Contactless Giving

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A
15TH NOVEMBER 2026



© Chloe Le Tissier

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: harpendensg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk Tel: 07881 785 299
Parish Pastoral Council ppc@catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk
Communications Team: comms@catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk

As we come towards the end of the Church's year, the readings invite us to reflect on how we use the gifts and opportunities that God has entrusted to us. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the talents. A master entrusts different amounts of money to three servants before going away. Two of them put what they have received to good use and increase it. The third, however, becomes fearful and buries his talent in the ground.

It is easy to identify with that third servant. Sometimes we can be reluctant to take risks, afraid of making mistakes, or unsure that we have much to offer. We may look at others and think that they have greater gifts, greater abilities or more opportunities than ourselves. But Jesus reminds us that what matters is not how much we have been given, but what we do with it. Each of us has been entrusted with gifts: the ability to love, to care, to encourage, to forgive, to serve and to make a difference in the lives of others.

The first reading from Proverbs speaks of a woman who uses her gifts generously, reaching out to the poor and those in need. Her example reminds us that our gifts are not simply for ourselves; they are meant to be shared. Perhaps the question for each of us this Sunday is a simple one: What am I doing with the gifts God has given me? Am I allowing fear, complacency or lack of confidence to hold me back? Or am I willing to use what I have, however little it may seem, for the good of others?

God does not ask us to be someone else. He simply asks us to be faithful with what we have been given.

A HAPPY OCCASION

It was a great pleasure, for many of us, to be able to welcome Bishop Stephen Wang to his home parish last Sunday, following his recent Ordination as the Bishop of Arundel and Brighton. It was good to celebrate Mass with Bishop Stephen. As always, a happy occasion, and with so many contributing to making it a very joyful occasion, a moment to thank God for the gifts bestowed on Bishop Stephen. Afterwards, the celebrations continued with the reception in St Dominic's School, where we were well looked after by the Ladies Group, and others who kindly assisted. A big thank you to everyone who assisted in church, or in the school, for all you did to make it such a happy and enjoyable occasion.

MISSION APPEAL

Today we welcome Fr Jude Duruaku, who will be making the annual Mission Appeal on behalf of the Spiritans (Holy Ghost Fathers). He will be speaking at each Mass, and asking for your support.

THURSDAY MASS

There is no Mass at 11.00am this Thursday.

CAFOD CHRISTMAS

CAFOD have a range of 'World Gifts' that are somewhat unusual, but which benefit individuals who face some of the toughest challenges imaginable, every day of their lives. If you would like to assist some of the poorest people in our world, to benefit through your Christmas giving, be sure to collect a copy of the CAFOD World Gifts leaflet.

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND – NEXT WEEKEND

The second collection next week will be for the sick and retired priests of our Diocese. Most priests offer their resignation at 75, but many continue to serve in our schools, hospitals, hospices and parishes. Caring for our brother priests in their senior years, or at a time of illness, is a part of the mission of our diocese. By supporting the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund, you can help cover essential costs and give them peace of mind that in the event of an emergency, their needs will be met.

If you would like to Gift Aid your donation you will find a donation envelope at the back of the church today. Please take one home, and bring it back next weekend with your donation. Please continue to pray for the wellbeing of all of our clergy: active, retired and ill.

ADVENT GROUPS 2026

This year we shall be exploring the main themes of Magnifica Humanitas, the recent encyclical from Pope Leo.

There will be a group, meeting on Wednesday afternoons 1.30pm to 3pm. First meeting Wednesday 25th November. If you would prefer an evening please let us know and we will try to accommodate you. Please contact:-

juliaandnigel057@gmail.com

or marbretherese@googlemail.com

RECEPTION CLASS FORMS

It's that time of year when applications are being made for places in Reception. Parents who require the Certificate of Catholic Practise to be signed, or other confirmation of Mass attendance, can meet with Canon Dwyer on **Wednesday 2nd December in Church from 5.30pm – 6.30pm.**

MONTH OF NOVEMBER –
PRAYING FOR THE HOLY SOULS

During the month of November, we continue to remember and pray for all our deceased loved ones — the Holy Souls. Parishioners are invited to collect a Holy Souls sheet and envelope from the porch of the Church. Please write the names of your deceased family members and friends on the sheet, place it in the envelope provided, and return it with your offering to the Parish Office, by posting it through the **Presbytery Letterbox** or handing it in to the **Parish Office**. All names received will be included in the **Masses offered for the Holy Souls during November**.

