



OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

18TH JANUARY 2026

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)



© Chloe Le Tissier

Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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Today the Church's liturgy invites us into what we know as *Ordinary Time*. At first hearing, that can sound a little flat. Ordinary. Routine. Nothing special. And yet we might reasonably ask: how can life be "ordinary" when we are still carrying in our hearts what we have just celebrated at Christmas? Only days ago, we rejoiced in the mystery of God-with-us: The Word made flesh, born among us, sharing our human life. We celebrated angels and shepherds, the wonder of the Magi, and the astonishing truth that God has entered our history in a new and permanent way. Nothing about that is ordinary.

Perhaps *Ordinary Time* does not mean "unimportant" or "uninspiring", but rather the time in which the extraordinary gift of Christ is lived out in ordinary days. The crib may be packed away, the carols may fade, but the presence of Christ does not fade. Instead, it seeks expression in daily life: in how we speak to one another, how we forgive, how we notice, and respond, to those who are struggling, how we live our faith quietly and faithfully.

In the Gospel today, John the Baptist points to Jesus and says, "*Look, there is the Lamb of God.*" It is a simple sentence, spoken in an ordinary setting, yet it reveals everything. John does not draw attention to himself; instead, he directs our gaze outward, away from the dramatic and towards the quietly profound. He recognises Jesus not by signs and wonders, but by attentiveness, faith, and a heart tuned to God's action. That same attentiveness is asked of us: to notice Christ in small gestures of kindness, in patience tested, in love quietly given and received. Ordinary Time, then, becomes a sacred school of awareness, where we learn that God is at work not only in great moments, but in the faithful living of each day.

'THAT ALL MAY BE ONE'

Starting today, Sunday 18th January, and continuing until Sunday 25th January, feast of the Conversion of St Paul, churches everywhere are marking the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Please keep this intention in your prayers in the coming days.

NEW ARCHBISHOP

On Friday 19th December, it was announced that Pope Leo has appointed Bishop Richard Moth, presently Bishop of Arundel and Brighton, as Archbishop of Westminster. Archbishop-elect Richard, will be installed on Saturday 14th February. Please pray for our new Archbishop, as he prepares to take on the leadership of our Diocese. And please remember Cardinal Vincent Nichols as he prepares for this new phase in his life.

St JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

To mark St John Henry Newman being declared a Doctor of the Church, there will be a service of Vespers in Westminster Cathedral, next Tuesday, 20th January at 5.00pm. In this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the service will be sung by the choir of St Paul's Cathedral, and the homily given by Archbishop Rowan Williams, a former Archbishop of Canterbury. No tickets necessary, all are welcome.

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.



BANISH THE WINTER BLUES SUPPER

This very popular annual event will be held on **Saturday 7th February at the Lourdes Hall**. Tickets will be on sale after all the Masses this weekend, priced £25, which will include a two-course supper and featuring Lulu & the Hullabaloos Blues/Jazz band. **Don't delay tickets are selling fast!** Proceeds will go to the Developing World Group's project **WorkAid** to meet the costs of a service and repair facility centre for sewing machines in Zambia to develop local skills, empowering young people to help themselves. Come as a group or join us on your own on our Parish Table. Contact [marva@cpoauk.com/07943837277](mailto:marva@cpoauk.com) if you want a group booking or if you would prefer to pay on-line. **EVERYONE** is welcome.

FOR THE YOUTH OF THE PARISH

The next Youth Friendly Mass will be next Saturday 24th January 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 would like to be involved.



OLOL YOUTH GROUP

The next Youth Group for those in the Confirmation Group and those young people in Year 10 and beyond will be next Saturday 24th January after the Youth Friendly Mass. Join us for some food, fun and faith sharing.

SING FOR - 13

We are looking to have an extravaganza for this, our 13th project!

Each one has been a joyful mix of community singing, gathering and fundraising. Some singers have joined in with all of the Sing 4 12 projects so far and others just one or two - if you have never been along to witness first-hand the light-hearted and spirit-lifting experience of Sing 4 then here is your opportunity.

REHEARSAL DATES:

In the Undercroft 7.30pm – 9.00pm

Tuesday 20th January

Tuesday 27th January

Tuesday 3rd February

CONCERT DATE:

Saturday 7th February at 3.00pm

LOST PROPERTY

There is now a large amount of lost property in the box on the table outside the repository. If you believe any of these items are yours, please reclaim them as soon as possible as anything unclaimed will be given to charity.

