



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

12TH MARCH 2023
3RD SUNDAY OF LENT (A)



© Chloe Le Tissier

Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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The Parish Office is open Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 12.30pm.

Telephone: 01582 712245 or email: harpenden@rcdow.org.uk

Website: www.catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk

twitter: https://twitter.com/rc_olol?lang=en

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OLoLHarpenden>

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Our need to drink regularly is obvious; without water we would quickly die. Not so easily recognised is the soul's thirst for meaning, for vision and purpose in life. We can be fully preoccupied with the surface of things, and quite neglect our spirit's obscure longing for eternal life. Like the Israelites, we worry constantly about physical needs, but are often unmindful of God who supplies them. Today, Jesus offers us the refreshing water of eternal life, a power of faith and union-with-God which is our deepest need, and can satisfy the thirst of our soul. How the desert blossoms, when water is brought to it. The same miracle of growth can take place in the parched soul, if God lets his Spirit flow over me. All the ravages of doubt, fear and sin will yield to the new life of grace.

"To dwell in the house of the Lord": Our deep desire remains, something not confined to Christians but shared with other religious traditions: namely, the yearning to come into the presence of God, and be welcomed by God. All of us are called by him to drink of that "fountain of water, springing up to everlasting life." In times of widespread religious scepticism, the hope of heaven as eternal life after death is often cast in doubt as wishful thinking. But we cling to this hope, relying on the word of Jesus. For Paul and the early Christians, the hope of eternal life breathed joy into all their efforts and sacrifices. Fidelity until death seemed well worthwhile, "for the weight of glory that will be revealed in us." Our part to play is turning aside from sin, and trying to live by the gospel. God can be absolutely relied on to fulfil his promise, and will in time satisfy the deep thirst of our spirit.



FRIDAYS IN LENT

Each Friday of Lent, Mass will be celebrated at 7.00pm, followed by the Stations of the Cross. Friday is the traditional day for 'making the Stations', so attending Mass, and the Stations of the Cross, during Lent, is a positive activity during this season.

LENT GROUPS

The Lent groups are meeting throughout Lent to reflect, share ideas and pray. The sessions 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 meeting.

Please email:- juliaandnigel057@gmail.com or phone 07891083251 for more information.

LENTEN ALMS

Traditionally, during Lent, anything that we save through self-denial is donated to the 'Lenten Alms'. Funds raised this year will be shared between the four pillars of the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal: Marriage & Family Life; Youth & Evangelisation; The Education Service and Caritas Westminster. You can place your contributions in the 'box' to the right of Our Lady's Altar, or, if you wish to 'Gift-Aid' your contribution, you can use one of the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal envelopes, which will be found in the porch, and return it to the Parish Office.

LENT DAY BY DAY BOOKS

Day by Day books for Lent and Easter 2023 are available in the Repository and they each cost £1. They are an excellent way to prepare for the seasons of Lent and Easter.

PARISH MEETING

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC), is now just over a year old. One of its duties is to have an Annual Parish Meeting, which is now due. This will take place on Sunday 26th March, at 3.00pm, in the Undercroft. If you are wondering just what the PPC does, this will be an opportunity to hear what has been happening, and it will also be an opportunity to acknowledge some of the other activities, that have been taking place in the parish, during the past year.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Next Friday, March 17th, is the feast of St. Patrick. Mass will be celebrated at 7.00pm

ST PATRICK'S DAY LUNCH

This very popular annual event will be held next Friday 17th March at 12 Noon in the Undercroft.

Tickets will be on sale after all Masses and will cost £15 for a welcome drink, a



traditional Irish Lunch and an Irish Coffee with Barmbrack. Proceeds will go to Sister Margaret's Barcelona Settlement.



LENT FAST DAY

Thank you for your contributions last weekend for the CAFOD Lent Fast Day. £2,139.20 was contributed. If you haven't yet made a contribution, it is not too late to do so. CAFOD envelopes will be found in the porch, and can be returned to the Parish Office. You can also donate online, direct to CAFOD, <https://cafod.org.uk/fundraise/family-fast-day>

GOOD NEIGHBOURS'

As part of the Parish Renewal programme, and as you know from the recent requests seeking area volunteers, we have been working on, and are now ready to launch "Good Neighbours".

This initiative answers the call to become a more open and welcoming parish, as highlighted in the feedback from the parish survey, exemplified by, *'The parish being a much stronger community, where everyone feels welcome, and not alone whatever their personal situation, and there is much more looking out for people including non-Catholics'*.

