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Giving

# OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)



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Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

Presbytery: 1, Kirkwick Avenue, Harpenden AL5 2QH Tel: 01582 712245

Email: [anthonydwyer@rcdow.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:harpenden@rcdow.org.uk)

Website: [www.catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk](http://www.catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk)

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

Parish Safeguarding Representative Mrs Brigid Brennan

Email: [harpendensg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:harpendensg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) Tel: 07881 785 299

Parish Pastoral Council [ppc@catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk](mailto:ppc@catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk)

Communications Team: [comms@catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk](mailto:comms@catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk)

As we approach the great feast of Pentecost, the readings today invite us to reflect on prayer, unity, and hope. In the Gospel, we hear Jesus praying for his disciples. It is a deeply moving moment. Before his Passion and Death, Jesus turns to the Father and prays, not only for those gathered around him, but for all who will come to believe in him. That includes us.

One of the striking things about this prayer is that Jesus prays that his followers *"may all be one."* In a world that is marked by division, tension, and misunderstanding, these words remain both a challenge and a calling. Christian unity begins not with grand gestures, but with the ordinary choices we make each day: choosing patience instead of anger, forgiveness instead of resentment, kindness instead of indifference. Every act of charity helps to build up the unity for which Christ prayed.

The days between Ascension and Pentecost are also days of waiting. The disciples gathered together in prayer, trusting in the Lord's promise that the Holy Spirit would come. They did not yet know exactly what lay ahead, but they remained faithful and open. There is something important for us in that example. We too experience times of uncertainty, moments when we are waiting for guidance, strength, or clarity. The temptation can be to become discouraged or impatient. Yet the disciples remind us that waiting prayerfully is never wasted time. Waiting can be a frustrating experience, but like Our Lady and the Apostles, we wait in prayer, seeking God's Holy Spirit, and so allowing waiting to be transformed into fruitfulness.

As a parish community, these days before Pentecost are an opportunity to renew our openness to the Holy Spirit. We pray that the Spirit will deepen our faith, strengthen our unity, and help us to live as joyful witnesses to Christ in the world today.

## **FIRST COMMUNION**

Once again, this weekend, we are in the season of celebrating First Holy Communion. A lovely joyful time for the children, their parents and Catechists. Yesterday, a further 19 children made their First Holy Communion, receiving Jesus for the first time. Our hope is that this is the beginning of a journey, and not the end, as the preparation comes to a close. The beginning of a lifetime of meeting Jesus, Sunday by Sunday, receiving Jesus who lovingly gives himself to us. Let us keep the children, and their families, in our prayers, hoping that they will continue to grow in their love of Jesus.

## **PRIESTS TRAINING FUND**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Priests Training Fund. To date £2,725 has been donated. Because this is such an important collection, assisting in the formation of priests, for our parishes, the fund will remain open for a few more weeks. If you haven't yet contributed, it is not too late to do so. Contributions can be left in the Parish Office. If you wish to 'Gift-Aid' your contribution please be sure to use one, and complete, of the collection envelopes. Gift-aiding does make a difference, increasing your donation by 25p for each pound donated. Please note, it is necessary to complete the 'Gift-Aid' declaration on the collection envelope, even if you have already have completed a declaration for your parish contributions.

## **PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS**

Vocations to the Priesthood are essential to the life of the Church. We all have a duty to promote Priestly Vocations, and that is particularly true for parents in families, and for all in the parish. From Good Shepherd Sunday (last Sunday) until

Pentecost, the Archbishop invites each of us to pray for Vocations to the Priesthood. Below is the Diocesan Prayer for Vocations, which we can all make. We will be making this prayer at all Masses, during this time. You are also invited to make this prayer individually, as families, or in other gatherings. Copies of the prayer are available in the porch, if you haven't already done so, please take a copy. individually, as families, or in other gatherings. Copies of the prayer are available in the porch, if you haven't already done so, please take a copy.

### **WESTMINSTER PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS**

God our Father,  
you give us the Sacraments  
as signs and instruments  
of your love and mercy.  
Draw from amongst your disciples  
men who are willing to serve  
your Church generously as priests in the  
Diocese of Westminster,  
to minister to your people  
and to proclaim the Gospel to all.  
Send your Spirit to guide and strengthen  
them, to be their companion on the  
journey, as they discern your will for their  
lives.  
This prayer we make through  
Christ our Lord.  
Amen  
Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Pray for us

## **DEREK SAWARD RIP**

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Derek Saward who died recently. Derek's requiem Mass will be on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May at 11.00am.

## CAN YOU HELP?

Thank you to those who have volunteered to assist with our Parish Youth Group. Hopefully, we can soon meet, and talk about the way forward, and what we can do for our young people. Many people, quite rightly, say 'what are we doing for our young people/' This is the right question to ask. If the parish is to provide for our young people, then the question might be reversed, and we can ask: what are you prepared to do for our young people? There is still room for more to be involved, so do think about how you can assist. If you would like more information about what is involved, please contact Canon Dwyer.

## PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO SPAIN

Following the success of the Lourdes pilgrimage last year, we are planning another one, but this time to Spain, from 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> October 2026. Do consider being part of this potentially wonderful experience, by emailing [dennis@denniscooper.uk](mailto:dennis@denniscooper.uk)

Brief outline of Schedule. Flight to Madrid & hotel check-in. The pilgrimage will include a visit to the English Collage at Valladolid, and an optional walking tour of Madrid. Visits to Avila (famous for being the home of St Teresa) and the magnificent 12<sup>th</sup> century Wall, A day visit to Segovia, renowned for it's connection with the Spanish Mystic, St John of the Cross. The final, full day, will include a trip to Salamanca, famous for it's two cathedrals, and two universities. The cost includes flights, 5 nights half board accommodation, airport duty and taxes, one 20kgs suitcase. Cost per person in a shared room is approx. £950 tbc subject to a minimum group size 20 and potential airline price increases due to external forces. Hence why a speedy response is encouraged.

## DIAMOND JUBLIEE

### 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The 60th Anniversary of Monsignor Harry Turner's Ordination to the Priesthood will be marked with a Special Mass on Sunday 7th June at 11:30am.

Following the Mass, everyone is welcome to continue the celebration at a parish gathering in Lourdes Hall. If you would like to take part, please add your name to the signup sheet affixed to the lift wall (only sign up if you can come). Father Harry has made it said that he doesn't want any presents, but if you wish, you can make a donation to one of his favourite charities: [www.passage.org.uk](http://www.passage.org.uk) <https://www.cardinalhumecentre.org.uk/> Aid to the Church in need <https://acn.uk.org>

## LAUDATO SI' WEEK (MAY 17TH-24TH)

This is a global moment when Catholics turn hope into action for our common home. You are invited to take one concrete step for integral ecology and make it count through the Laudato Si' Action Platform.

1. Reduce energy use.
  2. Help restore local biodiversity.
  3. Support a community affected by poverty or environmental harm
  4. Open parish or institutional spaces to serve the community
  5. Support local and ethical producers
  6. Review investments and purchasing policies
  7. Reduce plastic and waste
  8. Try a plant-forward meal
  9. Host a Laudato Si' conversation
  10. Pray and witness publicly for creation
- Once you have chosen your action, mark it on the Laudato Si' Action Platform so it

becomes part of the Church's shared ecological response.

### **WELCOMERS FOR THE 9.45 MASS**

We are looking for additional helpers to welcome at the 9.45 Mass. If you aren't already busy volunteering and particularly if you are someone that is happy chatting to families and children and explaining the different ways in which they can help at Mass, then we really need you. We are a very friendly group and it's a great way to get to know people in the parish. Please come and chat to us if you think you might be interested.

### **LIVESIMPLY QUOTE**

Christian spirituality proposes a growth marked by moderation and the capacity to be happy with little. Such sobriety, when lived freely and consciously, is liberating. It is not a lesser life or one lived with less intensity. On the contrary, it is a way of living life to the full. (Extracts from Papal Encyclical *Laudato si*, paragraphs 222 & 223)

### **PARISH PICNIC – SUNDAY 28 JUNE**

After the 11:30am Mass, please join us for our Parish Picnic in Rothamsted Park. Bring your own food and drink, and a picnic blanket. Outdoor games are very welcome! We'll walk across to the park together after Mass. Please say a prayer for sunshine. We look forward to a wonderful afternoon together.

### **STRAWBERRY SOCIAL**

Save the date for this very popular annual event. It will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> July in the Presbytery garden. More details will be available in the coming weeks.

### **REPOSITORY**

We are now entering the seasons of First Communion and Confirmation, and the repository has been restocked with a beautiful selection of cards and gifts to mark these very special occasions. Do come in and choose something meaningful to celebrate an important moment in a young person's life. We also have a lovely range of Baptism and Wedding gifts, along with cards for all occasions and Jubilees! Pop in and have a look — you're always very welcome!

