



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

19TH FEBRUARY 2023

7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)



© Chloe Le Tissier

Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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The Parish Office is open Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 12.30pm.

Telephone: 01582 712245 or email: harpenden@rcdow.org.uk

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twitter: https://twitter.com/rc_olol?lang=en

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

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War and violence is something that we hear all too much about. All we have to do is to listen to the news, to hear of countries at war with each other. When one side is attacked and bombed, the other side immediately strike back with equal if not more destructive force.

In our own daily lives, there are times when someone says or does something to us that is painful. Jesus, today, puts before us the question of what we should do, when this happens to us. Do we return one painful word or action with another? Under Jewish Law, it was permitted to take an eye for an eye. However, as with last week's gospel, Jesus wants his disciples, and us, to go further. As his followers and disciples today, and following his own example, Jesus asks us not to respond with anger, aggression or violence when a wrong is done to us. We are called not to let another person's behaviour towards us give us permission to lash out violently, or verbally. Challenging and difficult as this is, we are to take as our model, the life and actions of Jesus himself. This is the cost of being a Christian.

This may sound naive, unrealistic, even foolish. And while it can be done, it is by no means easy. An example of this is Saint Maximilian Kolbe, who gave his life in a concentration camp for that of another man, and refused to hate those who killed him. By following the example of Jesus, who did not return violence with violence, this man whose life was brutally taken from them, is still remembered today.

We may not be asked to give our lives for the gospel, but we are asked to offer each other the hand of peace, reconciliation and forgiveness.

LENT 2023



Next Wednesday, we begin the Season Lent, 40 days when we are called to prayer, fasting and almsgiving. During these days we are called to deny ourselves, in order to share the life of Jesus more deeply, and to make ourselves ready for our celebration of the great feast of Easter.

The Cardinal writes in today's Pastoral Letter: *"As Lent begins. I write today to give you every possible encouragement to use these weeks of Lent to refresh and deepen your faith. The gift of faith gives our lives an enduring purpose and stability. A faith that is refreshed and deepened helps us to be gracious, steadfast and even robust in every circumstance. Let us heed these words, and use the opportunity of Lent, to deepen and strengthen our faith.*

ASH WEDNESDAY

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. Masses will be celebrated at 9.15am and 6.00pm, and the ashes blessed and distributed at those Masses. Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence, a day when we are asked to eat less than we usually do, and refrain from eating meat.

- **The 9.15am Mass on Ash Wednesday, will be live-streamed.**

Zoom Code 850 7299 6656

FRIDAYS IN LENT

Each Friday of Lent, Mass will be celebrated at 7.00pm, followed by the Stations of the Cross. Friday is the traditional day for 'making the Stations', so attending Mass, and the Stations of the Cross, during Lent, is a positive activity during this season.

LENT GROUPS

As in previous years there will be groups meeting throughout Lent to reflect, share ideas and pray. The sessions this Lent will be based on Praying the Our Father, by Carl E. Olson which is described by one theologian as "the best collection of Lenten reflections she has seen." The booklet is available from CTS Books £3.50 or at the first meeting.

If you have not been part of a group previously, please do consider joining in this year. The groups are friendly and thought-provoking. There are opportunities for sharing ideas but no pressure to do so. There will be groups meeting on some mornings/afternoon and evenings depending on the demand. Please email:- juliaandnigel057@gmail.com or phone 07891083251 with your choice of day, time and contact details.

PASTORAL LETTER

To mark the season of Lent, the Cardinal has written a Pastoral Letter, which will be read at the Masses this weekend. The letter can be read at:

<https://www.catholicchurchharpندن.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Feb-2023-Pastoral-letter-pre-Lent.pdf>

LENTEN ALMS

Traditionally, during Lent, anything that we save through self-denial is donated to the 'Lenten Alms'. Funds raised this year will be shared between the four pillars of the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal: Marriage & Family Life; Youth & Evangelisation; The Education Service and Caritas Westminster. You can place your contributions in the 'box' to the right of Our Lady's Altar, or, if you wish to 'Gift-Aid' your contribution, you can use one of the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal envelopes, which will be found in the porch, and return it to the Parish Office.



SYRIA-TURKEY EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the CAFOD Appeal for Syria and Turkey appeal last weekend, Last weekend £1,019.10 was donated. The numbers of those who have died has now passed 41,000. For those who have survived they have great needs of food, shelter water and warmth. Last week's collection took place without any advance warning. So, this weekend, in view of the gravity of this unprecedented situation, the collection will be made again for those who may still wish to contribute. For those who wish to 'Gift-Aid' their contributions, envelopes are available in the porch.

For more details visit CAFOD's Syria Turkey Emergency Appeal online at <https://cafod.org.uk/give>.

PRAYER REQUESTS

From time to time, there may be a person, or intention, you would like to pray for. If so, there is now a book available, on the table with the gifts, for you write down the prayer intention. The book will be brought up, at those Masses, where there is an offertory procession, and placed on the Altar.

NEWSLETTER

Most parishioners are now receiving the weekly newsletter by email, and this seems to be working well, saving a lot of paper, and expense to. A few copies are placed in the porch each week, for those who may not have email, and these copies are for those people. **So, if you have a computer please do not take a copy of the newsletter.** If you don't presently receive the newsletter by email, but would like to do so, please email your details to the Parish Office.

