Contactless Giving

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A
18TH OCTOBER 2026



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Today we hear the Pharisees trying to trap Jesus with a difficult question about paying taxes to Caesar. Jesus asks them to show him a coin and then poses a question of his own: “Whose head is this? And whose name?” When they reply that it is Caesar’s, Jesus tells them: “Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.”

At first, this seems to be a straightforward lesson about our responsibilities to civil authorities and to God. We have duties as citizens, and we should fulfil them honestly and conscientiously. But Jesus’ words invite us to reflect more deeply on what belongs to God. The coin bears the image of Caesar, but we are made in the image of God. Our lives, our gifts and all that we have are ultimately gifts from him. We cannot separate our faith from the ordinary decisions we make, the way we treat others, or the responsibilities we carry each day.

Giving to God what belongs to God means offering him more than a few moments of prayer on a Sunday. It means allowing our faith to shape our lives: showing kindness to those who are struggling, forgiving those who have hurt us, standing up for what is right, and recognising the dignity of every person. This is not always easy. The demands of work, family and everyday life can leave little time for reflection. Yet it is precisely in these ordinary moments that our faith is lived and expressed.

Perhaps, this week, we might ask ourselves a simple question: if we are made in God’s image, can others recognise something of God in the way we live? We belong to God. May our words, our actions and our choices reflect that belonging, so that we give to him, each day, the love and faithfulness that are his due.

EPISCOPAL ORDINATION

Tomorrow Father Stephen Wang will be ordained as the sixth Bishop of Arundel and Brighton. A great day for him, his family, and our parish, where he has been a member for over 40 years. As he takes on these new responsibilities, let us keep him in our prayers, and especially tomorrow. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the gift for Father Stephen. After discussion with him, the parish are giving him a gold cross, which bishops wear when they are celebrating Mass, and which he will wear at his Episcopal Ordination.



The Ordination Mass, is at 12 noon, and will be live-streamed at: www.arundelcathedral.uk or **https://www.churchservices.tv/arundel**

PARISH CELEBRATION

To celebrate his Episcopal Ordination, Bishop-elect Stephen has suggested coming to the parish to celebrate Mass, and he will do so on Sunday November 8th, at 11.30am. After Mass, there will be a celebration in St Dominic' School If you would like to come and bring some food for the refreshments, please add your name to the sign-up sheet affixed to the lift wall. Please only sign up if you can attend.

MONDAY 19TH OCTOBER

There will be no Mass at 9.15am

MONTH OF NOVEMBER –
PRAYING FOR THE HOLY SOULS

During the month of November, we especially 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**.

CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY

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We recently marked CAFOD Harvest Fast Day, when we were asked to deny ourselves in some way, and so show solidarity with those, in the world, who have so little. £975.00 has been donated so far. If you would still like to contribute, it is not too late to do so. Contributions can be left in the Parish Office, and don't forget to use a CAFOD envelope if you wish to 'Gift-Aid' your donation.

SCHOOL FORMS

It's that time of year when applications are being made for places in secondary schools. Parents who require the Certificate of Catholic Practise to be signed, or other confirmation of Mass attendance, can meet with Canon Dwyer. The second signing will take place in church next **Tuesday 20th October between 6.00pm and 7.00pm.**

Once the secondary forms are signed, dates will be available for the Reception forms.

ACCOUNTS

Each year the parish submit their accounts to the Diocese. If you are interested in knowing some more about what your money is spent on, you will find details on

the parish website. As details of the accounts are shared, it is an opportunity to thank everyone who faithfully contributes to the support of the parish. You will find the accounts, for the year ended 31st December 2025 at https://www.catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk/olol-financial-results/

EAGERLY SOUGHT

Every week since the Covid lockdown we have broadcast this 11:30am mass on Zoom and YouTube, and we could really do with an additional person or two, willing to help, either on the occasional Sunday, or perhaps on a rota, to ensure it continues giving the housebound and others access to our Masses. **If you are able to help, please contact John Saliot. 07980537791 or at 11:30 Mass. Thank You!**

YOUTH MATTERS

The next Youth Friendly Mass and Youth Group take place on Saturday 7th November at 6pm.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

