

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

15TH FEBRUARY 2026

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)



© Chloe Le Tissier

Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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The Parish Office is open Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 12.30pm.

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Yesterday, Saturday, (the feast of Saints Cyril & Methodius, although some may have been keener to observe St Valentine) our Diocese of Westminster celebrated the installation of our new Archbishop, Richard Motz. He comes to the diocese as Archbishop having served as Bishop of Arundel and Brighton since 2015. Prior to that, he was Catholic Bishop of the Forces from 2009. Archbishop Richard was ordained priest for the Archdiocese of Southwark on 3rd July 1982

We welcome Archbishop Richard as he comes among us, and pray that he will have a long, happy and fruitful ministry as Archbishop. He is new to the diocese, but no doubt he will soon find his way to Harpenden! A new Archbishop might seem to make little difference to us in the parish, at the local level. We will notice the name of the bishop changes in the Eucharistic Prayer, as we noticed the name of the Pope changed upon the election of Pope Leo XIV. But, besides this, Archbishop Richard leads us and sets the vision for us here in the diocese.

On our part, we seek to support our new shepherd and guide, understanding that we all share with him in encouraging one another in living, and giving witness, to our faith. Each of us, bishops, priests, deacons, religious and laity, share in the same work of the kingdom and the mission of the Church. Together, we proclaim Christ, and we do, as St Paul conveniently reminds us in the second reading for this Sunday, with a wisdom to impart, *'not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age'*. Led by Archbishop Richard, we look to joyfully live and share our faith. We keep the new Archbishop in our prayers at this time. We are assured of his prayers and best wishes at this special time.

LENT 2026

SEASON OF LENT

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, when we begin the Season of Lent. 40 days when we are called to prayer, fasting and self-denial. The thought of self-denial may not be that attractive and, perhaps too, is the thought of engaging more wholeheartedly with the spiritual side of our life. Lent though, is a time of opportunity, a time to deny ourselves, a time to grow closer to the Lord, and so share his life more deeply. Let us see this time for what it is, an opportunity, a God-given opportunity, to allow the Lord's life to grow and to deepen within us. Let us heed the opening words, from the Prophet Joel, of the first reading of Ash Wednesday: *'Return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.'* This the opportunity that Lent offers each of us, let us take those words seriously, and let us take up the opportunity we are being offered.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. At each Mass the Ashes will be blessed and distributed. Masses will be celebrated at 9.15am and 6.00pm. Don't forget that Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence. A day when we are to eat less than usual, and to abstain from eating meat.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The traditional devotion of the Stations of the Cross will be taking place each week during Lent. Assisted by the lovely Stations, in our Church, this is a good way to remind ourselves of the Lord's journey to Calvary, and of all that he suffered, out of love for us. The Stations of the Cross will take place on the Wednesdays of Lent at 7.00pm, beginning on 25th February.

LENT REFLECTION GROUPS 2026

As **ASH WEDNESDAY is 18th FEBRUARY** this year, the groups will commence week **beginning Monday 23rd February**. This year we will be following the programme 'Enlarging the Space of Our Tent' More details will follow in due course but for the moment we are asking for volunteers to host 5/6 people once a week up to week beginning 30th March. As in past years, these will be friendly, faith sharing groups following a shared theme.

Please do let either Teresa Newham or myself, Julia Roche, know if you feel you could do this. Even if you feel that you can't host, please think of joining a group and let us know your 1st/2nd/3rd choice of day and time.

[email:-juliaandnigel057@gmail.com](mailto:juliaandnigel057@gmail.com) OR marbretherese@googlemail.com

REPOSITORY: DAY BY DAY BOOKS

We have in stock the DAY BY DAY Lent books for adults and these can be purchased from the Repository for £1.20 each. They are a lovely accompaniment for each day during Lent.

