



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

17TH MARCH 2024
5TH SUNDAY OF LENT (B)



© 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

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

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

Parish Safeguarding Representative Mrs Brigid Brennan

Email: harpensg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk Tel: 07881 785 299

Parish Pastoral Council ppc@catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk

"Sir, we would like to see Jesus."

We don't know what drew the Greeks to express their desire to see Jesus in the opening scene of today's Gospel. We also don't know, whether they actually got to see him. What we do know is that their desire "to see" becomes the occasion, for Jesus to teach his disciples, and us, about the true way of "seeing" and living. This gospel, prepares us to "see" that way lived out fully in Holy Week. It focus' on what must die and what must live.

Jesus says of himself, that like a grain of wheat, that must fall to the ground and die to bear fruit, so he will surrender everything, even to his own hour of dying, to bring forth life. He speaks of surrender. This is our pattern—our own path that we must go through—as his followers. We are all grains of wheat in him, and we all have some dying to do if we are to experience, a flourishing of life—a "letting go." We die to all that is false in the world, all that is sinful and not of God, to find our deeper identity and happiness in God. "Whoever serves me must follow me," Jesus says, "and where I am there also will my servant be."

We know this is not easy, whatever dying we need to do. We resist it. Jesus paid a dear price in his own "letting go." "I am troubled now," he says today. In our reading from Hebrews, we hear this crisis of soul: "...he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the One who was able to save him..." Still, Jesus freely held the tension—most deeply on the cross—trusting in the love that saves, that brings fullness of life.

LENT 2024



FRIDAY MASS & STATIONS

Each Friday during Lent, there will be Mass at 7.00pm, followed by the Stations of the Cross. This could be a good Lenten Practise. Giving an hour each week, to attend an extra Mass, and to follow Jesus' journey to Calvary, by making the Stations of the Cross.

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Join us on Sunday 24th March at 7.30pm as we take a guided tour through the reflections of individuals caught up in the events of Good Friday. This will be a tour of the 14 stations of the cross where at each station there will be a monologue by an actor representing a witness to that particular station. It begins at High Street Methodist where the first group of tourists (30) led by a guide start their journey from there across to St. Nicholas church and then to Our Lady of Lourdes. We will be the 14th station.....Jesus is laid in the tomb....and will have the replica of the tomb, an actor playing Joseph of Arimathea, the choir singing and then refreshments in the Undercroft. The first group starts at 7.30 pm and the second group at 8pm.....the journey lasts 45 minutes.

As the tour will take place inside as well as outside, coats will be required. Free tickets must be booked in advance via www.highstreet.church/easter

LENT & EASTER IN THE REPOSITORY

Come and have a look inside the Repository we have a wide range of Easter cards together with Lent reading books, colouring and activity books and magazines for children. These are ideal for preparing children to celebrate Easter. We also stock Bibles, Prayer Books, Rosaries etc.

LENTEN ALMS

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2024

If you can, please show your support for the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal. All funds raised go towards projects across our Diocese. Each year, the Diocese uses donations made to support the work of our services, such as Marriage & Family Life; Youth Ministry, and Education. Funds are also used to support the work of Caritas Westminster, who work for, and with, some of the most vulnerable people in our Diocese. Cardinal Nichols, has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. So, please take a donation envelope today, for more information. You can use the QR code to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity.



CAFOD LENT FAST DAY

Thank you for your contributions, for CAFOD, so far, £2,610 has been donated. If you haven't done so it's not too late to make a donation. Donations can be handed into the Parish Office. If you wish to 'Gift-Aid' your donation, please use one of the CAFOD envelopes.

HOLY WEEK



PALM SUNDAY

Next Sunday, Palm Sunday, we begin our Holy Week journey. The Palms will be blessed, and distributed, at each Mass.

- For those who normally attend the 9.45am Mass, don't forget that, next Sunday, it will begin at the earlier time of 9.30am on Church Green, when the palms will be blessed, with the congregation from St Nicholas' Church, followed by the procession into church.

Details of everything happening during Holy Week and Easter week, will be found in the Holy Week leaflet. Please collect one today.

