



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

15TH JANUARY 2023

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)



© Chloe Le Tissier

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Two particular thoughts are prompted by today's readings. The first is John's dramatic declaration, Behold the Lamb of God. The second is an invitation to do a personal stock-taking during this first month of the new year, and make some resolutions to improve the quality of our lives. The Baptist urges us to ask what are we fundamentally about, and then seek to reset our lives. And St Paul reminds us that we are "called to be saints together with all those who, in every place, call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

An honest stock-taking of ourselves may unveil the selfish motives that can sometimes direct our actions. To rise above an ego-centric spirit, we need to recognise something outside of and larger than ourselves, the God who cares for us and for the whole human community. Can we listen to John's call to restore what is broken, and Jesus' call, to bring light to the world? Do we see that it is with our cooperation that the Lamb can remove the "sin of the world?"

Facing our deepest personal truths is never easy; it calls us to not just drift along with this world's ways, always taking the line of least resistance. Discipleship is urgent and costly, but it is also possible and is the way towards the deeper joy and fulfilment that our soul is longing for. If we properly hear the Baptist as he witnesses to Christ, our response will be a stock-taking that goes to the root of our being. It may even reveal to us the truth that sets us free.

ALTAR SERVERS



Training for new Altar Servers will take place next Saturday 21st in Church at 5pm, if your child has made their First Holy Communion and would like to start serving, please let Melanie know in the Parish Office.

WARM SPACES

Thanks to our volunteers, we continue to be able to offer a warm space, to anyone who would appreciate such a facility, although the take up has not been very high. However, the warm space is there, and all are welcome, each Tuesday between 12noon and 3.00pm in the Undercroft. We are able to offer warm refreshments, wi-fi access and newspapers. Please make anyone aware, who you think might appreciate this facility.

JAMES COURTNEY RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of James Courtney who died recently, James's Funeral Mass will be on Tuesday 17th January at 2pm. We remember James's family in our prayers at this time.

LYDIE SMITH RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Lydie Smith who died recently. Lydie's Funeral Mass will be on Tuesday 24th January at 11.30am. We remember Lydie's family in our prayers at this time.

JANUARY PARISH WALK 18TH JANUARY

The next walk will be on the third Wednesday in January. As we had to cancel the last walk on account of the bad weather I hope there will be a good response to the first walk of 2023. We will begin as usual at 10.00, after Mass, outside our Lady of Lourdes make a foray into Rothamstead Park and see if there

are any signs of Spring and then adjourn for coffee at a local cafe. If it's raining we'll go straight for the coffee to celebrate the New Year Looking forward to seeing you then. Janet



BANISH THE BLUES SUPPER AND JAZZ EVENING.

This hugely popular annual event will be on **Saturday 28th January at Lourdes Hall at 7.00pm for 7.30pm (or after the 6pm Mass).**

Music will be provided by Lulu and the Hullabalooos with a supper during the intermission (bring your own drinks). Proceeds will go to the Developing World Group.

Tickets (£15 each) will be on sale after all the Masses from this weekend or contact Marva on 07943 837277 for a group booking or to be added to the Parish table.



SING FOR ...4 JANUARY 2023

Sing 4 started last Tuesday, but, there is still time to join us this Sunday 15th from 3pm-4pm in the Church. Adults and children are invited for this charity-fundraising singing project

Tuesday 17th Jan, 24th Jan, 31st Jan - Undercroft

AND to widen the opportunity for more families to take part in this project :

Sunday 15th January 3.00-4.00pm - Church

22nd Jan, 29th January - Undercroft

Performance SUNDAY 5th FEB 2pm
Rehearsal, 3pm CONCERT

Please email katiemjack@yahoo.co.uk to book a place £35 for the project per family (whether 1 person or 10!) Money, after expenses, to NOAH and Keystage Housing

YOUTH OF THE PARISH

FLAME 2023 - SATURDAY 4TH MARCH 2023 - 12PM TO 5.40PM RISE UP

<https://cymfed.org.uk/flame/>

This year's confirmation candidates will be joining thousands of other young catholic people at the OVO Wembley Arena on Saturday 4th March 2023 for an inspiring day of prayer, adoration, catechesis, reflection, celebration and praise. Everyone else aged School Year 9 (and not already in the confirmation course) through to University age are invited to join them for the day to experience this UK's largest catholic youth conference.

Tickets are £20 plus travel.

Please contact the parish office, or Anne Pesez anne.pesez@gmail.com before mid January if your child is interested in coming.

CHARITY CONCERT AT WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

Catenians, their families and friends are very significant supporters of Friends of the Holy Land and our mission to preserve a Christian Community in the Land where Our Lord was born, ministered, died and was resurrected. With an increasing need among families in the Holy Land, FHL are holding our largest fundraising event to date, a Charity Concert featuring the London Welsh Male Voice Choir and the 'Three Priests,' at Westminster Cathedral on Thursday 16th February at 7.30pm - 10.00pm.

Tickets, from just £20, can be bought through Eventbrite, <http://bit.ly/3iOath2> or by calling the FHL office 01926 512980

NOAH AND KEYSTAGE DONATION BINS

For NOAH, (Blue Bin) they ask for clothing (no undergarments, unless they are brand new and packaged); coats and jackets; shoes; toys; and bric-a-brac. You can also Gift Aid your donations for them by filling out a Gift Aid form, copies of which will be kept at the back of church and also in a plastic pocket attached to the bin.

KEYSTAGE (Yellow Bin)

have asked for tinned foods and non-perishable foods e.g. cereals, biscuits, chocolate; and socks, gloves, scarves and toiletries. Thank you all so much for your ongoing support which is much appreciated by both NOAH and Keystage.

MASS INTENTIONS NEXT WEEK

<p>Saturday 14th January</p> <p style="text-align: right;">6.00pm</p>	<p>feria</p> <p>2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)</p> <p>Jean & David Eldred RIP</p>
<p>Sunday 15th January</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8.30am</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9.45am</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11.30am</p>	<p>2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)</p> <p>Caitrona Kelly RIP (Anniv)</p> <p>People of the Parish</p> <p>Agnes Pang RIP</p> <p>Zoom Code 883 7014 5568.</p>
<p>Monday 16th January</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9.15am</p>	<p>feria</p> <p>Thomas Gaye RIP</p>
<p>Tuesday 17th January</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9.15am</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2.00pm</p>	<p>feria</p> <p>Isobel Ross RIP</p> <p>Requiem Mass James Courtney</p>
<p>Wednesday 18th January</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9.15am</p>	<p>feria</p> <p>Walter Giles RIP (1st Anniv)</p>
<p>Thursday 19th January</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11.00am</p>	<p>feria</p> <p>Michael & Maurice Rochford RIP (Recently Deceased)</p>
<p>Friday 20th January</p>	<p>feria</p>
<p>Saturday 21st January</p> <p style="text-align: right;">6.00pm</p>	<p>St Agnes, Virgin & Martyr</p> <p>3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)</p> <p>Luiz Carlos Paukstys RIP</p>
<p>Sunday 22nd January</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8.30am</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9.45am</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11.30am</p>	<p>3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)</p> <p>People of the Parish</p> <p>Mary & Frank Taylor RIP (Anniv)</p> <p>John Mills RIP (Recently Deceased)</p> <p>Zoom Code 883 7014 5568.</p>

CONFESSIONS - SATURDAYS

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