



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

16TH OCTOBER 2022

29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)



© Chloe Le Tissier

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.

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twitter: https://twitter.com/rc_olol?lang=en

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A clear message in today's scripture readings is of the centrality, and necessity, of prayer in our lives. We hear of Moses the great prophet and intercessor, doing what he did best, unceasingly interceding for his people.

As long as Moses' hands were lifted up to God in prayer, the Israelites soldiers were victorious in battle. Our fruitfulness in life depends on God. It also reminds us that the solution to our daily activities and struggles have both a spiritual and physical dimension. In all circumstances of life, we need to abide in God's presence with our minds and hearts lifted up to him in prayer.

Jesus, in the Gospel, further underscores the importance of continuous prayer. We heard: "He told his disciples a parable about the need to pray continually and not to lose heart" Through, this parable, Jesus teaches us be consistent and persevere in prayer at all times. Of course, as a man of prayer himself, he knew how important prayer was for his disciples. It would be the key to the success of their mission.

The same goes for all of us disciples. If we are to have any real success in our respective vocation and missions, prayer has to be at the foundation of our Christian life. It is an indispensable tool if our life is to be fruitful. Jesus encourages us to persevere in prayer, and, at the same time, to draw strength from God.

Finally, we must never be tired of praying because God is never tired of listening to us. He might take time to open the door like the judge in today's parable. However, if we pray persistently, He will surely hear, and answer us.

ATTENDING MASS

Each year, in September and October, every Catholic church in the country, is asked, for four Sundays, to count how many people are present for Mass on those days. While that doesn't tell us how many Catholics there are in England, it does tell us how many people are present at Mass on those four Sundays. This year, of course is the first time the first Mass count has taken place since the pandemic restrictions were lifted. You may be interested to see the figures for our parish. In 2019, the average attendance, for the four Sundays, was 692, while this year it was 506. That is a drop of 186, 27%. What has happened to these people is not known. The most likely explanation is that maybe during the pandemic, they simply 'lost' the habit of attending Mass. There is still a need, then, to encourage those not attending Mass, to do so. After all, as a parish community we are not just a collection of individuals, who happen to attend Mass, but we do have a responsibility for each other.



FOR OUR FAMILIES & YOUNG PEOPLE

It seems a long time ago now, but about two and a half years ago, in March 2020, the parish survey was conducted. The pandemic slowed down, and stopped, many things. However, the work of analysing the survey responses proceeded, as did the more recent formation of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC). Amongst suggestions made was the support that could be given to families and young people. The PPC have given much thought to this, so this weekend some PPC members will be speaking about this, and inviting, those who are interested, to participate in this project.

CONTACTING THE PPC

One of the hopes of the Parish Pastoral Council is that they are known to parishioners, and easily contactable by them. Agendas, and minutes of their meetings, will be found on the parish website at

www.catholicchurchharpندن.org.uk

The PPC also have their own email address and can be contacted at

ppc@catholicchurchharpندن.org.uk

NOVENA

The Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, has now resumed after the 9.15am Mass, every Wednesday. Our Lady of Perpetual Help is a title given to the Blessed Virgin Mary. This title is associated with an icon of Our Lady from the late 1400s. Our Lady of Perpetual Help can be a powerful intercessor for us.

MONTH OF THE ROSARY

October is the month of the Rosary.



CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY - WORLD FOOD CRISIS APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the CAFOD Harvest Fast Day collection, either in church or via online or text. To date **£2,764.30** has been donated through the parish. If you haven't yet done so, it's not too late to add your contribution. You can place your contribution in a CAFOD envelope, and drop it through the presbytery letter box, or you can donate online through the CAFOD website or by using a CAFOD envelope if you wish to Gift Aid your donation.



CONFIRMATION 2023

Preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, for young people in Year 9 or above, will commence soon. Application forms are available for collection by the candidates after all Weekend Masses.



Completed forms and copies of Baptismal Certificates must be returned to Melanie in the parish office by next Sunday 23rd October.

SECONDARY SCHOOL FORMS

Canon Dwyer will be available in the church, tomorrow, Monday 17th October, between 5.30pm and 6.30pm, to discuss the possibility of signing Priests References, in connection with transfer to secondary schools.

PARISH HOMELESSNESS ACTION GROUP.

Keystage Housing are in urgent need of bedding for their Homeless Hub in Luton.

Single and Double Duvets Sheets & Duvet covers

Please note items need to be in good condition- not threadbare/ torn or stained and preferably clean if possible. Please contact Cathy Seaton to drop off donations: cmann100@hotmail.com For more information about Keystage Housing www.keystagehousing.co.uk

Many Many Thanks for all your support!



CHORISTER RECRUITMENT

Years 4 and above.

Weekly term time

rehearsals, on

THURSDAY 7-8pm at

Our Lady of Lourdes

Church. They sing at Mass every other Sunday, 11.30am, with rehearsals 11.00am. The choristers also sing at Weddings, Remembrance Sunday on Church Green, Advent Service, Candlelight Carol Service and at Concerts throughout the year. It is a very traditional pathway of musical training, vocal training and community belonging. The choristers develop a sense of duty and commitment to the church and to their fellow singers.

Due to the pandemic we now have spaces in Years 4 and above as the pattern of normality was disrupted and accessing church and music was limited. This is no longer the case!

