



OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

14TH SEPTEMBER 2025

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS (C)



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Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer
Presbytery: 1, Kirkwick Avenue, Harpenden AL5 2QH Tel: 01582 712245
Email: anthonydwyer@rcdow.org.uk

Office Administrator & Bookkeeper Mrs Melanie Armitage
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
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OLoLHarpenden>

Parish Safeguarding Representative Mrs Brigid Brennan
Email: harpdensg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk Tel: 07881 785 299
Parish Pastoral Council ppc@catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk
Communications Team: comms@catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk

Today, we have a break from the Sundays of Ordinary Time, as we celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. At first, it might seem strange to “exalt” something that was once a symbol of suffering, shame, and death. Yet through the eyes of faith, the Cross is transformed. What once represented defeat has become the sign of Christ’s triumph over sin and death.

In our second reading, St Paul, in his letter to the Philippians, gives us one of the most beautiful hymns of the New Testament: *“Though he was in the form of God, Jesus did not cling to equality with God but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant... he humbled himself, becoming obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him.”*

The Cross reveals the depth of God’s love. Jesus chose the path of humility, self-giving, and obedience to the Father’s will. Because of this, the Cross is not simply a reminder of pain but a proclamation of hope. It tells us that no darkness, no suffering, no burden we carry is beyond the reach of God’s redeeming love; not even death itself.

For us, to exalt the Cross is to lift it high in our lives—not as an ornament, but as a way of living. It calls us to embrace humility, to put others before ourselves, and to trust that God’s love is stronger than sin and death.

As we celebrate this feast, may the Cross be more than a sign we wear or see in church. May it be the centre of our lives, shaping our choices and filling us with hope, until we too share in Christ’s victory and glory.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED FOR CONFIRMATION

In our parish, as in every parish, we depend on volunteers to assist with the different activities. Presently, we are in need of more parishioners, to assist with this year's Confirmation Programme.

A recent request, in the newsletter, produced one volunteer, but who is now unavailable. Another three or four Catechists are needed, if the programme is to go ahead. Also needed is someone to take care of the various practical tasks, such as recording the candidates, and sending out the various messages throughout the course. If the Confirmation Programme is to take place, more assistance is needed, please think about what you can offer, and if you would like more information, please talk to Canon Dwyer.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

To mark this Holy Year of Hope, from Tuesday to Saturday, this week, our small parish pilgrimage to Lourdes will be taking place. The group departs on Tuesday 16th September, at 14.00 hours, from outside the Chef Peking, Church Green, Harpenden, AL5 2TP. During these days those in Lourdes will praying for the parish, and for all of your intentions.

NEW BEGINNINGS

We are now in that time of year, when some of our young people are setting off for university. A big moment for them and for their families. We hope that the experience of university will be good for our young people as they set off to pastures new, and let us keep them in our prayers.

MISSION APPEAL

Next Sunday the Comboni Missionaries, will be making the annual Mission Appeal. There will be a retiring collection in support of their important work.

LIVESIMPLY PRAYER

O God, who in Christ, the firstborn of all creation, called all things into being, grant, we pray, that docile to the life-giving breath of Your Spirit, we may lovingly care for the work of Your hands. **Pope Leo XIV**

TEA AND COFFEE IN THE UNDERCROFT

After 9.45am and 11.30am Masses

On Sunday 21st September

Tea, coffee and soft drinks will be served in the Undercroft straight after the 9.45am and 11.30am

Masses on Sunday the 21st September. Please come and join us, everyone is

invited, it will be a great opportunity to meet and catch up with parishioners old and new.



SEASON OF CREATION

The Season of Creation, runs from September 1st until October 4th, the feast of St Francis of Assisi. To celebrate this feast there will be an extra Mass on Saturday 4th October at 11.00am, everyone is very welcome.

The Season of Creation, is a time of sustained prayer and action, lasting a month and four days. During this season we are encouraged to pray and engage in activities, that will deepen our relationship with God, our neighbour and the earth we share, being ever more attentive to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

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/2023/05/OLOL-Database-New-Parishioner-Form-May-2023.pdf> Completed forms can be emailed or posted into the Parish Office. harpenden@rcdow.org.uk

FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday 15th September and open as usual from Tuesday, from 9.30am to 12.30pm. Any notices for the next Newsletter please email the Parish office by lunchtime on Wednesday. Thank you.



CONFIRMATION PHOTOGRAPHS

Confirmation photographs are available to be collected from the Repository Shop after weekend Masses.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY GROUP

The Children's Liturgy runs weekly at 9.45am mass during school term time. We're a very friendly and supportive group and we'd like to welcome more people to join the team of helpers. No experience is required - we will hold your hand all the way. You'd be expected to help approximately once every 6 weeks. It's a delightful opportunity to work with the young people in our parish. If you'd like to know more, please contact Marion Gajewski at Mariong6045@gmail.com. The team prepares a simple Gospel lesson which is appropriate for school aged children. Children of this age are very welcome whilst their parents remain in the church. If any child requires parental



support to attend the lesson, parents may remain in the foyer of the undercroft. We very much look forward to seeing your children there."

LIVESIMPLY

A REPAIR FAIR AT OLOL!

Did you know that per capita, the UK is the 2nd highest producer of e-waste in the world - an appalling statistic! But wait...