**After hymns were sung and Mass was through,
Peter Rabbit stayed in pew number two.
If this cuddly friend is meant for you,
Please claim him soon—he's missing you!**



ADVENT GIVING TREE – THANK YOU

The final count from the Advent Giving Tree was **116.6kg of donations**, plus a generous **£50** gift. Thank you to everyone who donated items, gave online, shared information, or supported us in any way.

In 2025, our Hygiene Bank project distributed **7.5 tonnes of toiletries** across Harpenden, St Albans and surrounding villages, working with nearly **40 charities, foodbanks and schools**—all powered by volunteers.

Huge thanks to Silvia and Carlo for the idea, Anna and Jane for bringing it to life, Canon Anthony for his support, and to everyone who contributed.

To find out more, please contact **Lorna: stalbans@thehygienebank.com**.

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

GETTING MARRIED?

Couples intending to marry are required by the Diocese to give at least six months' notice. Pre-marriage preparation offers an important opportunity to reflect not only on the wedding day itself, but on the lifelong commitment of marriage, as well as to look at the other necessary arrangements. Anyone hoping to marry within the next year should contact Canon Dwyer as soon as possible. If you know of any couples planning to marry in



the coming year, please draw their attention to this notice.

HELP NEEDED

HARPENDEN CHILD CONTACT CENTRE

A new Chair is needed to head up Harpenden Child Contact Centre, a small Harpenden based charity, offering supported contact facilities to separated families. The successful candidate will lead a small team of experienced and supportive trustees, working with them, the admin team and other volunteers to provide the best service we can for our families. The current Chair is our parishioner, Brigid Brennan, who will be stepping down in May 2026 so the appointment would ideally be made by the end of March 2026 and confirmed in May at the Charity's AGM. Mentoring and support will be provided. For more information, please contact HCCC on 07842 167767 or harpendenccc@gmail.com; or Brigid on 07881 785299 or at brigid.brennan@virginmedia.com. More information about HCCC can be found on their website <https://harpendenchildcontactcentre.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

St Dominic's will be hosting Nursery Open Mornings on Friday 23rd January at 9.15am. Please contact the school office on 01582 760047, for more information or to book a place on the tours.

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

For more information please contact 01582760047 email: admissions@stdominic.herts.sch.uk

FRIDAY AFTERNOONS AT SPACE IN SOUTHDOWN.

Banish the winter blues as we are invited to sing along to favourite songs old and new played by the Harpenden Guitar Ensemble (which includes John Saliot) Tickets £5 includes tea and cake ... from Southdown Hardware or phone 07899 536580

MASS INTENTIONS

		MASS INTENTIONS	PLEASE PRAY FOR:
Saturday 17th January	St Anthony, Abbot		
12.00 Noon	Baptism Bailey & Meneghelli Families		
Vigil Mass 6.00pm	2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)	Newly Baptised	
Sunday 18th January	Caitriona Kelly RIP (Anniversary)	Lord, bless these newly baptised children of Yours. May they walk in Your light and grow in Your love. Amen.	
8.30am	Ellen Harries RIP (Recently Deceased)		
9.45am	People of the Parish		
11.30am	Tom Conway RIP (Recently Deceased) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568		
Monday 19th January	Feria	Recently Deceased	
9.15am	Mary Blessing & Family (Special Intentions)	Ellen Harris RIP Tom Conway RIP	
Tuesday 20th January	Feria	RIP Anniversaries	
9.15am	Evelyn & John Smith (Special Intention)	Caitriona Kelly RIP	
Wednesday 21st January	St Agnes, Virgin & Martyr	Prayer for the Faithful Departed	
9.15am	McGovern Family (Special Intentions)	Loving God, we remember those who have died. Grant them	
Thursday 22nd January	Feria	the peace of Christ, and let Your perpetual light shine upon them. Comfort all who mourn	
11.00am	Sr. Regina (Special Intention)	and strengthen our hope in the resurrection. Amen.	
Friday 23rd January	Feria		
Saturday 24th January	St Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor of the Church 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)		
Vigil Mass 6.00pm	Rasad Wadge RIP (1 st Anniversary)		
Sunday 25th January	Deceased Members of the O'Hare Family		
8.30am	People of the Parish		
9.45am	Eileen Barrett RIP (Recently Deceased)		
11.30am	Zoom Code 883 7014 5568		

CONFESIONS

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