



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

14TH MAY 2023

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)



© Chloe Le Tissier

Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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Very soon we will be celebrating two important feasts in the Easter calendar; The Ascension of Jesus and Pentecost. Our readings today draw our attention to this and begin to point us in that direction.

Initially after the resurrection, the friends and followers of Jesus went in to hiding for fear of their lives. They had seen their close friend and Master betrayed, denied, condemned and crucified. They had lost all heart. But eventually they began to find the courage and strength to believe in Jesus and in themselves. Jesus had appeared to them several times to strengthen and encourage them. So, they began to go out and proclaim the good news of the resurrection. They began to preach, heal and teach.

They did not do any of this by themselves. They were filled with the Spirit of the risen Jesus. Just as the first followers of Jesus proclaimed and announced the good news of his resurrection, we in our time, and in our way, are called to do the same. Today, we are the people who are called to be witnesses and messengers of the resurrection. We do this in our homes, our communities, wherever, and however, we can. In his letter, The Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis says to each of us, 'because of their baptism, all members of the people of God have become missionary disciples....every Christian is challenged here and now, to be actively engaged in proclaiming the good news'.

As we prepare to shortly celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, may we recall and remember our own baptism and confirmation. May the Lord help us to realise that we are called not only to believe in his resurrection, but also to live and proclaim this good news through the quality of our daily lives with each other.

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Next Thursday, we celebrate one of the major feasts of Eastertide, the Ascension of the Lord. This is a holyday of obligation, a day when we are required to attend Mass. **Masses will be celebrated at 9.15am and 6.00pm.**

The Feast of the Ascension, is a day to rejoice. The Ascension does not mark the end of Jesus' relationship with the Church but the beginning of a new way of His relating to the world, in and through the Church. This way includes every one of us who bear His name. We also have ascended with the Lord. When viewed with the eyes of Resurrection faith the Ascension is capable of transforming the way we view ourselves and live our daily lives. We are joined to Him and He to us!



BE WELCOMING !

St Paul encourages us: 'welcome one another, as Christ has welcomed you'. Our parish is a welcoming parish and, as many of you indicated in the parish survey, your hope is that it will become even more welcoming. Last weekend some of you indicated your willingness to assist with welcoming at Mass. The task is simple, arrive 15 minutes early, distribute Mass and hymn books, arrange the collection and the Offertory Procession, and

greet everyone as they arrive. Thank you to everyone who volunteered, if you would be willing to join a rota, to assist as a welcomer, please sign the list in the porch.

PRIESTS TRAINING FUND

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Priests Training Fund, to date £2,009.00 has been donated. As this is a very important collection, one of the few that you can experience the fruits of, the fund will remain open for another few weeks, so if you haven't had the opportunity to do so, you can still give your support, contributions can be dropped into the Parish Office.

If you wish to 'gift-Aid' your contribution, please use one of the envelopes, that will be found in the porch.

FIRST COMMUNION

This weekend we have the first of our two First Communion celebrations, when 22 of our children, will receive Jesus, in Holy Communion, for the first time. This is such a special day for the children, their families and catechists, and the whole parish community. Let us keep the children in our prayers, as they receive the gift of the Eucharist.



MARY'S MONTH HONOURING MARY

By tradition, during May, we honour Mary, our Mother. And it's good to honour Mary, perhaps to pray the Rosary alone, after Mass, or as a family.



**SING FOR PROJECT NO 5 CONCERT
THIS SUNDAY 14TH MAY AT 3.00PM**

Entrance is by donation of hygiene products, toiletries, clothing etc, this is then given to Noah & Keystage housing. Refreshments will be served after the concert, everyone is welcome.



LEWIS FIETTA RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Lewis Fietta who died recently, Lewis's funeral Mass will take place on Wednesday at 11.00am. We remember Lewis's family in our prayers at this time.

NB. There will be no 9.15am Mass on Wednesday 17th.

REPOSITORY -

FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION

We are approaching the First Communion and Confirmation seasons and there is now a wide selection of cards and gifts in the Repository suitable for both occasions. These are all very reasonably priced and make lovely presents to mark these celebrations.



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.



**THE VERITAS LECTURE NOT TO BE MISSED,
OLD TESTAMENT BY FR JOHN HEMER!**

The charismatic MHM Allen Hall biblical lecturer is coming to the Parish Centre, SS Mary & Joseph Hemel Hempsted HP1 1NR, on Sat, 20th May A-level students and grown ups welcome! Ask the questions you never asked! Let's talk about violence in the Old Testament!

Starts at 11:00. NOT 10:00. End at 16:00.

Please bring lunch to share and donation for the lecturer. To attend, register at [CATHOLIC THEOLOGY LECTURE - Old Testament - Roman Catholic Parish of Hemel West \(rcdow.org.uk\)](http://rcdow.org.uk)

See you!

LOST PROPERTY

We have quite a few items in the lost property box at the back of the Church near the Repository. Among the items are a children's water bottles some toys and children's clothes. Please have a look through and see if any of the items belong to you.

Any items remaining, will be taken to a charity shop at the end of the month. Thank you!

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

May

14th May at 3pm Sing for... 5 Concert

June

10th June DWG Open Garden Day *more details to follow*

18th June Strawberry Social

24th June at 3pm Choir Summer Concert

MASS INTENTIONS

<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday 13th May 11.00am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6.00pm</p>	<p>Easter Feria First Holy Communion Mass - Group 1</p> <p>6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A) Jacqueline Dodds RIP (1st Anniversary)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 14th May</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8.30am 9.45am 11.30am 3.00pm</p>	<p>6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)</p> <p>People of the Parish Frank Taylor RIP (Anniversary) Vincent Nathan RIP (Anniversary) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568 Sing for 5 Concert</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Monday 15th May 9.15am</p>	<p>Easter feria Anne O'Reilly RIP (Recently Deceased)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday 16th May 9.15am</p>	<p>Easter feria Louis & Eileen Quinn RIP (Anniversary)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday 17th May 11.00am</p>	<p>Easter feria Funeral Mass Lewis Fietta</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday 18th May 9.15am 6.00pm</p>	<p>THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD Holy Day of Obligation</p> <p>Special Intentions Anne Prendergast RIP (Recently Deceased)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Friday 19th May</p>	<p>Easter feria</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday 20th May 11.00am 5.00pm 6.00pm</p>	<p>Easter Feria First Holy Communion Mass - Group 2 Confirmation Group Reconciliation Service</p> <p>7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A) Joseph Meehan RIP (Recently Deceased)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 21st May</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p>7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)</p> <p>People of the Parish Joan Gaire RIP Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</p>

CONFESSIONS - SATURDAYS

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