



Contactless
Giving

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

12TH JULY 2026

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)



© Chloe Le Tissier

Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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The recent spell of intense heat has reminded us how dependent we are on the life-giving gift of rain. Our gardens, fields, and countryside quickly become dry and weary without it. This provides a fitting image for this Sunday's readings.

Through the prophet Isaiah, God tells us that, just as the rain, waters the earth and enables it to produce its harvest, so too his word brings life, and never returns empty. Every time we gather for Mass, God is sowing the seed of his word into our hearts. The question is not whether God speaks, but whether we are ready to listen.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the sower. Some seed falls on the path, some on rocky ground, some among thorns, and some on rich soil. We may recognise each of these experiences in our own lives. At times we hear God's word with joy; at other times worries, distractions, or disappointments prevent it from taking root.

Our parish community is called to be "good soil" where faith can flourish. We do this whenever we welcome newcomers, support those who are struggling, encourage our children and young people in faith, care for the sick and housebound, and deepen our own relationship with Christ through prayer and the Eucharist. In these simple but faithful ways, the seed of God's Kingdom bears fruit.

As the dry ground longs for refreshing rain, may our hearts long for God's life-giving word. Let us ask the Lord to soften whatever has become hard within us, clear away the thorns that crowd our lives, and help us become the rich soil that produces a harvest of faith, hope, and love for the blessing of our parish and our world.

A BISHOP FROM HARPENDEN

Last Thursday, it was announced that Pope Leo XIV, has appointed Father Stephen Wang as the next Bishop of Arundel and Brighton. This is a source of great joy for our parish, as Father Stephen is very much a part of the parish, where his father still lives. Some of you will remember that Father Stephen was ordained in our church in January 1998. Over the years he has retained close links with the parish, often returning to celebrate Mass here, when his other duties permitted. The date of the Episcopal Ordination has still to be announced, but, typical of Father Stephen, he has already indicated that, afterwards, he will come to celebrate Mass here, and give us the chance to celebrate with him. In the meantime, let keep Bishop-elect Stephen as he prepares for these new responsibilities.

CONFIRMATION

Last Saturday, it was a pleasure to welcome Bishop Paul, to confirm 37 young people, 36 from our Parish, and one from Redbourn Parish. It was good to see that this was an increased number from more recent years. It's always a special moment as our young people take this significant step on their faith journey. Let us keep them in our prayers, that they may continue to grow in their faith. Thank you to everyone who assisted with the celebration, choir, altar servers and flower arrangers; and, last, but not least a big 'thank you' to the Catechists who gave their time, so generously, to prepare our young people. This Saturday evening there will be the Confirmation Thanksgiving Mass at 6.00pm followed by a Celebration in the Undercroft for the Candidates.



FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION 2027

With First Communion and Confirmation now complete for this year, so the task continues! Preparation for First Communion and Confirmation will commence in the autumn. For First Communion, children should be in year 3 and above, from September. For Confirmation, preparation is for young people in year 9 and above, from September. Registration forms, for both Sacraments can be collected after Mass today. Parents can collect the First Communion form, and young people, for Confirmation, **should collect in person**. It is expected that those seeking to be prepared, are from practicing Catholic families, i.e. attending Mass every Sunday. When complete, the forms should be returned to the Parish Office with a Baptismal Certificate, unless Baptised at Our Lady of Lourdes. **All forms to be returned by 25th July.**

CAFOD-DEC

VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

Thank you to everyone that donated to the emergency appeal from CAFOD last weekend £1,180 was donated and has been sent off to CAFOD. If you were unable to donate last weekend and would still like to support the appeal, it is not too late. Please place your CAFOD envelope in the Parish Office, and we will ensure your donation is forwarded.

CHILDREN'S PARTY TODAY 12TH JULY

This Sunday the Music and Children's Liturgy Groups are hosting an end of term party for the children who come to the 9:45am Mass. Please join us in the Presbytery Garden (weather permitting) after Mass for drinks and party food. All children and their families are welcome.

A DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP APPEAL

The Developing World group want to thank everyone for their great generosity in supporting our appeal.

Should anyone wish to make a one-off or regular payment via standing order to the DWG;



A/C Name: WRCDT Harpenden

Sort Code: 40 05 20

A/C Number: 71098969

Reference: Donor's Name

It would be helpful if any new donor would contact the treasurer at nfj.whittle@gmail.com so that he can make a note on the records and if required forward a gift aid form for completion. Again, thank you all. Your generosity is much appreciated.

FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

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



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.

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

PILGRIMAGE OF REPARATION & PRAYER FOR THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

Celebrant: Rt Rev Peter Collins, Bishop of East Anglia,

When: 1st August 2026

Where: Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham

Time: 12:00 to 17:00, beginning with the Pilgrim Mass at noon.

Coach from Harpenden: Chef Peking at

7.30am Price: £30 Adults & £12 Children

Further information about the pilgrimage, livestreaming and coach meeting points can be found on the website

<https://prolifepilgrimage.org/>

To book contact Geraldine 07971028415

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 11th July 1.00pm Vigil Mass 6.00pm Sunday 12th July 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	St Benedict, Abbot, Patron of Europe Wedding Hannah Corbett & Jack Konda 15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Confirmation Thanksgiving Mass Teresa Doran (Special Intentions) People of the Parish Mary Hammond RIP Zoom Code 883 7014 5568	PLEASE PRAY FOR: Newly Married Couple Heavenly Father, Bless this newly married couple with a lifetime of love, faith, and joy. Strengthen them in times of challenge, deepen their commitment to one another, and keep You at the centre of their marriage. May their home be filled with peace, kindness, and laughter, and may they always grow together in Your grace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. Anniversaries Graham McFarlane RIP Recently Deceased Ann Horsey RIP 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 13th July 9.15am	Feria Ann Horsey RIP (Recently Deceased)	
Tuesday 14th July 9.15am	Feria Graham McFarlane RIP (Anniversary)	
Wednesday 15th July 9.15am	St Bonaventure, Bishop & Doctor of the Church	
Thursday 16th July 11.00am	Feria Private Intentions	
Friday 17th July	Feria	
Saturday 18th July Vigil Mass 6.00pm Sunday 19th July 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	Feria 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Joyce Martin RIP (Anniversary) Rob Powell RIP (Recently Deceased) People of the Parish Thanksgiving Mass for the Choir from the Hammond Family Zoom Code 883 7014 5568	