MEET THE ARCHBISHOP

Archbishop Richard, being new to our Diocese, is keen to meet many of the people of the Diocese, in the coming weeks. To facilitate this the Archbishop will be coming to different areas of the Diocese, to celebrate Mass and meet priests, with whom he will concelebrate, and parishioners. The Mass for St Albans Deanery, of which we are a part, will take place with Watford Deanery, on Tuesday 3rd March, at Our Lady & St Michael's Church, Crown Rise, Garston, WD25 0NE. Everyone is very welcome at this Mass. The Archbishop will be celebrating Mass in five other places, so if you cannot attend in Garston, you are very welcome to attend one of the other Masses. For details please contact the Parish Office.

PATRICIA BROOKMAN RIP

We remember Patricia Brookman in our prayers who has gone home to the Lord. Patricia's Requiem Mass will be on Wednesday 4th March at 11.00am We extend our heartfelt condolences to their families and loved ones.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The 2026 Harpenden World Day of Prayer service will take place on Friday 6th March at 11am at St Nicholas's Church. This years' service is written by the Christian women of Nigeria with the theme "I will give you rest, come".

The Harpenden service will be live-streamed on Zoom for those unable to attend in person. Orders of service for anyone joining the live-stream will be available to collect from the High Street Methodist Church from 23rd February (Monday - Thursday 10am - 12 noon). The World Day of Prayer raises around £150,000 each year in the UK for distribution to charity -

visit www.wwdp.org.uk for details or to make a donation. For more information on the Harpenden service and how to access the live-stream please see the postcards in the porch.

**FOR THE YOUTH OF THE PARISH
The Next Youth Friendly Mass &
Youth Group will be on Saturday 28th
February at 6.00pm.**



FAMILY MASS MUSIC

Children at the 9:45am Family Mass are invited to join the music group for the final hymn. After the announcements, head to the back of the church with your hymn book—helpers will hand out percussion instruments. First Holy Communion children should stay with their catechists and sing extra loudly!



Singers and instrumentalists are always welcome—regularly or ad hoc. Speak to us after Mass or contact Catherine Roche: catherine2.roche@gmail.com.

PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM :

Come and celebrate the joyful Feast of the Annunciation in Walsingham on Wednesday 25th March! Join us on a coach leaving from St Bartholomew's, St Albans, at 7.45am for a beautiful pilgrimage experience. Holy Mass will be celebrated in Walsingham at 12 noon in

the Basilica, followed by Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. We will walk or ride (if preferred) the Holy Mile and visit the site of the original Holy House and pray the Prayer for England. The cost is £27 for adults and it is free for children. Please contact Rosemary Roscoe 07723 546642 Rosemary.roscoe@gmail.com or Margaret Leahy margleahy@gmail.com 01727 763832 for further details.

There will be pick-ups in Hatfield and Letchworth.

ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL, SATURDAY 23RD MAY 2026 AT 2:30PM.

The Archbishop is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2026. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your parish office the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and contact email (or telephone number, if no email), by 19th April. Closer to the time, the Agency for Evangelisation will send out an invitation from the Archbishop.



FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

Any notices for the Newsletter please email the Parish office by lunchtime on Wednesday Thank You.



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 DOMINIC'S SCHOOL NURSERY, YEAR 1 and YEAR2 - PLACES AVAILABLE

St Dominic Catholic Primary School has spaces available in the nursery, year 1 and year 2 Classes for the current academic year and welcomes enquiries from parents St Dominic's has recently been assessed by OFSTED and rated as OUTSTANDING.

NURSERY OPEN MORNINGS

Please contact the school office on 01582 760047, for more information or to book a place on the tours.

Nurse applications open on 15th January 2026 and close on the 2nd March 2026

GETTING MARRIED?

Couples intending to marry are required by the Diocese to give at least six months' notice. Pre-marriage preparation is an important opportunity to reflect on the lifelong commitment of marriage as well as practical arrangements. Anyone hoping to marry within the next year should contact Canon Dwyer as soon as possible, and please pass this notice on to any couples planning to marry.



