



Parish Website

# OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

15<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C)



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## Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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## Parish Administrator 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](mailto:harpenden@rcdow.org.uk)

Website: [parish.rcdow.org.uk/harpenden](http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/harpenden)

twitter: [https://twitter.com/rc\\_olol?lang=en](https://twitter.com/rc_olol?lang=en)

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

## Parish Safeguarding Representative Mrs Brigid Brennan

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An essential part of being a follower of Jesus Christ is a willingness to love. How many times have we heard with our ears and our hearts the words in today's Gospel passage, "I give you a new commandment: love one another; just as I have loved you, you also must love one another".

These words of Jesus, are given not as a suggestion or an option, as something to embrace if we feel up to it, but as a real mandate, a challenge to put into practice day in and day out until our final breath. Easier said than done, we probably will readily agree.

It is good to remember that the teaching of Christ is not a philosophy or a theory, but a way of life, a way of love, manifested in words and deeds. "Love one another, as I have loved you," is the basic teaching of Christ, and that is our work, challenging as it may be and even a cause of suffering and death.

The words and deeds of Christ teach a path other than violence, hatred and revenge, and we are called to inculcate the example of our Master in our daily lives. We may ask: how did Christ love? First of all, without counting the cost, even as it led to suffering and death on the cross. Christ lived and died for others and never ignored the cries of the poor and the needy. Christ cured the sick, gave sight to the blind, raised the dead, and pardoned sinners. In other words, Christ willingly shared in the sufferings and joys of the people around him.

The call to each of us is to imitate Christ day by day. The Lord invites us to forget ourselves and thereby find our true self, totally dedicated to God and others, without counting the cost or shrinking back in fear.

## SUNDAY MASS

At their meeting a couple of weeks ago, the Bishops of England and Wales, decided that the obligation to attend Mass, every Sunday, is to be restored, from the feast of Pentecost, Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup>. Of course, they recognise for reasons of health, there are those who do not feel safe enough to return to Mass, and point out that it has always been the understanding of the Church that when the freedom of any Catholic to attend Mass in person is impeded for a serious reason, because of situations such as ill health, care for the sick or legitimate fear, this is not a breach of the Sunday Obligation. The Bishops also note "that parishes have benefitted during these difficult times from the online streaming of Mass and other services. "Virtual viewing" of Mass online does not fulfil the Sunday Obligation." The full statement can be found at:

<https://rcdow.org.uk/news/bishops-invite-faithful-to-return-to-mass-at-pentecost/>

## MIGRATION ISSUES

Also at their Low Week meeting, the Bishops issued a statement on Migration Issues. It is worth reading, and can be found at: [Bishops respond to migration issues in the UK - Diocese of Westminster \(rcdow.org.uk\)](https://rcdow.org.uk/news/bishops-respond-to-migration-issues-in-the-uk-diocese-of-westminster/)

## PRIESTS TRAINING FUND

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Priest Training Fund collection last weekend. Your support for our 19 current seminarians, is both encouraging, and appreciated. If you still wish to make your donation, you will find envelopes in the porch, which you can drop into the parish office, or you can make your donation online at [www.rcdow.org.uk/donations](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/donations) through the Diocesan website. The formation of priests is of top priority, and this fund contributes to ensuring you will have priests to serve you, in the years to come.

## CONFIRMATION ENROLMENT

This weekend, our 42 Confirmation Candidates will be enrolled during the Saturday evening Mass. Let us keep them in our prayers, as they take this step on their journey to Confirmation, and let us pray especially that they



will be open to the Holy Spirit, and the gifts that he brings.

## SYNODAL PATHWAY

The Diocese of Westminster Diocese recently shared its Bishops Report reflecting the input from the all its Parishes, link below. It is encouraging to read that the ideas and experiences from our Parish resonated with many others, and the Bishops report is very much in the spirit of the views shared in our own Parish. The next step will be for all the England and Wales Dioceses to produce one national report which will be amalgamated into the European report, and then goes to the Vatican. When you hear of this process, it is easy to think we are such a tiny part of so many voices, however, when all the voices produce a rich harmony, we can be encouraged to reflect the spirit of synodality is present in the process.

<https://rcdow.org.uk/synod/westminster-diocese-bishops-synod-report/>

## SUPPORTING UKRAINE

While the situation in Ukraine continues to cause shock and distress, it's good to hear of the many initiatives which are being undertaken, both locally, and further afield. Amongst the churches in Harpenden, different steps are being taken, including one church housing four families while, in general waiting to see what the needs might be. It would be good to know if any parishioners are housing, or have offered to take in refugees; if so, it would also be good to know what support might be offered through the parish.