There is a chorister's concert on Thursday 20th October at 7.30pm Our Lady of Lourdes. Please come and hear the choir with a view to starting after the half term holiday. We will then be preparing for Advent and Christmas and this is a good time to join. Please contact Katie Metcalfe, Director of Music, at katiemjack@yahoo.co.uk , 07931 707007

CHORISTERS CONCERT

Do join us for our Choristers Concert on Thursday 20th October at 7.30pm in Church, everyone is welcome for an hour of music presented by the Choristers followed by refreshments. Free entry and a retiring collection for the choir.



LADIES GROUP LUNCHTIME EVENT

Sister Regina has kindly offered to lead us in prayer, music and reflection on Wednesday 26th October at 12 Noon in the Undercroft.

Tickets will be priced at £5 and will be preceded by a soup lunch. Proceeds will go to the Barcelona settlement in South Africa. To help with catering, please email/phone Marva at marva@cpoauk.com/07943 837277.



HOLY SOULS



We commence the month of November, in couple of weeks. During the month a number of Masses will be offered for the Holy Souls, if you would like anyone included in these Masses, please email, or drop in, the names to the parish office. and these will be added to the Holy Souls book which will be placed before the Altar in November

RELICS OF ST BERNADETTE

Since the beginning of September, the relics of St Bernadette are being taken to churches in every Diocese in England, Scotland and Wales.

They have already been in our Diocese, in our Cathedral and in other churches. They are, however, returning to two churches in the Diocese. Tomorrow, Monday 17th October: the relics will arrive at St Joseph's Church, Bedwell Crescent, Stevenage, Herts. SG1 1NJ. Church to open at 1pm to midnight, then Tuesday 18th from 6.00am to 8.15am. Masses: Monday 5pm, 7pm (Solemn Mass with Bishop Paul McAleenan, procession), 10pm, and Tuesday 7am. For full programme, visit:

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stevenage/>

And from 4.00pm on October 28th, until 9.15am on October 30th, the relics will be in the Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden, 1 Nicoll Road, Willesden, NW10 9AX. For more information visit: [Roman Catholic Parish of Willesden - Church of Our Lady of Willesden \(rcdow.org.uk\)](http://Roman Catholic Parish of Willesden - Church of Our Lady of Willesden (rcdow.org.uk))

L A DORANT CHARITY FOR ALMSHOUSES.

This is a modern Almshouse, based in New Greens, St Albans, and which provides accommodation for people of limited means and of good character who reside in the City and District of St Albans

aged 60 and over. There are eleven studio and eight one-bedroom flats on three floors, with lift access, and with communal relaxation facilities, both inside and out. At all times, residents can summon help from the warden or call-centre, while they do need to be able to care for themselves. The aim of the Trustees is 'to give quality of life to those living in Dorant House.' For more information visit their Website www.doranthouse.org or email info@doranthouse.org or call 01727 830039

THE HARPENDEN TRUST CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The Harpenden Trust is looking for volunteers to help with its annual Christmas appeal collection. The Care Fund is dependent on the funds raised to support individuals and families in need in Harpenden. If you can spare a few hours this December/January then please contact the office: 01582 460457
admin@theharpendentrust.org.uk



**RECYCLE YOUR UNWANTED TOOLS & GARDENING EQUIPMENT
SATURDAY 29TH OCTOBER BETWEEN
10AM AND 4PM.
DROP-OFF AT LOURDES HALL,
HARPENDEN.**

Our 'Developing World Group' and 'Live Simply' Group will be repeating this successful event for WORKAID. This charity refurbishes tools, haberdashery items and gardening equipment to help disadvantaged people in Africa by providing tools and training for new skills. Please see the list of Tools and Equipment needed in the leaflet in our church foyer and on our parish website. You can drop off the items at Lourdes Hall on **Saturday 29th October between 10am and 4pm.** If an item is too large for you to transport we can come and collect it. Please email Elizabeth.hines@gmail.com or phone/text: 07905 797729.
Happy decluttering!

MASS INTENTIONS NEXT WEEK

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| <p>Saturday 15th October 12.00 Noon 3.00pm 6.00pm</p> | <p>St Teresa of Jesus, Virgin & Doctor Baptisms Green & Fitzgerald Families Sing for 3 Concert 29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C) Sean & Patricia O'Reilly RIP</p> |
| <p>Sunday 16th October 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p> | <p>29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C) Bridget Doran & Family (Sp Int) People of the Parish Frank Flanagan RIP (Anniv) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568.</p> |
| <p>Monday 17th October 9.15am</p> | <p>St Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr</p> |
| <p>Tuesday 18th October 9.15am</p> | <p>ST LUKE, Evangelist</p> |
| <p>Wednesday 19th October 9.15am</p> | <p>feria Elizabeth Conway RIP (Month's Mind) Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help</p> |
| <p>Thursday 20th October 11.00am</p> | <p>feria Bernie Hogan RIP</p> |
| <p>Friday 21st October</p> | <p>feria</p> |
| <p>Saturday 22nd October 6.00pm</p> | <p>feria 30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C) Joan Gardner RIP (Anniv)</p> |
| <p>Sunday 23rd October 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p> | <p>30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C) People of the Parish Susan Jennings RIP (Anniv) Henry Wraight RIP Zoom Code 883 7014 5568.</p> |

CONFESSIONS - SATURDAYS 10.00AM - 10.30AM & 7.00PM - 7.30PM