PARISH AREA REPRESENTATIVES

Following the recent email to parishioners who receive the newsletter, we have received 33 acceptances from people willing to get involved in contacting Catholics in or close to their location. **It's a great start but we need many more.** This will not be an onerous task but simply to say 'hello', perhaps make the occasional telephone call to check on well-being, knock on a door, or just pop a parish newsletter through the letter box, it's all part of our parish mission. Please consider joining the team and help to get to know your neighbour by emailing: dr.harpendenlol@gmail.com



ST DOMINIC NURSERY

FOR ADMISSION SEPTEMBER 2023



On the 30th January 2023, the application process for Nursery places opened for children born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020. Our Early Years provision enables parents to access 30 hours free childcare with Nursery morning sessions running Monday- Friday, 8.45am - 11.45am and an optional Lunch Club run by school and an afternoon Pre-School run by *Friends Together* running from after lunch club until 3.30pm. Wrap around care offered by *Friends Together* also means that care for children is available between 7.50am and 6pm, should this be required. For further information please visit our website www.stdominic.herts.sch.uk to book an appointment to attend our online visit morning on Wednesday 22nd February at 9.30am. Applications close at 3.30pm on 6th March. **Canon Dwyer, will be available to meet parents, to discuss the possibility of signing the Certificate of Catholic Practise (CCP), this Tuesday, 21st February, between 5.30pm and 6.30pm, in the church. Please note that the CCP can only be signed if parents and children children have attended Mass, every Sunday, for the past two years.**

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY 3RD MARCH LENT APPEAL

This Lent, CAFOD is supporting families with the skills and tools they've asked for to fight the climate crisis. In Bangladesh, 14-year-old Dristy and her mum Rupali are building seed beds and planting palm trees to protect their crops from flooding and cyclones. Please give today to help families grow in strength to adapt to the climate crisis. Use the envelope in the porch or give online at cafod.org.uk/lent A second collection will be taken next weekend for CAFOD.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2023

This year's World Day of Prayer will take place on Friday 3rd March. The main Harpenden service will take place at 10.30am at All Saints, Station Road, and there will be a service on Zoom at 7.45pm. This year's service is written by the women of Taiwan with the theme "I have heard about your faith."

The World Day of Prayer raises around £250,000 each year in the UK for distribution to charity - visit www.wwdp.org.uk for details or to make a donation. For more information on the Harpenden services please see the postcards in the porch.



ST PATRICK'S DAY LUNCH.

This very popular annual event will be on Friday 17th March at 12 noon in the Undercroft. Tickets will be on sale from next weekend and will cost £15 for a welcome drink, a traditional Irish lunch and an Irish coffee with barmbrack. Proceeds will go to Sister Margaret's Barcelona Settlement.



PARISH EVENTS DATES FOR THE DIARY

EASTER CONCERT

Performance of a new cantata, written in the wake of the pandemic and in gratitude to the NHS this will be held on

SATURDAY 25TH MARCH at 3PM

Tickets will be available for this concert in due course but please save the date. It is in the afternoon to encourage a large audience - to include children, families and those unable to attend evening concerts so readily.

It will last for approximately 1.5 hours with refreshments served afterwards.

STRAWBERRY SOCIAL

in the Presbytery Garden.

Sunday 18th June at 3pm



ANNUAL MASS FOR MATRIMONY

The annual Mass for Matrimony at the Cathedral will be celebrated by the Cardinal on Saturday 13th May at 2.30pm for all couples celebrating a significant Wedding Anniversaries. If you would like to attend please send your details into the Parish Office, please include the date you were married, and contact details.



LOURDES HALL SOUTHDOWN ROAD HARPENDEN

Available for Hire, and for one off Parties for more details contact

Caretaker: Mr Simon Lowe

Mobile: 07859 943 348

Email: harpendenct@rcdow.org.uk

MASS INTENTIONS NEXT WEEK

Sat 18th Feb 6.00pm	feria 7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Frank McConnachie RIP (Anniversary)
Sun 19th Feb 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Fr Jeremy Davies RIP People of the Parish Peter Vasquez RIP (Anniv) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568.
Mon 20th Feb 9.15am	feria Dominican Sisters (Special Intention)
Tues 21st Feb 9.15am	feria Tommy Doran (Special Intention)



Wed 22nd Feb 9.15am 6.00pm	ASH WEDNESDAY Tommy Doran RIP Zoom Code 850 7299 6656 Francis Dooley-Donnelly RIP (Recently Deceased)
Thur 23rd Feb 11.00am	Lent feria Denis Mann RIP (Anniversary)
Fri 24th Feb	Lent feria
Sat 25th Feb 12.00 Noon 6.00pm	Lent feria Baptism Bonwick Family 1st SUNDAY OF LENT (A) Caitriona Kelly RIP Confirmation Enrolment Mass
Sun 26th Feb 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	1st SUNDAY OF LENT (A) Nora O'Leary RIP (Recently Deceased) People of the Parish Bridget Flanagan RIP (Anniversary) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568.

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