KEYSTAGE HOUSING APPEAL

Huge thank you from everyone at Keystage Housing along with the donations from the Sing for 13 concert 25 duvets, and plenty of bedding has been donated. Please continue to donate to this appeal if you can.

Keystage Housing urgently need Single and Regular Double Duvets, in a good clean condition, no large stains or rips. Pillows, Sheets, Duvet Covers and Towels would be very welcome too. Please contact Cathy Seaton cmann100@hotmail.com to arrange to drop off your donations.

NOAH APPEAL

Noah still need some winter coats, hats, & socks, please drop these donations off in the BLUE bin in the courtyard of the Church.

Thank you in advance for your generosity to supporting Noah & Keystage Housing.

NEWMAN ASSOCIATION TALKS

St. John Henry Newman pronounced Doctor of the Church 1st November 2025 has been enormously influential in the 20th and 21st centuries in theology. The Harpenden Circle of the Newman Association invites you to a series of talks on his theology which are being presented by the Mary Beaufort Institute. The first is entitled : "Prophet Priest and King: Christ and the Church" and will be shown at **2.30pm on Wednesday 11th February** at the Ss Alban and Stephen Parish Centre, St Albans AL1 2RB. All welcome . Contact Janet.evers1938@gmail.com if you need a lift.

SPACE SOUTHDOWN

SPACE is a Christian Performing Arts Centre in Southdown offering an affordable, inclusive, community space where you can explore life and faith through performing arts.

Some dates for your diary.

First Friday afternoons.

March 6th, Andy Smith, performance poet Tickets £5 inc. tea and cake

27th February 7.30pm Jazz, Latin and Blues with the Berkeley Band

25th to 28th March The Stranger by Agatha Christie directed by Margaret Cox

Tuesday 31st March 7.30pm

Three Marys. An Easter Reflection

LOURDES HALL HARPENDEN

Available for Hire, and for one off Parties, for more details please contact:

Caretaker: Simon Lowe

Mobile: 07859943348

Email: harpendenct@rcdow.org.uk

MASS INTENTIONS

<p>Saturday 14th February</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Vigil Mass 6.00pm</p> <p>Sunday 15th February</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8.30am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9.45am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11.30am</p>	<p>SS CYRIL, Monk & METHODIUS, Bishop</p> <p>6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Frank McConnachie RIP (Anniversary)</p> <p>Betty Dowling (Special Intention) People of the Parish Pat Butler RIP (Anniversary) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</p>	<p>PLEASE PRAY FOR:</p> <p>Recently Deceased Mary Henehan RIP</p> <p>RIP Anniversaries Frank McConnachie RIP Denis Mann RIP Peter Vasquez RIP</p> <p>Prayer for the Faithful Departed Loving God, we remember those who have died. Grant them the peace of Christ, and let Your perpetual light shine upon them. Comfort all who mourn and strengthen our hope in the resurrection. Amen.</p>
<p>Monday 16th February</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9.15am</p>	<p>Feria Archbishop Richard Moth (Special Intentions)</p>	
<p>Tuesday 17th February</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9.15am</p>	<p>Feria Mary Henehan RIP (Recently Deceased)</p>	
<p>Wednesday 18th February</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9.15am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6.00pm</p>	<p>Ash Wednesday Denis Mann RIP (Anniversary) Protection of Unborn Children</p>	
<p>Thursday 19th February</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11.00am</p>	<p>Lent Feria Peter Vasquez RIP (Anniversary)</p>	
<p>Friday 20th February</p>	<p>Lent Feria</p>	
<p>Saturday 21st February</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Vigil Mass 6.00pm</p> <p>Sunday 22nd February</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8.30am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9.45am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11.30am</p>	<p>Lent Feria</p> <p>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (A) Teresa Metcalfe RIP (1st Anniversary)</p> <p>People of the Parish Bernard St John Glew RIP (Anniversary) Bridget Flanagan RIP (Anniversary) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</p>	



CONFESSIONS

SATURDAYS 10.30AM – 11.00AM & AFTER THE 6.00PM VIGIL MASS