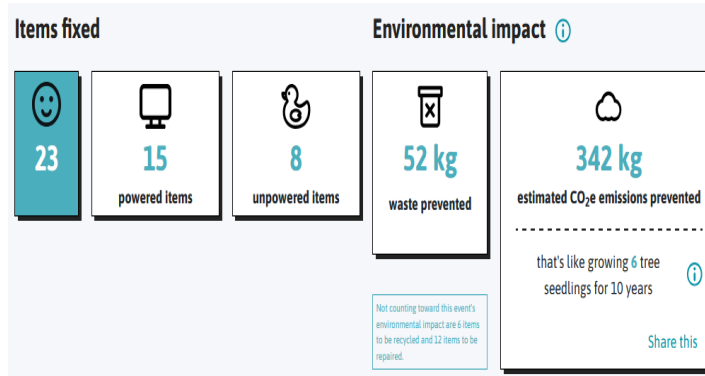
CHILDREN'S LITURGY UPDATE

We're so happy to welcome our young people to Children's Liturgy each week during the 9.45am Mass. These sessions are specially prepared for **children in reception class and above**, giving them a chance to hear and reflect on God's Word in a way that's just right for them. We **kindly ask parents to remain in the church** while the children enjoy this time together. Thank you for helping us make it a joyful and meaningful experience for all!



LOLO AND ST ALBANS DISTRICT FIXERS

The LiveSimply team would like to thank 18 volunteers drawn from both LOL and St Albans District Fixers, as well as the ladies who provided refreshments, for helping to make our first Repair Fair in Lourdes Hall last Saturday such a wild success! Fifty attendees brought all manner of items from hedge trimmers to audio equipment, and from toasters to a bingo machine, as well as various clothing and textile items. Of these, 23 were fixed and a further 12 were declared fixable but not there and then. For just 6 items, the owner was assured that they could take them to the tip with a clear conscience. A software tool has estimated that we might have averted 52kg of waste and 342kg of CO₂ emissions. Not bad for 3 hours work!



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.catholicchurchharpندن.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/LOLO-Database-New-Parishioner-Form-May-2023.pdf> Completed forms can be emailed or posted into the Parish Office. harpندن@rcdow.org.uk



FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday and Tuesday this week for annual leave and will open on Wednesday as normal. Any notices for the next Newsletter please email the Parish office by lunchtime on Wednesday. Thank you.



JAMES FEENEY RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of James Feeney who died recently. We keep Margery and the family in our prayers at this time. Funeral details to follow soon.

GOOD NEIGHBOURS NEEDED

Our Good Neighbours help make our parish welcoming by acting as local representatives in their area. We're very grateful for their support — and now need a few new volunteers!

It's a small but meaningful role:

- Be a friendly point of contact for parishioners in your area (we provide names and an introductory letter).
- Occasionally welcome new parishioners (we'll supply details and a welcome letter).
- Deliver Christmas and Easter service leaflets locally.

We especially need help in Roundwood, Townsend Lane—Moreton End Lane, Crabtree, Rothamsted Estate/Hatching Green, and Marshalls Heath/Lower Luton Road.

If you can help, please contact goodneighbours@catholicchurchharpندن.org.uk. Thank you!

CONFIRMATION PHOTOGRAPHS

The last few Confirmation photographs are available to be collected from the Repository Shop after weekend Masses.

SOUP AND REFLECTION

With Sr Regina on the subject of Hope.
This **Tuesday**, at **12 noon** in the Undercroft. Free of charge but donations to Gaza welcome. Everyone is very welcome to attend but to assist with catering, please contact marva@cpoauk.com (07943 837277).

REPOSITORY – POP IN FOR A LOOK!

Pop in and see what's new in store,
Cards and candles, cribs, and more!
Advent calendars shining bright,
To fill your home with hope and light.
Support the Repository — come and see,
And share the joy of Christmas with your Parish family!

A PRESENT FOR CHRISTMAS

Parish Catenians are fundraising for a church defibrillator and first aid training for Welcomers, as well as supporting young people from Luton to attend the next *Flame* gathering.
Next men's meeting: 8th October, 7pm at Harpenden Golf Club, with dinner and open discussion. Future dates: 12th November and Christmas Dinner on 17th December, featuring music, fun, and a raffle for the defibrillator fund. These events are open to All parishioners and it would be wonderful if a large number attended the Christmas dinner to make it a special 'defibrillator' occasion.
Contact dennis@denniscooper.uk (new email).

PLACES AVAILABLE AT ST DOMINIC'S

St Dominic Catholic Primary School has spaces available in Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 classes for current academic year and welcomes enquiries from parents of children 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. Please contact school office on 01582 760047 to arrange visit.**

HELP NEEDED FOR THE CHRISTMAS FAIR (SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER)

For many decades the parish has organised a Christmas Fair, in Lourdes Hall, which has raised tens of thousands of pounds for the parish, and for other good causes. For the last 25 years, this event has been organised by Marva Hall and she has decided that this will be her last year in charge. **We urgently need one or more of you to step up to work with her this year with a view to taking over in 2026.** Please contact Marva (07943 837277) or the Parish Office for more information. Without new leadership, this will be our last Christmas Fair.

FOR THE YOUTH OF THE PARISH HERTFORDSHIRE YOUTH SUMMIT

If you are aged 14–17 — this event is for you! You're invited to the Hertfordshire Summit at *Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Welwyn Garden City*.

Come and spend the afternoon with other young people from across the region for games, workshops, social time, and prayer. We'll have Adoration and Mass, we'll have fun, and together we'll take inspiration from Saint Carlo Acutis on how we can strive for holiness as teenagers today.



Date: Saturday, 22 November 2025



Time: 13:00-19:00



Bring a packed lunch or snacks (no nuts). Parish social after Mass!



To register your interest, please contact the parish office. Don't miss out — and don't forget to invite your friends!

<https://youth.rcdow.org.uk/events/big-hertfordshire-summit/>

A NEW ECUMENICAL CHAPLAIN FOR ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL / ABBEY

Our new Roman Catholic chaplain Fr John Deehan is to be formally welcomed into the community of the Cathedral/ Abbey of St Albans on Sunday 19th October during the service of Evensong at 4pm.

For those of you who are new to the parish a Catholic Mass is celebrated at the Cathedral/ Abbey at 12 noon every Friday in the Lady chapel. One of Fr. Deehan's tasks is to arrange a Rota of priests from throughout the diocese to celebrate Mass. People come from all over the diocese with some of the Abbey visitors to take part. We are always made most welcome by all the people who work at the Abbey so do come if you are free

PAID INTERNSHIPS

Westminster Diocese Education Department is now entering the second year of its three-year Catholic Leadership Programme. This programme is aimed at increasing the number of Catholic teachers—and future leaders—in our young Catholics. We are offering **paid internships** for Catholic university students to spend **three weeks working** in one of our schools, gaining first-hand experience of life as a teacher. While there is a particular focus on **Religious Education**, the programme also welcomes students interested in **other secondary subjects** and the **Primary sector**. Where needed, we offer **bursaries** to support those who choose to pursue **QTS in RE**. More information can be found on the RCDOW website [here](#).

Applications close on 30th November 2025.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 14 October:

Soup and Reflection in the Undercroft
from 12pm – 2pm.
Sister Regina will speak about 'Hope'.

Thursday 16th October

Chorister's Concert in Church at 7pm

Saturday 18 October:

DWG Quiz at the Lourdes Hall
at 7pm-7.30pm start

Saturday 22nd November

POSTPONED

DWG 'Thanksgiving' Barn Dance

Sunday 23rd November

Newman Musical
Afternoon with Alison Langer, Sunday
23rd November in Lourdes Hall

Sunday 30th November

Advent Service at 6pm Venue TBC

Saturday 6 December:

Christmas Fair at the Lourdes Hall from
12pm – 2pm.

DWG Christmas Wreath Making in the Undercroft

Tuesday 9th December

10am – 12 Noon
2pm – 4pm

Wednesday 10th December

7pm – 9pm
More details to follow soon.

MASS INTENTIONS		
Sat 11th Oct 12.00 Noon 3.00pm Youth Mass Vigil Mass 6.00pm Sun 12th Oct 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	Feria Baptism Pykett Family Sing for 12 Concert 28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Graham McFarlane RIP Mary Anne Byrne RIP (Recently Deceased) People of the Parish Frank Flanagan RIP (Anniversary) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568	PLEASE PRAY FOR: Newly Baptised Emily & Alexander Prayer for the Newly Baptised Loving God, bless our newly baptised brothers and sisters. Fill their lives with joy, their hearts with faith, and their journey with Your guiding light. Amen. Recently Deceased Mary Anne Byrne RIP James Feeney RIP Anniversaries: Frank Flanagan RIP This week, we remember in prayer all who have recently died and those whose anniversaries of occur during these days. We invite you to join us in offering prayers for their souls, asking God to grant them eternal rest and peace in His loving presence. May the light of Christ shine upon them, and may they be comforted by our prayers and memories. <i>Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. Amen.</i>
Mon 13th Oct 9.15am	ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR Edward Gajdowski (Special Intentions)	
Tues 14th Oct 9.15am	Feria Sid Jackson (Special Intentions)	
Wed 15th Oct 9.15am	St Teresa of Jesus, Virgin & Doctor Marcia Davis (Special Intentions)	
Thur 16th Oct 11.00am 7.00pm 8.00pm	Feria Waldemar Gajdowski RIP Choristers Concert Confirmation Parents Meeting	
Fri 17th Oct	St Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr	
Sat 18th Oct Vigil Mass 6.00pm Sun 19th Oct 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	ST LUKE, Evangelist 29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Maureen Quinn RIP (Recently Deceased) People of the Parish Caroline Larkin RIP (Recently Deceased) Deceased Members Cooper Family Zoom Code 883 7014 5568	
CONFESSIONS SATURDAYS 10.30AM – 11.00AM & AFTER THE 6.00PM VIGIL MASS		