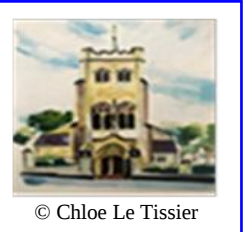




# OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2025

29<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)



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It's not unusual to hear of Jesus giving time to pray. The sense that the Gospels communicate is that prayer was at the very heart of what Jesus did and said. Who better for us to learn from, when it comes to how we are to pray? Today, and next Sunday, we will hear Jesus teaching us about prayer. Today we will hear a parable which is a lesson in persistence in prayer; while next Sunday's parable will address attitude in prayer.

The parable, it may seem, presents prayer as 'nagging' God for what we want, but, of course, such thinking misses the point. God is *not* like the judge in the parable, worn down by requests and coerced to respond. The key is found in the description of the judge as corrupt and unjust. Since God is neither corrupt or unjust, we must understand Jesus to be saying that if even an unjust judge responds to the persistence of the widow, how much more so will God listen to our prayers.

Because God is a truly loving God, He doesn't need to be nagged. God already knows our needs, and is more than ready to respond to us. That said, God truly wants to hear our needs and to respond generously. At the same time, He wants us to depend on Him completely, that is why we persist in prayer. It is the final lament of Jesus that gets to the point of the parable. The lesson is about the persistence of the one who prays. God wants us to be like the persistent widow, staying in relationship with God, confident that God hears and answers prayers. Then Jesus laments, "Will such faith be found when the Son of Man comes?" In this lament, Jesus notes how easy it can be for us to lose heart.

## PRAY THE ROSARY

October is the month of the Holy Rosary, and last week we celebrated the feast of the Holy Rosary last week. Praying the Rosary, is a very good practice, as it takes us through, reminds us of, the great moments of Our Lord's Life, a long-established, traditional, practice. It is very much Our Lady pointing out her son to us, drawing us closer to him. Pope Leo XIV has asked that Catholics across the globe will unite to pray the Rosary for peace in war-torn lands, especially

He said '..... "I invite everyone, each day of the coming month, to pray the Rosary for peace—personally, in the family, and in community." As we contemplate the wars, taking place in our world, we can feel quite helpless. What we can do, however, is to pray for peace, and during this month of the Rosary, we can heed our Holy Father, and offer it as a prayer for peace.



A better world needs all of us  
**FAMILY FAST DAY**



Thank you very much for your contributions for CAFOD Harvest Fast Day, when we were asked to deny ourselves, in some way, and so show solidarity with some of the poorest people in our world. £1,895 Was donated. Your contributions, and self-denial, will be used to benefit some of CAFOD's projects. If you have yet to contribute, you can leave your donation at the Parish Office. If you wish to 'Gift-Aid' your contribution, please use one of the CAFOD envelopes.

## SWITCH OFF!

Fortunately, we're not too often distracted by telephones ringing during Mass, most people, so it seems,

remember to switch off before they arrive in church, which is appreciated by everyone. However, what is distracting is when a telephone rings, the person being called goes out and takes the call, and then returns to Mass. The message seems to be that the caller is more important, than God whom we have come to worship! Mass is less than an hour a week, we need to get our priorities right!

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY UPDATE

We're so happy to welcome our young people to Children's Liturgy each week during the 9.45am Mass. These sessions are specially prepared for **children in reception class and above**, giving them a chance to hear and reflect on God's Word in a way that's just right for them. We **kindly ask parents to remain in the church** while the children enjoy this time together. Thank you for helping us make it a joyful and meaningful experience for all!



## 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/2023/05/OLOL-Database-New-Parishioner-Form-May-2023.pdf> Completed forms can be emailed or posted into the Parish Office. [harpenden@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:harpenden@rcdow.org.uk)



## FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

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



## JAMES FEENEY RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Jim Feeney who died recently. Jim's Requiem Mass will be on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 11.00am. We remember Margery and the family in our prayers at this time.

## GOOD NEIGHBOURS NEEDED

Help make our parish welcoming! We're looking for friendly volunteers to act as local representatives in their area.

What's involved:

- Be a contact for parishioners (we provide names and letters).
- Welcome new parishioners (we provide details).
- Deliver Christmas and Easter leaflets locally.

We especially need help in Roundwood, Townsend Lane–Moreton End Lane, Crabtree, Rothamsted Estate/Hatching Green, and Marshalls Heath/Lower Luton Road. Interested? Please Email [goodneighbours@catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk](mailto:goodneighbours@catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk) thank you!

## CONFIRMATION PHOTOGRAPHS

The last few Confirmation photographs are available to be collected from the Repository Shop after weekend Masses.

## REPOSITORY – POP IN FOR A LOOK!

Come and browse — there's much to see, Gifts and cards for your family! Candles, cribs, and calendars too, Something special waits for you.

Support the Repository — don't delay, And share the joy this Christmas Day!

## A PRESENT FOR CHRISTMAS

The Parish Catenians are raising funds for a church defibrillator, first aid training for Welcomers, and to help young people from Luton attend the next Flame gathering.

**Future dates:** 12th November and Christmas Dinner – 17th December, with music, fun, and a raffle for the defibrillator fund. All parishioners welcome! Contact [dennis@denniscooper.uk](mailto:dennis@denniscooper.uk) (new email).