EASTER PREPARATION

Celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation, going to Confession, needs to be a regular part of our lives, and particularly as Easter approaches. On Monday 25th March, at 7.30pm, the Parish Penitential Service takes place. Please note the date and time, and do try to take up this important opportunity.

BACK TO NORMAL

Canon Dwyer recently received the good news that another priest, has now been appointed Parochial Administrator of the Borehamwood Parishes, so he is free of these additional duties. This is welcome news, particularly with Holy week approaching.

SYNOD 2024

Following the two Listening Sessions, for Synod 2024, and the receipt of other reflections, all of those comments have now been amalgamated with responses from other parishes in the Deanery. They will, in turn, be

included with the Diocesan Report, and eventually the National contribution. Our parish responses, have been summarised, and will be found on the Parish website at <https://www.catholicchurchharpندن.org.uk/synodal-gatherings/>

REST IN PEACE

ALLAN HEALY RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Allan Healy who died recently. Allan's Funeral Mass will be on Monday 18th March at 11.00am. We remember Mary and all the family in our prayers at this time.

JOYCE THOMAS RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Joyce Thomas who died recently. Joyce's Reception into Church will be on Monday 18th March at 4.00pm and the Funeral Mass will be on Tuesday 19th March at 2.00pm. We remember Alan and all the family in our prayers at this time.

MASSES THIS WEEK

There will be no 9.15am Masses on Monday or Tuesday this week as there are Funeral Masses later in the day.

EASTER FLOWERS

Thank you for your contributions last Sunday for the Easter Flowers. There will be another chance to donate after all Masses this weekend. Donations can also be made via the card machine in the porch. In addition, a Lily may be purchased (at £5) in memory of a loved one. Please write clearly the name of the loved one in CAPITAL LETTERS on an envelope, place the donation of £5 inside and hand it in with the flower collection after Mass, or post through the Presbytery letterbox or drop it into Melanie in the Parish Office. Their names will then be added to a remembrance book which will be displayed in the Church during the Easter season.



ST PATRICK'S DAY LUNCH

" Important Change
..the lunch will not
start until 1pm to
enable people to
attend Allan Healy's
funeral"



This very popular
annual event will be
held on Monday 18th March (the day after
SPD) in the Undercroft from 1pm. Tickets
priced £15 will include a welcome drink, a
traditional Irish meal, barnbrack and Irish
Coffee and will be on sale at all the Masses
this weekend. Proceeds will go to Sister
Margaret's Barcelona Settlement in South
Africa. EVERYONE is welcome.

GOOD FRIDAY CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS 2024

Our children's Stations of the Cross will be at
11.30am on Good Friday 29th March, and will
last about 45 minutes. This is a really good
opportunity for children to understand and
take part in Christ's Passion on Good Friday.
We are looking for children to take parts in
the form of a tableau for each station. The
children have to be from years 3 to 6, to take
part. We need about 12 actors (no speaking
parts), who will have to be in church from
9:30am on Good Friday. We will do the
rehearsal, have a small break, and then
perform our Stations of the Cross at 11.30am.
This allows any other family members to join in

The Walk of
Witness in
the town, and
then join us in
church. If
your child
wants to be
part of the
Stations of
the Cross
please email



Maria (maria@oloughlin.co.uk) or phone 01582
624024 by Monday 25th March. In the event of
too many volunteers we will take the first
names on the list. Thank you.

KEYSTAGE HOUSING DONATION BINS (Yellow Bin)

We have received a request for Towels, and
Waterproof jackets please from Keystage.
These can be left in the yellow bin in the
Courtyard of the Church. They have also asked,
if anyone has a TV they are no longer using and
would like to donate it. Please contact Cathy
Seaton if you are able to help, Cathy's email is
cmann100@hotmail.com

EASTER EGG DRIVE

If you can please donate an Easter Egg eggs-
can be mini eggs/ crème eggs or single
chocolate eggs. Please place you
donated eggs inside a plastic/
waterproof bag and
leave it in the yellow
bin. If you want to
drop your donation in
during the week,
please drop it into
Melanie in the Parish Office.



Keystage Housing
need 180 Easter Eggs
before Easter Sunday. Thank you
all so much for your ongoing support which is
much appreciated by both NOAH and Keystage
Housing.

ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 25th May 2024 at 2.30pm

The Cardinal 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 2024. If you are celebrating an
anniversary, please give Melanie in the Parish
Office the following details: husband and
wife's names, wedding date, full postal address
and email (or telephone number, if no email).

YOUTH FRIENDLY MASSES:

The Next Youth Friendly Mass will be on Saturday 20th April at 6.00pm Young people from Year 7 to Year 13, and beyond, are all very welcome to join and take an active role in this mass: Readers, Welcomers, Musicians, Altar Servants. Please join us to make it as youth friendly as possible!

Contact the parish office if you'd like to take part. Those masses will take place once a month on the following dates:

11th May, 8th June & 13th July.



LOL YOUTH GROUP: SATURDAY 20TH APRIL

Year 10 and beyond Save the date:

Saturday 7th October 7.00pm to 8.30pm

Our Parish Youth Group is starting next week at 7pm in the Undercroft, and pizzas are on the menu! Once a month, we will meet after the 6pm Youth Friendly Mass for some food, some fun and some faith sharing time together. We will engage in conversations about life, faith and Jesus around the Alpha Youth Series. *Come and be part of this exciting new project!*



DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

Lourdes Pilgrimage 19th- 26th July 2024 -

Registration for the Westminster diocesan pilgrimage led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols is now open via the application form on

<https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/> or

by contacting the Pilgrimage Office on

020 7798 9173. Options to travel by plane, train or coach are available and there are many

volunteering opportunities for those wishing to serve. All applications to join this year's pilgrimage need to be submitted by Tuesday 30th April.

HARPENDEN SENIOR'S FAIR - 10TH APRIL FROM 10:30 AM TO 1:30 PM AT THE EMC.

Free entry. 30+ exhibitors include charities, voluntary & commercial organisations offering a range of support, health, medical and welfare services, and social activities of interest to Seniors. The Harpenden History Society will provide a preview of their new local history Museum. Refreshments available from Harpenden Village WI (donations to the Rennie Grove Hospice).

PROTECTING THE UNBORN

An amendment has been proposed (New Clause 1), to the Government's Criminal Justice Bill, which is coming up for Report stage in Parliament in early March. This amendment seeks to change criminal law so that "no offence is committed by a woman acting in relation to her own pregnancy" at any gestation. This means that a woman who induced her abortion at home using pills (or any other method) at any stage of pregnancy, including just before natural birth, would commit no offence. This is dangerous for women and lethal for unborn babies. Please contact your MP urgently, asking them to oppose this extreme proposal. You can do this using SPUC's easy to use web tool, please pray for the defeat of this amendment, for protection of unborn babies, and help and comfort for mothers in need.

MASS INTENTIONS

<p>Sat 16th March</p> <p>Vigil Mass 6.00pm</p> <p>Sunday 17th March 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p>Lent feria 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT Michael Murphy RIP (Recently Deceased)</p> <p>Pat Butler RIP (Anniversary) People of the Parish Maire Danielle Tichbon RIP Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</p>
<p>Mon 18th March 11.00am 4.00pm</p>	<p>Lent Feria Funeral Mass for Allan Healy Reception into Church for Joyce Thomas</p>
<p>Tues 19th March 2.00pm</p>	<p>ST JOSEPH, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary Patron of the Diocese Funeral Mass for Joyce Thomas</p>
<p>Wed 20th March 9.15am</p>	<p>Lent feria Sidney Cooper RIP (Anniversary)</p>
<p>Thurs 21st March 11.00am</p>	<p>Lent feria Jean & Patrick Ward RIP</p>
<p>Fri 22nd March 7.00pm 7.30pm</p>	<p>Lent feria Rosy Jose RIP (Anniversary) Stations of the Cross - LiveSimply Group</p>



Holy Week

<p>Sat 23rd March</p> <p>Vigil Mass 6.00pm</p> <p>Sunday 24th March 8.30am (9.30am on Church Green) 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p>Lent feria PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD May Doyle RIP (Anniversary)</p> <p>People of the Parish Lily Daisy O'Reilly RIP Maureen Jack RIP Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</p>
---	---

CONFESSIONS - SATURDAYS

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