



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

19TH JANUARY 2025
SECOND SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME (C)



© Chloe Le Tissier

Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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This Sunday we begin the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. For many Sundays in this lectionary cycle, our readings will be taken from the Gospel of Luke. Occasionally, however, we will read from John's Gospel. This is true of today's Gospel reading, which describes the beginning of Jesus' ministry and his first miracle.

To situate today's reading within the context of John's Gospel, we note that John's report of this event follows Jesus' call of his first disciples. John tells us that Jesus and his disciples were invited to this wedding at Cana, as was Jesus' mother, Mary. There is no parallel report of this miracle at Cana in the Synoptic Gospels.

In the Church's liturgical history, the wedding feast of Cana is closely associated with the baptism of the Lord and the adoration of the infant Jesus by the Wise Men, moments when the identity of Jesus is revealed. In this context, the sign Jesus performs at the wedding feast is celebrated as an epiphany or a manifestation of Jesus' divinity.

John's Gospel describes seven signs that indicate Jesus' identity to his disciples. John never speaks of these signs as miracles because their importance is not in the deed that Jesus performs but in what these deeds indicate about Jesus' identity. Here, as when John describes the other signs, the disciples are said to begin to believe, but no mention is made as to whether the other wedding guests are even aware of what has happened.

This lavish response to a simple human need is a vision for us of the abundance of God's kingdom. It challenges us to respond generously when confronted with human need today. We respond as best we can, fully confident that God can transform our efforts, bringing the Kingdom of God to fulfilment among us.

SYCAMORE

Join Sycamore on Mondays

It was great to see so many people at Sycamore last Monday! If you missed last week but are interested, do join us on Mondays at 7:45pm in the Undercroft (final session is 17th February).

Sycamore is an informal course about the Catholic faith and its relevance to life today. Each week we watch a short film, presented by Fr Stephen Wang, and have time for discussion. Search "Sycamore Catholic" or email Genevieve on genevieve.cox@hotmail.com to find out more.

REPOSITORY

We have now received a new stock of Missals reflecting the revised liturgical translations of the Readings. These are now on sale in the repository. In addition, we have free copies of the Jubilee Year booklets which accompany the celebration of the Jubilee Year.

We also have a number of booklets used by the discussion group during Advent which parishioners may find interesting especially if they were unable to attend the group discussion. These are available free of charge.

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.



GETTING MARRIED?

Couples intending to get married, need to give at least six months' notice, as required by the Diocese. Pre-marriage preparation, provides an opportunity to reflect, not just on the wedding, which is for a day, but on the marriage, which is for life, as well as looking at the other necessary arrangements. Anyone getting married this year should be in contact with Canon Dwyer. If you know of couples hoping to marry in the coming year, please draw their attention to this notice.



FOR THE YOUTH OF THE PARISH
The next Youth Friendly Mass will be **THIS Saturday 18th 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.



LOLO YOUTH GROUP

The next Youth Group for those in the Confirmation Group and those young people in Year 10 and beyond will be this Saturday 18th January after the Youth Friendly Mass. Join us for some food, fun and faith sharing.

BANISH THE BLUES SUPPER

The Banish the Blues Supper will be held on Saturday 1st February at 7.30pm in Lourdes Hall, Fabulous Music and a Supper served during the interval. Tickets cost £20 and will be on sale after all Masses, with proceeds to the Developing World Group. Anyone wanting a group booking should contact marva@cpoauk.com (07943 837277) and there will also be a Parish Table for individuals, couples, etc. All welcome.

For more information and Tickets please contact Marva via email marva@cpoauk.com

FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

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



CHOIR DATES FOR YOUR CALENDARS

SING FOR TEN -

We are looking to have an extravaganza for this, our 10th project! Each one has been a joyful mix of community singing, gathering and fundraising. Some singers have joined in with all nine 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 For then here is your opportunity.

REHEARSAL DATES :

In the Undercroft 7.30pm - 9.00pm
Tuesday 21st January
Tuesday 28th January
Tuesday 4th February

CONCERT DATE:

Tuesday 11th February 6.45pm
Rehearsal, 7.30pm Concert

This will be followed by refreshments in the Undercroft to include a raffle and other fundraising opportunities for NOAH and Keystage Housing

ST DOMINIC'S NURSERY OPEN MORNINGS

St Dominic's will be hosting Nursery Open Mornings at 9.30am on Friday 24th January at 10.00am. Please contact the school office on 01582 760047, for more information and please also see the school website <https://www.stdominic.herts.sch.uk>

NOAH AND KEYSTAGE DONATION BINS

For NOAH, (Blue Bin) they ask for clothing (no undergarments, unless they are brand new and packaged); coats and jackets; shoes; toys; and bric-a-brac. You can also Gift Aid your donations for them by filling out a Gift Aid form, copies of which will be kept at the back of church and also in a plastic pocket attached to the bin.



KEYSTAGE (Yellow Bin)

have asked for tinned foods and non-perishable foods e.g. cereals, biscuits, chocolate; and socks, gloves, scarves and toiletries.



Thank you all so much for your ongoing support which is much appreciated by both NOAH and Keystage.

SPOTLIGHT ON AFRICA QUIZ NIGHT : SATURDAY 15TH MARCH

Please come to our ever-popular Quiz in Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, AL5 1PF. 7pm for 7.30 prompt start. £20 per head (tables of 8) Godfrey's Fish& Chips. Cash Bar. Raffle.

RSVP events@hsoa.org.uk 07432 838477



MASS INTENTIONS

<p>Saturday 18th January</p> <p>Youth Mass Vigil Mass 6.00pm</p> <p>Sunday 19th January</p> <p>8.30am</p> <p>9.45am</p> <p>11.30am</p>	<p>Feria</p> <p>SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)</p> <p>Catriona Kelly RIP (Anniversary)</p> <p>People of the Parish</p> <p>John Carey RIP (Recently Deceased)</p> <p>Paul Russell RIP (Recently Deceased)</p> <p>Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</p>
<p>Monday 20th January</p> <p>9.15am</p>	<p>Feria</p> <p>Delores Cashman RIP (Recently Deceased)</p>
<p>Tuesday 21st January</p> <p>9.15am</p>	<p>St Agnes, Virgin & Martyr</p> <p>Walter Giles RIP (Anniversary)</p>
<p>Wednesday 22nd January</p> <p>9.15am</p>	<p>Feria</p> <p>Fidelma Raftery RIP (Recently Deceased)</p>
<p>Thursday 23rd January</p> <p>11.00am</p>	<p>Feria</p> <p>Aldona Cebula RIP (Recently Deceased)</p>
<p>Friday 24th January</p>	<p>St Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor of the Church</p>
<p>Saturday 25th January</p> <p>Vigil Mass 6.00pm</p> <p>Sunday 26th January</p> <p>8.30am</p> <p>9.45am</p> <p>11.30am</p>	<p>THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL THE APOSTLE</p> <p>THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)</p> <p>Lilly & Francis Moran RIP</p> <p>Shehan Peiris (Special Intention)</p> <p>People of the Parish</p> <p>Liam Dooley RIP (Anniversary)</p> <p>Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</p>

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