## ST DOMINIC'S RECEPTION ADMISSIONS

The Admissions process for Reception places for September 2026 will opened soon. If you would like a tour of the school for entry into Reception 2026, please contact the school office on 01582 760047. School Tours will take place on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 9.30am and Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 1.30pm For more information please see the school website

<https://www.stdominic.herts.sch.uk>

## PLACES AVAILABLE AT ST DOMINIC'S

St Dominic Catholic Primary School has spaces available in Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 classes for current academic year and welcomes enquiries from parents of children who are interested in a rounded catholic education that includes academic, religious and social skills. St Dominic's has recently been assessed by OFSTED and **rated as OUTSTANDING. Please contact school office on 01582 760047 to arrange visit.**

## HELP NEEDED FOR THE CHRISTMAS FAIR (SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER)

For many decades the parish has organised a Christmas Fair, in Lourdes Hall, which has raised tens of thousands of pounds for the parish, and for other good causes. For the last 25 years, this event has been organised by Marva Hall and she has decided that this will be her last year in charge. **We urgently need one or more of you to step up to work with her this year with a view to taking over in 2026.** Please contact Marva (07943 837277) or the Parish Office for more information. Without new leadership, this will be our last Christmas Fair.

## FOR THE YOUTH OF THE PARISH HERTFORDSHIRE YOUTH SUMMIT

**If you are aged 14–17 — this event is for you! You're invited to the Hertfordshire Summit at *Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Welwyn Garden City.***

Come and spend the afternoon with other young people from across the region for games, workshops, social time, and prayer. We'll have Adoration and Mass, we'll have fun, and together we'll take inspiration from Saint Carlo Acutis on how we can strive for holiness as teenagers today.



Date: Saturday, 22 November 2025



Time: 13:00-19:00



Bring a packed lunch or snacks (no nuts). Parish social after Mass!



To register your interest, please contact the parish office. Don't miss out — and don't forget to invite your friends!

<https://youth.rcdow.org.uk/events/big-hertfordshire-summit/>

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Sunday 23rd November

Newman Musical  
Afternoon with Alison Langer, Sunday  
23rd November in Lourdes Hall

### Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November

Advent Service at 6pm Venue TBC

### Saturday 6 December:

Christmas Fair at the Lourdes Hall from  
12pm – 2pm.

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December

5pm in Church  
The Harpenden Music Foundation  
presents the gift of Music at Christmas

### DWG Christmas Wreath Making in the Undercroft

#### Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December

10am – 12 Noon

2pm – 4pm

#### Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December

7pm – 9pm

More details to follow soon.

## PAID INTERNSHIPS – Catholic Leadership Programme

The Westminster Diocese Education Department is offering paid three-week internships for Catholic university students to experience life as a teacher in our schools. Open to those interested in Religious Education, other secondary subjects, and the Primary sector. Bursaries are available for those pursuing QTS in RE. Find out more on the RCDOW website. [here](#). **Applications close 30th November 2025.**

| MASS INTENTIONS                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Oct</b><br><br><b>Vigil Mass</b><br><b>6.00pm</b><br><br><b>Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Oct</b><br><b>8.30am</b><br><b>9.45am</b><br><b>11.30am</b>                      | <b>ST LUKE, Evangelist</b><br><br><b>29<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b><br>Maureen Quinn RIP (Recently Deceased)<br><br>People of the Parish<br>Caroline Larkin RIP (Recently Deceased)<br>Deceased Members Cooper Family<br><b>Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</b>            | <b>PLEASE PRAY FOR:</b><br><br><b>Recently Deceased</b><br>Maureen Quinn RIP<br>Caroline Larkin RIP<br><br><b>Anniversaries:</b><br>Joan Gardner RIP<br><br><b>Prayer for the Faithful Departed</b><br>Loving and merciful God,<br>we remember before You all who<br>have recently departed this life<br>and those whose anniversaries<br>we mark in these days.<br>Receive them into the joy<br>of Your eternal kingdom,<br>where sorrow and pain<br>are no more,<br>and where every tear<br>is wiped away.<br>May they rest in the peace of<br>Christ, and may Your perpetual<br>light shine upon them.<br>Comfort all who mourn their loss,<br>and strengthen our hope in the<br>resurrection, that we, too, may<br>share in the fullness of Your life<br>and love.<br>Through Christ our Lord.<br>Amen. |
| <b>Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Oct</b><br><b>9.15am</b>                                                                                                                                         | <b>Feria</b><br>Oliver Gajdowski (Special Intentions)                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Tues 21<sup>st</sup> Oct</b><br><b>9.15am</b>                                                                                                                                        | <b>Feria</b><br>Miles Jackson (Special Intentions)                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct</b><br><b>9.15am</b>                                                                                                                                         | <b>Feria</b><br>Joan Gardner RIP (Anniversary)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Thur 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct</b><br><b>11.00am</b>                                                                                                                                       | <b>Feria</b><br>Rasad Wadge RIP                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Feria</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Oct</b><br><b>12.00 Noon</b><br><br><b>Vigil Mass</b><br><b>6.00pm</b><br><br><b>Sun 26<sup>th</sup> Oct</b><br><b>8.30am</b><br><b>9.45am</b><br><b>11.30am</b> | <b>Feria</b><br>Baptisms Tsang & Griffiths Families<br><br><b>30<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b><br>Nonya Lau RIP (Recently Deceased)<br><br>People of the Parish<br>Sheila Foley RIP (Anniversary)<br>Deceased Members of the Choir<br><b>Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>CONFESSIONS</b><br><br><b>SATURDAYS 10.30AM – 11.00AM &amp; AFTER THE 6.00PM VIGIL MASS</b>                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |