



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

12TH FEBRUARY 2023

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)



© Chloe Le Tissier

Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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When we hear about wisdom in today's First Reading, it's spoken of in terms of the Lord Himself, not human beings. We heard "For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing". The First Reading speaks of ordinary people, like all of us, making simple moral choices. Ecclesiasticus says: "If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power". He then shows how black and white such choices are, declaring that God "has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him.

But Saint Paul in the Second Reading reveals that God grants the Christian disciple a share in the Wisdom of God. Yet this is for a specific reason, the origin of which lies in God's providential will. And he explains that God chooses to bestow His Wisdom upon His children through the preaching of His apostles. In this light, St Paul explains to the Corinthians: "We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age".

When you and I make choices that are wise choices we follow after Jesus. Living your life by sacrificing your life for others, as Jesus did, opens your life to the Father's Presence. By contrast, following the "*wisdom of this age*" leads nowhere. Your choice is whether to embrace death in this world in the form of self-sacrifice, or to allow death to embrace you for eternity.

The divine Wisdom of Jesus Christ shows us the path that leads to Our Father. But we also need the strength to walk that path. That strength comes through God's grace. The greatest source of grace that Jesus gifted was the Gift of Himself at the Last Supper, which becomes present before us in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.



SYRIA-TURKEY EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

We will all have been shocked by the situation in Syria and Turkey, and will want to help in some way. CAFOD is responding with support of provision of food, water, shelter, medical assistance and winter kits for survivors. Your donations in recent months have made that quick response possible. Let us join CAFOD in praying for our sisters and brothers affected by the earthquakes and the winter weather. There will be a second collection this weekend for the victims of this earthquake. Envelopes are available, if you wish to 'Gift-Aid' your contribution. For more details visit CAFOD's Syria Turkey Emergency Appeal online at <https://cafod.org.uk/give>.

WARM SPACES

Our 'Warm Space' has now been running for 7 weeks, and although numbers are not great, the volunteers, are keen that we continue to offer this service. The warm space, will be available each Monday between 12noon and 2.00pm. So, again, if you know anyone who might appreciate some warmth, refreshments and company, please tell them about our warm space.

PRAYER REQUESTS

From time to time, there may be a person, or intention, you would like to pray for. If so, there is now a book available, on the table with the gifts, for you write down the prayer intention. The book will be brought up, at those Masses, where there is an offertory procession, and placed on the Altar.

NEWSLETTER

Most parishioners are now receiving the weekly newsletter by email, and this seems to be working well, saving a lot of paper, and expense to. A few copies are placed in the porch each week, for those who may not have email, and these copies are for those people. **So, if you have a computer please do not take a copy of the newsletter.** If you don't presently receive the newsletter by email, but would like to do so, please email your details to the Parish Office.

LENT 2023

ASH WEDNESDAY

22nd February Masses will be celebrated at 9.15am & 6.00pm

LENT GROUPS 2023

As in previous years there will be groups meeting throughout Lent to reflect, share ideas and pray. The sessions this Lent will be based on Praying the Our Father, by Carl E. Olson which is described by one theologian as "the best collection of Lenten reflections she has seen." The booklet is available from CTS Books £3.50 or at the first meeting. If you have not been part of a group previously, please do consider joining in this year. The groups are friendly and thought-provoking. There are opportunities for sharing ideas but no pressure to do so. There will be groups meeting on some mornings/afternoon and evenings depending on the demand. Please email:- juliaandnigel057@gmail.com or phone 07891083251 with your choice of day, time and contact details.

PARISH AREA COORDINATORS

Following the recent email to parishioners who receive the newsletter, we have received 32 acceptances from people willing to get involved in contacting Catholics in or close to their location. **It's a great start but we need many more.** This will not be an onerous task but simply to say 'hello', perhaps make the occasional telephone call to check on well-being, knock on a door, or just pop a parish newsletter through the letter box, it's all part of our parish mission. Please consider joining the team and help to get to know your neighbour by emailing: dr.harpendenlol@gmail.com



DATE FOR THE DIARY :

EASTER CONCERT

Performance of a new cantata, written in the wake of the pandemic and in gratitude to the NHS this will be held on **SATURDAY 25TH MARCH at 3PM**

Tickets will be available for this concert in due course but please save the date. It is in the afternoon to encourage a large audience - to include children, families and those unable to attend evening concerts so readily. It will last for approximately 1.5 hours with refreshments served afterwards.