CHECK FIRST

Most of you will be aware that space on our notice boards is very limited! Choices have to be made as to what is displayed. If you have a poster that you think should be displayed, please hand it is to the parish office. Do not display it, without checking first.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

We are looking for a volunteer who could spare a little time each week to help our Parish. It is not an arduous task and would be a lovely way to offer a little of your time in service to our Parish community. If you feel you might be able to help, please have a word with Canon Anthony after Mass. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

TUTOR NEEDED

A Tutor is needed to assist a young person in preparing for the Cambridge English exam. If you are interested, please contact Canon Dwyer.

BOWLS AND PLATTERS

Thank you to everyone that brought food for Bishop Stephen's celebration last Sunday Marva has left dishes etc to be collected on the shelf outside the Repository Thank You.



PARISH CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Parish Christmas Fair will be in **Saturday 5th December from 12 noon – 3pm at Lourdes Hall.**

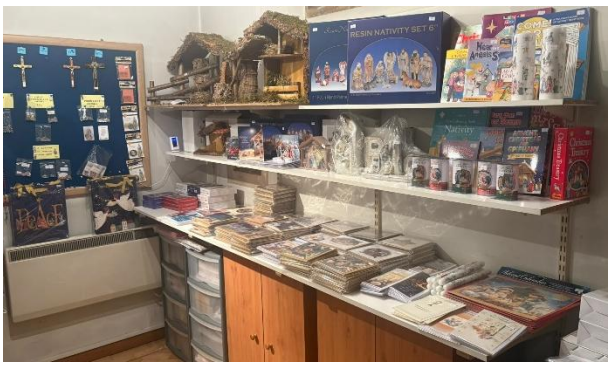
We would be grateful for donations of bottles, books, gifts, toys, red and white items, jewellery, raffle prizes and bric-a-brac which can be left in the church porch or parish office.

Nearer the time we will be collecting cakes. Raffle tickets will be on sale after all the masses today.

Lots of volunteers are needed to set up on Friday 4th December from 4-6pm, run the stalls and clear up on Saturday 5th November. Please contact Pauline (07803 710 637, pmlmann@hotmail.com) if you are able to help, even if just for an hour or two. All volunteers are welcome.

REPOSITORY AT CHRISTMAS

The repository now has a wide range of Christmas items including Advent calendars, cards, cribs, books and candles, all reasonably priced at below that charged in the High Street.



CHRISTMAS DONATIONS WANTED
For NOAH & Keystage Housing
As in previous years we would like to ask for donations of Men's winter gloves, hats or new socks, toiletries – deodorant, shaving foam, soap, Chocolates – such as small boxes of Matchmakers/Maltesers or bars (Mars/Twix etc)
Please put all donations into the YELLOW bin in the courtyard of the Church.
Please donate before 5th December so our Youth Group can wrap these gifts.
Thank you in advance for your generosity and kindness.

EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO
ADVENT SERVICE
Sunday 29th November at 6pm followed by refreshments in the Undercroft everyone is very welcome.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
Sunday 20th December at 6pm followed by Mulled Wine & refreshments in the Undercroft everyone is very welcome

WAITROSE SHOPPERS – ST DOMINIC'S
St Dominic's School is now in the Community Matters Boxes at the checkouts of Waitrose Harpenden. If you shop there, please pick up a few green tokens at the checkout and pop them in the St Dom's pot. This show of support will enable the school to buy valuable new resources, namely library books & IT equipment. Every token counts so thank you!



MASS WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION TO CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS
Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Welwyn Garden City, invites you to a Mass with special attention to children and adults with additional needs, to be celebrated by Fr. Norbert Fernandes on Saturday, 21 November 2026 at 6:00pm, followed by refreshments, Bingo, Raffles, Quiz and Karaoke in the Trinity hall after Mass .
All are most welcome, particularly parishioners and visitors with additional needs, together with their families, friends and carers.