## A SAFE PLACE

Despite hearing of high numbers of Covid, it's very good that so much of life appears to be returning to normal. Throughout the pandemic your patience, and understanding, has been much appreciated. As in other parishes, we continue to follow the guidance, received from the Bishops, which is still in place, that hand gel is dispensed on arrival and departure, that unless exempt, everyone should continue to wear masks in church, and windows or doors are left open. During the pandemic, parishioners commented how safe they felt in church, hopefully, with everyone's cooperation, that continues to be the case.

## FIRST COMMUNION IN THE REPOSITORY

We are approaching the First Communion season and the repository has a variety of gifts suitable for girls and boys such as necklaces, bracelets, pens, bibles, photo frames & albums, rosary beads, first missals and candles, together with First Communion cards and invitations.



## CHOIR SUMMER CONCERT

Summer Concert at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Saturday 25th June, 7.30pm.  
Arias and Choruses from Handel's Samson with soloists including  
Alison Langer and Lawrence Thackery.  
Choirs from Our Lady of Lourdes, High Street Methodist Church, St. George's Music Society and St Nicholas Church.  
Guest orchestra featuring graduates from the Royal Academy of Music.  
Tickets on sale from the parish office and at  
Our Lady of Lourdes Church each Sunday.  
£15 adults, £5 students and children.

## DWG PLANT SALE SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY FROM 10AM - 2PM

The Developing World Group warmly invite you to a sale of plants at 23 Sibley Avenue

Harpenden AL5 1HF. Enjoy refreshments and cake in the garden where everyone is welcome.  
Admission £2 (cash only please)



## CHILDREN'S LITURGY GROUP

### WE ARE RECRUITING!

The Children's Liturgy group are recruiting! We are looking for new members to join us from September 2022. Full support/training will be provided and a DBS check undertaken. It is a fun way of involving yourself in the parish and working with our young parishioners. If you are interested to know more, please email Michelle Lynch at [martinmichelle74@gmail.com](mailto:martinmichelle74@gmail.com).

## 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 few pairs of Glasses and a child's winter coat. Please have a look through and see if any of the items belong to you.  
Thank you!

## LORETO COLLEGE (ST ALBANS) CENTENARY GARDEN PARTY

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2022 12pm to 6pm  
(last admission 5pm) Admission £5.00 per person (FREE entry for children aged 5 and under) There will be live music by the popular local band Soulfish, BBQ, afternoon tea, bar, traditional games/stalls and much more including our Centenary Raffle.

A link to the ticket page and more information can be found at [www.loreto.herts.sch.uk](http://www.loreto.herts.sch.uk)



## VACANCY

Musicale is the leading music hub in the area providing music education for over 700 children, young people and adults every week from our main building and within the local primary and secondary schools. We are looking for a new team member to join our Harpenden office who will support the administration of our business. If you are a strong communicator, extremely well organised with an eye for detail and proficient with Microsoft Office applications such as Excel and Word, we would love to hear from you. This is a full time role, 9am-5.30pm, with over 10 weeks holiday allowance. Please send your CV and covering letter to Katie Fenner via [katie@musicale.co.uk](mailto:katie@musicale.co.uk)



**MASS INTENTIONS NEXT WEEK**

<p align="center"><b>SATURDAY 14<sup>th</sup> May</b></p> <p align="right">6.00pm</p>	<p><b>ST MATTHIAS Apostle</b></p> <p><b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C)</b>  <b>Confirmation Enrolment Mass</b>  Terry Mahabir RIP (Anniv)</p>
<p align="center"><b>SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup> May</b></p> <p align="right">8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p><b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C)</b></p> <p>People of the Parish  Vincent Nathan RIP (Anniv)  Toni Crabtree RIP (Recently Deceased)  <b>Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</b></p>
<p align="center"><b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May</b></p> <p align="right">9.15am</p>	<p><b>Easter feria</b></p>
<p align="center"><b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May</b></p> <p align="right">9.15am</p>	<p><b>Easter feria</b></p> <p>Ouida Jaysuriya RIP (1<sup>st</sup> Anniv)  <b>Zoom Code 846 8231 6518</b></p>
<p align="center"><b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May</b></p> <p align="right">9.15am</p>	<p><b>Easter feria</b></p> <p>James Duff RIP</p>
<p align="center"><b>THURSDAY 19<sup>th</sup> May</b></p> <p align="right">11.00am</p>	<p><b>Easter feria</b></p> <p>Brian Swannell &amp; Family (Spec Ints)  <b>Zoom Code 843 3670 2322</b></p>
<p align="center"><b>FRIDAY 20<sup>th</sup> May</b></p>	<p><b>Easter feria</b></p>
<p align="center"><b>SATURDAY 21<sup>st</sup> May</b></p> <p align="right">1.30pm  6.00pm</p>	<p><b>Easter feria</b></p> <p>Wedding</p> <p><b>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C)</b>  William Dooley RIP (Anniv)</p>
<p align="center"><b>SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> May</b></p> <p align="right">8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p><b>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C)</b></p> <p>People of the Parish  Sarah Togher RIP  <b>Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</b></p>