The LiveSimply team are excited to announce that they will be holding a **Repair Fair on Saturday afternoon 27th September from 2pm – 5pm at Lourdes Hall**, in association with St Albans District Fixers. Parishioners and the public alike will be invited to bring their dead or dysfunctional portable electricals and electronics, and a team of skilled amateur fixers will attempt to save them from the grave. Nimble-fingered seamstresses will also be on hand to tackle minor repairs and alterations to clothing and fabric items. The Fixers would be very pleased to welcome anyone handy with a screwdriver and not fazed by electrics, who they would buddy with one of their own, or an additional seamstress or two to work with theirs. There may be other opportunities to be involved. For further information, contact Jon Newham

jonathan.newham@googlemail.com.

A TALK ABOUT A PILGRIMAGE TO NOTRE DAME AND LOURDES

Carole Cox a member of the Newman Association will give a talk on her experiences of pilgrimages to both Notre Dame and Lourdes on

Thursday 25th September at 2.00pm in the Undercroft of Our Lady of Lourdes . All are very welcome.

You are also invited to stay on to 'raise a glass to our own Doctor of the Church

St. John Henry Newman.' Pope Leo has announced he will declare St. John Henry 38th Doctor of the Church.

DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP- QUIZ

Join us on **Saturday October 18th 7.00pm for 7.30pm** start at Lourdes Hall.

The proceeds of this very popular annual Parish event will be in support of the projects of the Developing World Group. (please see the website for more information on their work)



Entrance is £20, including a Fish and Chips supper; come along and join a table of Parishioners or if you have a group of family/friends book a table for up to 8 people. Bring your own bottle and glasses and cash for the Raffle. **To secure a booking e mail Betty Hines:** elizabeth.hines@gmail.com.

Quiz Night – Ticket Payment

Tickets may be paid by:

- **Bank Transfer** (DWG account details from Betty)
- **Cheque** (payable to *WRCDT Harpenden*)
- **Cash** (in an envelope with a note of everyone's name, handed into the Parish office)

Please ensure all payments are made by **14th October**.

Thank you for your continued support!

40 SOMETHINGS 5 ASIDE FOOTBALL

A group including a number of parishioners play 5 aside football at 7pm on Thursday evenings in the sports hall of Sir John Lawes School.

Although there is a group of 10 regular players replacements are needed most weeks. It's all very informal and a real mix of age and abilities. If you're interested please contact Andrew on

andrew.belderbos@googlemail.com or 07985 503 527

KEYSTAGE HOUSING APPEAL

They need SINGLE duvets, SINGLE duvet covers and fitted sheets, pillows and pillow cases please. These need to be in good condition with no stains.

Please email Cathy Seaton:

cmann100@hotmail.com

Please **DO NOT** put donations of bedding in the blue or yellow bins outside church.

Thank you for your continued support.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 21st September

TEA AND COFFEE IN THE UNDERCROFT
After 9.45am and 11.30am Masses

Saturday 27 September:

Live Simply's Tool Renovation at Lourdes Hall from 12pm – 6pm.

Tuesday 14 October:

Soup and Reflection in the Undercroft from 12pm – 2pm.
Sister Regina will speak on the subject of 'Hope'.

Saturday 18 October:

DWG Quiz at the Lourdes Hall
at 7pm-7.30pm start

Saturday 6 December:

Christmas Fair at the Lourdes Hall from 12pm – 2pm.

MASS INTENTIONS		
Sat 13th Sept 12.00 Noon Vigil Mass 6.00pm	St John Chrysostom, Bishop & Doctor of the Church Baptism Mower Family THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS Yvonne Knight RIP (Recently Deceased)	PLEASE PRAY FOR: THE POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER: For our relationship with all of creation. Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect. Recently Married: Emma & James 6 th June Lucy & Harry 21 st June Kelly & John 1 st July Lorraine & Mark 28 th August Eleanor & Tom 6 th September Alex & Anna in Italy Recently Baptised: Kitty 5 th July Noah 5 th July Olivia 19 th July Jude 19 th July Jack 2 nd August Sophia 9 th August Esme 30 th August Recently Departed: Yvonne Knight RIP Derek Tynan RIP Sr. Catherine McGovern RIP Joyce Jay RIP Anniversaries: Alice Gelling RIP Mary McGarry RIP
Sun 14th Sept 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	People of the Parish Sylvia Walsh (Intentions) Sigrif Farr RIP Zoom Code 883 7014 5568	
Mon 15th Sept 9.15am	Our Lady of Sorrows Derek Tynan RIP (Recently Deceased)	
Tues 16th Sept 9.15am	SS Cornelius, Pope & Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs Luton Circle Catenians (Sp Ints)	
Wed 17th Sept 9.15am	Feria Sr. Catherine McGovern RIP (Recently Deceased)	
Thur 18th Sept 11.00am	Feria Eamon McNamara (Sp Ints)	
Fri 19th Sept	Feria	
Sat 20th Sept Vigil Mass 6.00pm	SS Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Priest & Paul Chong Ha Sang & Companions, Martyrs 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Mary McGarry RIP (Anniversary)	
Sun 21st Sept 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	People of the Parish Joyce Jay RIP (Recently Deceased) Teresa Metcalfe RIP Zoom Code 883 7014 5568	
CONFESSIONS		
SATURDAYS 10.30AM – 11.00AM & AFTER THE 6.00PM VIGIL MASS		