As part of its commitment to promoting a culture of safeguarding in all that we do, the Diocese requires every volunteer to do online safeguarding training although if you are in a DBS role you should do the online version for DBS volunteers.
We have held two in person sessions so far, attended by 30 non-DBS volunteers: many more have done the online version, thank you all very much.
To accommodate as many of you as possible, Brigid will hold a third in person session in the Undercroft, this time at a weekend during the day. This will be at **2.30 pm on the 13th December**. This session is designed for volunteers who don't need a DBS for their role but all are welcome and there is no need to pre book, just come along. If you would like to do the online version but haven't had an email from Brigid or can't find what she sent you, please email her at the address at the front of the newsletter; or follow the links from our website.
Thank you again to all our volunteers without whom we could not function: your commitment and support is very much appreciated. If anyone is interested in taking up a role in the parish do, please speak to Canon Anthony.

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! St Dominic's will be one of the 3 local charities/community groups for the next 3 months (1st Oct-31st Dec).

LIVESIMPLY - Advance Notice
A REPAIR FAIR AT OLOL!

The UK is the world's second-highest producer of e-waste per capita. Help us reduce waste! The LiveSimply team, in partnership with St Albans District Fixers, is holding a Repair Fair at Lourdes Hall on Saturday afternoon, 24th October.
Bring your broken portable electricals, electronics or clothing for our skilled volunteer fixers and seamstresses to attempt repairs.
We would also welcome volunteers handy with a screwdriver or experienced in sewing. No expert skills needed, as you can work alongside an experienced fixer.

For further information or to volunteer, please contact Jon Newham. jonathan.newham@googlemail.com.

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/
A short introductory video is available here: https://youtu.be/xoAFCjrJC88?si=ocGQrvQq3dylr5CN

RCDOW EDUCATION SERVICE
Thinking about a career in teaching or education? Catholic undergraduate students in their second year can gain valuable experience in a Catholic school through this final, grant-funded internship programme. Places are limited. Last day to enrol: 30 November 2026. Please see the noticeboard poster for further details and contact information.

A DAY WITH MARY is taking place at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 7th November 2026 (9.45am to 5.00pm). The Most Reverend Richard Moth, Archbishop of Westminster will be the Celebrant & Preacher at 10.30am Cathedral Mass on that day. Further information is available at https://www.adaywithmary.org/

SPACe
Have you been to SPACe? That's Southdown Performing Arts Centre. www.southdownspace.org It is open again after stage 1 of refurbishing and now has an extra toilet and disabled access via a ramp. There is a full programme of events including popular First Friday entertainment with tea and cakes; Jazz; Gilbert and Sullivan; Jeckyll and Hyde and Christmas Carol. Find further details and tickets on the website, flyers at the back of church or through Margaret Cox. SPACe is also seeking to employ a Performing Arts Pioneer.



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

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 17th October **12.00 Noon**	**St Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr** Baptism Corderey & Scott Families	**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** **Prayer for the Newly Baptised** Heavenly Father, bless these newly baptised children and guide them always in Your love. May they grow in faith, hope and love, surrounded by the care of family and friends. May they always know the joy of being Your beloved children. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.** **Anniversaries** Anne Brophy RIP Eroll Yates RIP Steven Pattrick RIP Joan Gardner RIP **Prayer for the Faithful Departed** 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. **Amen.**
	29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)	
Vigil Mass 6.00pm	People of the Parish	
Sunday 18th October		
8.30am	Anne Brophy RIP (Anniversary)	
9.45am	Waldek Gajdowski RIP	
11.30am	Eroll Yates RIP (Anniversary) **Zoom Code 883 7014 5568**	
Monday 19th October **9.15am**	**Feria** No Mass	
Tuesday 20th October **9.15am**	**Feria** Finley Dolan (Special Intentions)	
Wednesday 21st October **9.15am**	**Feria** Steven Pattrick RIP (Anniversary)	
Thursday 22nd October **11.00am**	**Feria** Joan Gardner RIP (Anniversary)	
Friday 23rd October	**Feria**	
Saturday 24th October	**Feria**	
	30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)	
Vigil Mass 6.00pm	John Aaltio (Special Intentions)	
Sunday 25th October		
8.30am	Roger Gregory RIP (Recently Deceased)	
9.45am	People of the Parish	
11.30am	Maura Grimshaw RIP (Anniversary) **Zoom Code 883 7014 5568**	