### **FROM THE PARISH OFFICE**

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



### **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.

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

**WINTERSHALL**  
**THE LIFE OF CHRIST**  
**16 - 20 June 2026 -**

The Story Of Jesus, Brought To Life  
Discover the wonder of Jesus' life with an unforgettable event for all the family. The Life of Christ is a play like no other, placing you in the middle of an immersive theatre experience. Join over a hundred actors in the stunning grounds of Wintershall Estate as this magnificent story is movingly recreated with authentic detail in an epic open-air production. Watch the Wedding in Cana, the Feeding of the 5000 and the Last Supper unfold before your eyes. It's the perfect day out for families, faith groups, theatre lovers and schools.

Tickets can be booked  
at <https://www.wintershall.org.uk/event/life-of-christ/>

Please note that 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> June are schools only days. There is limited availability on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> & Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June. At present there is availability on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June but please book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

**GIFT AID 2025/2026**

As the 2025/2026 tax year ended on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2026, we will soon be submitting our Parish Gift Aid claim.

If you are a UK taxpayer, Gift Aid is a simple way to make your donations go further—at no extra cost to you. For every £1 you give, the Parish can claim an additional 25p from HM Revenue & Customs, significantly increasing the value of your support.

Whether you donate through the card machine or by standing order, you can include your contributions in Gift Aid. All it takes is completing a short Gift Aid declaration form.

By signing up, you are helping the Parish continue its mission, maintain the church, and support our community. If you haven't yet joined the Gift Aid scheme, we warmly encourage you to do so.

Forms are available in the church porch, and completed forms can be returned to the Parish Office. If you would like more information or wish to set up a standing order with Gift Aid, please contact the Parish Office—we will be happy to assist you.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

## MASS INTENTIONS

<p><b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May</b>  <b>11.00am</b>  <b>3.00pm</b></p> <p><b>Youth Friendly Mass</b>  <b>Vigil Mass 6.00pm</b></p> <p><b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May</b>  <b>8.30am</b>  <b>9.45am</b>  <b>11.30am</b></p>	<p><b>Easter Feria</b>                  First Holy Communion Mass (Group 2)                  Sing 4 Concert</p> <p><b>SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b></p> <p>Terry Mahabir RIP (Anniversary)</p> <p>Michael Kearney RIP (Recently Deceased)                  People of the Parish                  Marc White (Special Intention)  <b>Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</b></p>	<p><b>PLEASE PRAY FOR:</b></p> <p><b>First Holy Communion Children</b>                  Heavenly Father,                  Bless our First Holy Communion children as they prepare to receive Jesus in the Eucharist.                  Fill their hearts with love, joy, and faith, and guide them always in Your peace.  <b>Amen.</b></p> <p><b>Recently Deceased</b>                  Michael Kearney RIP</p> <p><b>RIP Anniversaries</b>                  Terry Mahabir RIP</p> <p><b>Prayer for the Faithful Departed</b>                  Loving Father,                  welcome those who have gone before us into Your peace.                  Comfort all who mourn, and keep us united in faith and hope until we meet again in Your heavenly kingdom.  <b>Amen.</b></p>
<p><b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May</b>  <b>9.15am</b></p>	<p><b>Easter Feria</b></p>	
<p><b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May</b>  <b>9.15am</b></p>	<p><b>Easter Feria</b></p>	
<p><b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May</b>  <b>9.15am</b></p>	<p><b>Easter Feria</b></p>	
<p><b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May</b>  <b>11.00am</b>  <b>7.15pm</b></p>	<p><b>Easter Feria</b>                  Choristers &amp; St Dominic's School Choir                  Concert</p>	
<p><b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May</b></p>	<p><b>Easter Feria</b></p>	
<p><b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May</b>  <b>1.00pm</b></p> <p><b>Vigil Mass 6.00pm</b></p> <p><b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May</b>  <b>8.30am</b>  <b>9.45am</b>  <b>11.30am</b></p>	<p><b>Easter Feria</b>                  Wedding Cox &amp; McGleenon</p> <p><b>PENTECOST SUNDAY</b>                  Rita Dooley RIP (Anniversary)</p> <p>Patricia Bonardi RIP (Recently Deceased)                  People of the Parish                  Jimmy Brophy RIP (Anniversary)  <b>Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</b></p>	