ST DOMINIC NURSERY FOR ADMISSION SEPTEMBER 2023



On the 30th January 2023, the application process for Nursery places opened for children born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020. Our Early Years provision enables parents to access 30 hours free childcare with Nursery morning sessions running Monday- Friday, 8.45am - 11.45am and an optional Lunch Club run by school and an afternoon Pre-School run by *Friends Together* running from after lunch club until 3.30pm. Wrap around care offered by *Friends Together* also means that care for children is available between 7.50am and 6pm, should this be required. For further information please visit our website www.stdominic.herts.sch.uk to book an appointment to attend to one of our online visit mornings on Wednesday 18th January at 9.30pm or Monday 30th Jan at 9.30am or Wednesday 22nd February at 9.30am. Applications close at 3.30pm on 6th March. **Canon Dwyer, will be available to meet parents, to discuss the possibility of signing the Certificate of Catholic Practise (CCP), on Tuesday 21st February, between 5.30pm and 6.30pm, in the church. Please note that the CCP can only be signed if parents and children have attended Mass, every Sunday, for the past two years.**

CAFOD

As we approach Lenten Fast Day on 3rd March, we would like to thank you all for your continued support which enables us to have a truly global impact. CAFOD are committed to being honest, open, transparent and accountable about how we use the money you donate.

For every £1 that you donate, CAFOD will spend 79p on international development, emergencies, education, campaigning, and

advocacy work. 11p will be spent to generate future income, and 10p will be spent on support costs required to run the organisation. Of the 79p spent on international development, emergencies, campaigning, and education work, the breakdown is the following:

- 42p is spent to fund our international programmes work;
- 30p is spent on emergencies and disaster relief;
- 7p is spent on advocacy and UK education.

Our Lenten appeal will focus on CAFOD's work in Bangladesh in the face of climate change.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2023

This year's World Day of Prayer will take place on Friday 3rd March. The main Harpenden service will take place at 10.30am at All Saints, Station Road, and there will be a service on Zoom at 7.45pm. This year's service is written by the women of Taiwan with the theme "I have heard about your faith."

The World Day of Prayer raises around £250,000 each year in the UK for distribution to charity - visit www.wwdp.org.uk for details or to make a donation. For more information on the Harpenden services please see the postcards in the porch.

ANNUAL MASS FOR MATRIMONY

The annual Mass for Matrimony at the Cathedral will be celebrated by the Cardinal on Saturday 13th May at 2.30pm for all couples celebrating a significant Wedding Anniversaries. If you would like to attend please send your details into the Parish Office, please include the date you were married, and contact details.



ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

Come and celebrate the **FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION SATURDAY 25 MARCH** on a Pilgrimage to **WALSINGHAM** by coach from St Bart's, St Albans. Holy Mass in Walsingham at 12noon will be celebrated by the new Bishop of East Anglia, Peter Collins, followed by a visit to the Slipper Chapel and a walk along the Holy Mile to the Priory, the original site of the holy house requested by Our Lady in 1061. The cost is to be confirmed. To book or

for further info please contact
Margaret Leahy:
margleahy@gmail.com
01727 763832
or Rosemary Roscoe:
Rosemary.roscoe@gmail.com
07723 546642

VERITAS CATHOLIC LECTURE SERIES

Roman Catholic Parish of Hemel West (St Mary & St Joseph Church HP1 1NR) will be hosting the Catholic Theology lecture series starting in February. We are inviting expert theologians as lecturers to look at Catholicism holistically. Let's know God so we can truly love Him! The lecture is free to attend but we would appreciate a pot of food to share and a donation for the lecturers. Any help on the day will be received gratefully. All lectures are held at the parish hall at St Mary & St Joseph, on Saturdays starting from 10:00. We will share lunch then end the lectures by 15:00. Please check the Hemel West website for more details.

LOURDES HALL SOUTHDOWN ROAD HARPENDEN

Available for Hire, and for one off Parties for more details contact
Caretaker: Mr Simon Lowe
Mobile: 07859 943 348
Email: harpendenct@rcdow.org.uk

| MASS INTENTIONS NEXT WEEK | |
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| Sat 11 th Feb 11.30am 6.00pm | OUR LADY OF LOURDES Mass for the Sick 6 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Joseph Bradley RIP (Recently Deceased) |
| Sun 12 th Feb 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am | 6 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Sarah Byrne RIP People of the Parish Ita Long RIP Zoom Code 883 7014 5568. |
| Mon 13 th Feb 9.15am | Feria Pat Butler RIP (Anniv) |
| Tues 14 th Feb 9.15am | SS Cyril, Monk & Methodius Bishop Gordon Lewis RIP (Recently Deceased) |
| Wed 15 th Feb 9.15am | feria Simon Davies (Special Intention) |
| Thur 16 th Feb 11.00am | feria Phyllis Danby RIP (1 st Anniv) |
| Fri 17 th Feb | feria |
| Sat 18 th Feb 6.00pm | feria 7 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Frank McConnachie RIP (Anniv) |
| Sun 19 th Feb 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am | 7 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Fr Jeremy Davies RIP People of the Parish Peter Vasquez RIP (Anniv) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568. |
| CONFESSIONS - SATURDAYS 10.30AM - 11.00AM & AFTER THE 6.00PM VIGIL MASS | |