CATENIAN NEWS
Upcoming Catenian Christmas Event
The Catenian organised Christmas gathering is on the 9th December at Harpenden Golf Club and open to all members of the parish, families, and friends. In addition to enjoying dinner and singing carols, Friends of the Holy Land will speak to us about life in this part of the world, which seems entirely appropriate at this time. Make a note in your diaries and begin to think about either taking a table, booking one ticket or any number in between. You will be amongst parish friends and very welcome. Tickets are £40 per person for dinner and wine so email dennis@denniscooper.uk by the 30th November please.

New Website
Harpenden, Luton & District Circle is part of Province 14 of the Catenian Association a society of Catholic laymen. The Province has just launched a new website, take a look by visiting https://www.cateniansprovince14.org.uk/
Founded in Manchester, Catenians can now be found in many countries and today are active throughout the U.K., Ireland, Australia, Malta, India, Bangladesh Zimbabwe, South Africa and Nazareth. Like to find out more? Email dennis@denniscooper.uk

FROM THE PARISH OFFICE



The Parish Office is open Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 12.30pm. Any notices for the Newsletter please email the Parish office by lunchtime on Wednesdays.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please let the Parish Office know if you have moved/changed any of your contact details so we can keep our records as up to date as possible.
https://www.catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk/category/welcome/

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

NATIVITY JOURNEY AT WINTERSHALL

Will be performed from the 15th to the 20th of December 2026. Attendees can discover the true meaning of Christmas with an unforgettable immersive event for all the family. They stand with the shepherds, walk with Mary, Joseph and the donkey, journey with Roman soldiers and enter the stable to watch the miracle unfold. Tickets can be booked here:
https://www.wintershall.org.uk/event/the-nativity-journey/

HARPENDEN TOWN COUNCIL

Living with Dementia

We would like to reach as many people living with dementia in Harpenden, and their loved ones, as possible.
It is our ambition to continue to make improvements to Harpenden for people living with dementia. We are conducting this survey to understand the challenges people may be facing, what changes could make a positive impact and those living with dementia in our area could be better supported.
For more details see the poster on the noticeboard and the link below to complete the survey.
CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE OUR SURVEY:
https://harpenden.gov.uk/dementia
If you would prefer to complete a paper copy of this survey please pick one up from Harpenden Town Council, Leyton Road, Harpenden, AL5 2LX, or call us on: 01582 768278.

MASS INTENTIONS		
Saturday 14th November **12 Noon** **Vigil Mass 6.00pm** **Sunday 15th November** **8.30am** **9.45am** **11.30am**	**Feria** Baptism Dennett Family **33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)** Bernice Tominey RIP (1st Anniversary) People of the Parish Tony Mileham RIP (Anniversary) Paul Murphy RIP (Anniversary) **Zoom Code 883 7014 5568**	**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** **Prayer for the Newly Baptised** Heavenly Father, bless this newly baptised child and guide them always in Your love. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.** **Anniversaries** Bernice Tominey RIP Tony Mileham RIP Paul Murphy RIP
Monday 16th November **9.15am**	**ST Edmund of Abingdon, Bishop** Mary Hammond RIP	
Tuesday 17th November **9.15am**	**Feria** Holy Souls	
Wednesday 18th Nov **9.15am**	**Feria** Ignatius Nathan RIP (Anniversary)	
Thursday 19th November **11.00am**	**Feria** **NO MASS**	
Friday 20th November	**Feria**	
Saturday 21st November **Vigil Mass 6.00pm** **Sunday 22nd November** **8.30am** **9.45am** **11.30am**	**The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary** **OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE (A)** Winifred Nichols RIP (Anniversary) People of the Parish Sarah Ross RIP (Recently Deceased) Jack Shaw RIP (Anniversary) **Zoom Code 883 7014 5568**	**Prayer for the Holy Souls** Heavenly Father, during this month of November, we remember in a special way all the faithful departed, especially our family members, friends and those who have no one to pray for them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace and rise in glory. **Amen.**