



Contactless
Giving

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

13TH SEPTEMBER 2026

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)



© Chloe Le Tissier

Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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“How often must I forgive?” Peter’s question in today’s Gospel is one that we might easily recognise. Forgiveness can be difficult, especially when we feel that someone has hurt us deeply or repeatedly. Peter perhaps thinks that forgiving seven times is generous. Jesus, however, responds with a much greater challenge: forgiveness is not something we should count, there cannot be a limit to how often we forgive.

The parable Jesus tells reminds us why. The servant has been forgiven an enormous debt, something he could never possibly repay. Yet, having received such mercy, he refuses to show even a small measure of mercy to another. The contrast is striking. He has received forgiveness, but has failed to allow that forgiveness to change his own heart.

This is an important message for each one of us. We will be only too well aware that not one of us lives without making mistakes, or sometimes causing hurt to others. Families, friendships, and parish communities, can sometimes experience misunderstandings, disagreements and disappointments. We can carry these things with us for a long time, and so allow resentment to take root.

Jesus invites us to choose another way. Forgiveness does not mean pretending that something did not happen, nor does it always remove the consequences of someone’s actions. Rather, forgiveness means refusing to allow anger and resentment to have the final word. Every time we pray the words, “forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us,” we are reminded that God’s mercy is a gift we are also called to share.

As we gather around the Eucharist this Sunday, let us ask for the grace to recognise how generously God has forgiven us—and then to bring something of that same mercy into our homes, our relationships and our parish community.

ALTAR SERVERS

Some of you will have noticed that we are in need of more Altar Servers. Our servers carry out a very important role in assisting with the celebration of Mass. Boy and girls who have made their First Holy Communion are welcome to come and be trained, and there is no upper age limit. Anyone interested in taking on this role, please contact Canon Dwyer.



ST CARLO ACUTIS MISSION

Our neighbouring Hemel Hempstead parishes have a St Carlo Acutis Mission this week, from Monday 14 to Friday 18 September 2026. The mission will be led by Monsignor Anthony Figueirido and Gwen Wiseman. They will bring with them the Primary Relic of St Carlo, a portion of his heart, from Assisi.

For more information, please visit the Hemel West website:

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/events/st-carlo-acutis-mission-week-mon-14-fri-18-september/>

A lovely opportunity to find out some more about this inspiring young saint of the Church.

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 stalbens@rcdow.org.uk

FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION 2027

Preparation for First Communion and Confirmation will be commencing in the next few weeks. Registering is now closed. Information about this year's preparation will be sent shortly.

CONFIRMATION CATECHIST'S NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to join our Confirmation Catechist team. This is a wonderful opportunity to support and encourage the young people of our parish as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

No previous experience is necessary – just a willingness to share your faith and be part of a friendly, supportive team. If you feel you may be able to help, or would like to find out more, please speak to Canon Dwyer. We would be delighted to hear from you.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING – FACE TO FACE SESSIONS

As hopefully most of you will remember from a previous newsletter, to help keep everyone safe, the Diocese is requiring all parish volunteers to complete safeguarding training. This applies to every volunteer, whether or not your role requires a DBS check. Please be reassured that this does not mean all volunteers are being asked to have a DBS check. The aim is simply to raise safeguarding awareness across the whole parish community.

Many volunteers have also completed an online safeguarding course during the past year but some have said they would prefer to attend in person training.

Brigid will be presenting two sessions, the first on the 23/9/26 at 7.30 pm and also

10.30 am on the 7/10/26 , both in the Undercroft. All are welcome to attend whether or not you volunteer. The online option is still available if you would prefer. If you volunteer in any way but have not heard from Brigid can you please contact her – her details are on the front of the newsletter.

EAGERLY SOUGHT

A brain of a mildly technical bent, with attached anatomical configuration, to undertake the occasional task of running the Sunday Zoom/YouTube session at the 11:30 mass. Full enlightenment in the everyday and the unexpected foibles of the system for any interested parties. Please contact John Saliot on 07980537791 or at 11:30 mass.

FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be Closed from 14th – 23rd September for annual leave. Any notices for the Newsletter during this time please email the Parish office by lunchtime on Wednesdays.



SING FOR FIFTEEN IS STARTING THIS SEPTEMBER

Four Tuesday evenings 7.30pm - 9.00pm in the Undercroft - starting this Tuesday 15th September. Everyone welcome and no previous singing experience needed. Concert on Saturday 10th October at 3pm. All money raised goes to NOAH charity supporting homelessness in Luton and KeyStage Housing. The fee for the whole course is £40 and payment details will be given once you are signed up and ready to start! If you have not tried this before then please give it a go. Bring a friend! It is a short commitment and great for your wellbeing and especially for those who benefit from our fundraising - over £8000

so far since Sing For One started a few years ago. Please email Katie Metcalfe katiemjack@yahoo.co.uk to sign up and we look forward to seeing you .