As shown on the map at the back of the church, you can see the parish has been divided into several small areas, each with its own representatives, who will keep contact with the parishioners in their own area.

The aim is to develop a local community in each area by :

- dropping a newsletter through a letter box to those unable to leave home
- welcome new catholic neighbours
- let the parish office know of any specific needs of parishioners in that area (for example a need for transport to go to Mass, request of a visit of a Eucharistic minister...)
- just say "hello" or keep telephone contact with parishioners who may not be well, or in need of a friendly chat.

As the map highlights, the red sections show which areas are not yet covered by volunteers, and the yellow sections show areas where there are some, but not enough volunteers for the number of households, so we would be grateful if anyone could step forward to help cover these areas.

You can write your details on the sign-up sheet next to the map, or otherwise contact the parish office or email dr.harpendenolol@gmail.com if you have any questions. It is a very good and straightforward opportunity to become the missionary disciples we are all called to be.

ANN TURNER RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Ann Turner. Ann's Requiem Mass will be on Monday 20th March at 10.00am. We remember all Ann's family in our prayers at this time

DARREN MCKAY RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Darren McKay. Darren's Requiem Mass will be on Tuesday 28th March at 11.00am. We remember all Darren's family in our prayers at this time

EASTER FLOWERS COLLECTION

The Parish Flower Arrangers will have their annual Easter Flower Collection after all Masses this weekend. Donations can also be made via the card machine in the porch. In addition, a Lily may be purchased



(at £5) in memory of a loved one. Please write clearly the name of the loved one in **CAPITAL LETTERS** on an envelope, place the donation of £5 inside and hand it in with the flower collection after Mass, or post through the Presbytery letterbox or drop it into Melanie in the Parish Office. Their names will then be added to a remembrance book which will be displayed in the Church during the Easter season.



REPOSITORY NEW STOCK

The Repository has a new range of attractive colouring books for children, also gifts and cards for Birthdays, St Patrick's Day, Mother's Day Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation and much more. Everything is very reasonably priced, come and have a look.

THE UNIVERSE

CATHOLIC WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

Order your Digital 2 weeks FREE introductory offer by calling Michelle on 0743 661 7650 or email:

michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk

DATES 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.

STRAWBERRY SOCIAL

in the Presbytery Garden.
Sunday 18th June at 3pm



GETTING MARRIED?

Couples intending to get married, need to give at least six months' notice, as required by the Diocese. Pre-marriage preparation, provides an opportunity to reflect, not just on the wedding, which is for a day, but on the marriage, which is for life, as well as looking at the other necessary arrangements. Anyone getting married within the next year should be in contact with Canon Dwyer. If you know of couples hoping to marry in the coming year, please draw their attention to this notice.

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.

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 asignificant Wedding Annivesaries. If you would like to attend please send your details into the Parish Office, please include the date you were married, and contact details by 30th March.

QUOTE:

"If we want to bring about deep change, we need to realize that certain mindsets really do influence our behaviour. Our efforts at education will be inadequate and ineffectual unless we strive to promote a new way of thinking about human beings, life, society, and our relationship with nature."

Laudato Si 215

BRENNAN SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCING

meet at the Lourdes hall every: Wed 5pm - 6.30pm
Saturday - 12 Noon - 1.30pm

From ages 4 upwards First lesson is a free trial
Contact Jenny Brennan 07867992509

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

Saturday 11th March 6.00pm	Lent feria 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT (A) Sr. Loretta (Special Intention)
Sunday 12th March 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	3RD SUNDAY OF LENT (A) People of the Parish Joan Tunnicliffe RIP (Recently Deceased) Nichola Davis RIP (1 st Anniversary) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568.
Monday 13th March 9.15am	Lent feria Sr. Goretti Roche RIP (Recentky Deceased)
Tuesday 14th March 9.15am	Lent feria Clare Turnbull RIP
Wednesday 15th March 9.15am	Lent feria Louisa Conter (Special Intention)
Thursday 16th March 11.00am	Lent feria Tommy & Mary Doran (Special Intention)
Friday 17th March 7.00pm	ST PATRICK, Bishop, Patron of Ireland Ann Turner RIP (Months Mind) Followed by Stations of the Cross
Saturday 18th March 6.00pm	Lent feria 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (A) Michelle Canny RIP
Sunday 19th March 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (A) (Laetare Sunday) People of the Parish Marie Dube RIP (Recently Deceased) Maureen Dunn RIP Zoom Code 883 7014 5568.

CONFESSIONS - SATURDAYS
10.30AM - 11.00AM &
AFTER THE 6.00PM VIGIL MASS