CHORISTERS AND ADULT CHOIR

Choristers - Year 4 to Year 13 are welcome to join from September. There is a schedule of rehearsals and Masses published each term and full training is given. Serving as a chorister is a commitment so please consider this carefully as attendance at Thursday rehearsals and Sunday 11.30am Masses is required as per the schedule. Extra Masses such as First Holy Communion and Confirmation are also part of the life of a chorister and all dates are given in advance to help the family diary. It is a choral experience that develops many skills and our choristers go on to continue their musical journey at university and conservatoires at the highest levels. More, and most, importantly it fosters a space of community, faith-sharing and lifelong friendships. Please email Katie Metcalfe or ask at the parish office .

ADULT CHOIR - SATB, non-auditioned choir. Meets every Thursday 8-9pm during term time and full training given. Many opportunities for singing at Mass, at weddings, funerals and in concerts performing some epic choral works - most recently Mozart's Requiem, Hayden's Nelson Mass, Vivaldi's Gloria and Unconditional Love , a cantata by Howard

Goodall. Please email Katie Metcalfe for details and to chat if considering joining.

DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP QUIZ NIGHT



Join our QUIZ Night on Saturday 17th October at Lourdes Hall. 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. The proceeds of this very popular annual Parish event will help a community in Eastern Uganda become more self-sufficient by providing five 'Village Savings & Loan Schemes' and a 'Regenerative Agricultural Training' programme. Come along and join a table or make-up a table of 8.

For tickets and payment details email Austen O'Hare at dwgquiz@gmail.com Entrance is £25 per person including a Fish & Chips supper.

Bring your own drink and glasses and CASH for the Raffle!

Places are limited so book early.

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

ST ALBANS & DISTRICT TALKING NEWS

A sound solution for those with limited sight. Do you know anyone who can't see

well enough to read the local news but wants to keep in touch with their community?

We're here to help! A free weekly recording of news from the local press. Plus, features, interviews and more! Online or delivered free by Royal Mail. If you or someone you know would be interested in our free service, please contact us on 01727 648 878 or sadtn.info@gmail.com

www.sadtn.org.uk

Leaflets are available in the porch.

BEDS & HERTS BIKE 'N' HIKE

This annual sponsored Bike 'n' Hike takes place on Saturday 12th September from 9am to 5pm.

Have fun visiting over 600 churches and chapels, raise funds for our Church and help save other churches in Beds and Herts. For more information and sponsor packs please scan the QR code on the poster on the noticeboard in Church.

THIS HARVEST, HELP A LOCAL NEIGHBOUR FIND HOPE

St Albans & District Foodbank is asking the local community to come together to support neighbours facing difficult times. Many people who come to the foodbank never imagined they would be in the situation they are in. It can take just one unexpected event – ill health, job loss, a relationship breakdown – for someone to find themselves unable to afford the essentials.

In 2025, St Albans & District Foodbank provided over 13,000 food parcels to local people, with almost 40% going to children. There were over 600 new households referred to the foodbank for emergency food and additional help.

This Harvest, your support can provide more than food. It can give someone the

welcome, connections and help they need to move forward.

Together, we can help ensure no one in the community faces hunger alone.

To support St Albans & District Foodbank, visit the website or scan the QR code, or for more information email

info@stalbandsdistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Website:

stalbandsdistrict.foodbank.org.uk/support-us/

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 12th Sept 12.00 Noon Vigil Mass 6.00pm Sunday 13th Sept 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	Feria Baptisms Munday & Dark Families 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Mary Kilner RIP (Recently Deceased) Craig (Special Intentions) People of the Parish Mary McGarry RIP (Anniversary) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568	PLEASE PRAY FOR: Prayer for the Newly Baptised Heavenly Father, bless these newly baptised children 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 Mary McGarry RIP Recently Deceased Mary Kilner RIP Daphne Murphy RIP Irene Kearsley RIP Mary McGee 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 14th Sept 9.15am	THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS Luton Circle Catenians (Special Intention)	
Tuesday 15th Sept 9.15am	Our Lady of Sorrows Daphne Murphy RIP (Recently Deceased)	
Wednesday 16th Sept 9.15am	Saints Cornelius, Pope & Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs Irene Kearsley RIP (Recently Deceased)	
Thursday 17th Sept 11.00am	Feria Mary McGee RIP (Recently Deceased)	
Friday 18th Sept	Feria	
Saturday 19th Sept 12.00 Noon Vigil Mass 6.00pm Sunday 20th Sept 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	Feria Thackery Family Baptism 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Duncan Gallagher RIP (Anniversary) Roger Gregory RIP (Recently Deceased) People of the Parish John Skilton RIP (Recently Deceased) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568	