



Contactless
Giving

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

19TH JULY 2026

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)



© Chloe Le Tissier

Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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Today, we hear Jesus telling the familiar parable of the wheat and the weeds growing together in the same field. The servants want to pull up the weeds immediately, but the farmer wisely tells them to wait until the harvest, lest they uproot the wheat as well. It is a story about patience, mercy, and trust in God's timing.

We may sometimes wish life were simpler, with a clear distinction between good and evil. Yet Jesus reminds us that the world, and indeed our own hearts, are more complicated. There is goodness to nurture and there are weeds that need attention, but God does not give up on the field because of the weeds. Instead, he patiently works for a harvest that will reveal the full fruit of his grace.

This Gospel, also challenges us to resist becoming judges of others. It is tempting to focus on another person's faults while overlooking our own need for God's mercy. The Lord sees far more deeply than we ever can. He knows what is growing beneath the surface, the struggles that are hidden, and the possibilities for conversion that we cannot yet see.

As our parish enters the quieter weeks of summer, this Gospel invites us to be patient—with ourselves, with one another, and with God's work among us. A kind word, an act of forgiveness, or a quiet prayer may seem small, yet these are the seeds from which God's kingdom grows.

Rather than becoming discouraged by the weeds we see in the world, let us continue to cultivate the wheat: faith, hope, charity, and perseverance. Trusting in the Lord of the harvest, we can be confident that his justice is always guided by mercy, and that, in the end, goodness will have the final word.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

As we approach the summer holidays, no doubt many will be looking forward to some rest and relaxation, or, at the very least, a change of pace. By this time next week, all of the schools will have closed, and hopefully it will be a restful and relaxing time. As the schools close we are conscious of the great work that goes on within them, and particularly in St Dominic's, our parish school. At the end of another busy year, and one in which the schools excellent work in religious education, was acknowledged by the RE Inspectors, it is a moment to congratulate the pupils on their efforts, and to thank all of the staff for what they do in the service of our school, as well as other schools. Hopefully, the coming weeks will provide an opportunity for that much-needed peace and quiet.

FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION 2027

With First Communion and Confirmation now complete for this year, so the task continues. Preparation for First Communion and Confirmation will commence in the autumn. For First Communion, children should be in year 3 and above, from September. For Confirmation, preparation is for young people in year 9 and above, from September. Registration forms, for both Sacraments can be collected after Mass today. Parents can collect the First Communion form, and young people, for Confirmation, should collect in person. It is expected that those seeking to be prepared, are from practicing Catholic families, i.e. attending Mass every Sunday. When complete, the forms should be returned to the Parish Office with a Baptismal Certificate, unless Baptised at

Our Lady of Lourdes. **All forms to be returned by 25th July.**

CELEBRATION MASS AND PARTY FOR FATHER MICHAEL'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY 19TH JULY 12PM TILL 2PM

St John Fisher and St Thomas More parishes are delighted to join together in celebrating this incredible achievement and to show our appreciation. Father Michael will celebrate Mass with music at St John Fisher at 11am which will be followed by food and refreshments in the Parish Room afterwards. We welcome all parishioners, Father's friends and his family.

CAFOD-DEC

VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

Thank you to everyone that donated to the emergency appeal from CAFOD £1,300 has been donated and sent off to CAFOD. If you were unable to donate last weekend and would still like to support the appeal, it is not too late. Please place your CAFOD envelope in the Parish Office, and we will ensure your donation is forwarded.

STRAWBERRY SOCIAL

Thank you to all the parishioners for welcoming us so warmly at the Strawberry Social on Sunday 5th July. We are deeply grateful for the generous £500 donation to the Harpenden Contact Centre. A special thank you to Marva and the Ladies Group for organising such a lovely event and for hosting us. Her support made everything run very smoothly. If you know someone who may benefit from our service, or if you're interested in volunteering, we would love to hear from you.

[The Harpenden Child Contact Centre](#)

ANGELA WALSH RIP 1930-2026

It is with sadness that we report the death of our former parishioner Angela, who passed away peacefully on 11th July. Please remember her in your prayers. The funeral will be held in Chester, where she was living.

PATRICK JOYCE RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Patrick Joyce who died recently. Patrick's Funeral details will follow shortly.

EDWIN KEMP RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Edwin Kemp who died recently. Edwin's Requiem Mass will be on 30th July at 10.00am.

LIVESIMPLY



The Big Butterfly Count takes place from 17th July – 9th August. The LiveSimply Environment Group will be hosting a Butterfly Walk on Sunday August 2nd at 2.30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come along and see how many different species of butterfly we can spot! We will be meeting at Roundwood Halt on the Nickey Line.

A DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP

SAVE THE DATE

DWG QUIZ NIGHT

The very popular DWG annual quiz will be held on **17th October** in Lourdes Hall. Tickets will go on sale during September.



LOST PROPERTY

If you have left anything in church over the past few weeks, please check the Lost Property Box on the table outside the Repository. Any unclaimed items after next weekend will be donated to charity or disposed of.

FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday and Thursday this week for annual leave. Any notices for the Newsletter please email the Parish office by lunchtime on Tuesday Thank You.



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.

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-](https://www.catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Parishioners-Registration-Form-2025.pdf)

[content/uploads/2025/11/Parishioners-Registration-Form-2025.pdf](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

BEDS & HERTS BIKE 'N' HIKE

This annual sponsored Bike 'n' Hike takes place on Saturday 12th September from 9am to 5pm.

Have fun visiting over 600 churches and chapels, raise funds for our Church and help save other churches in Beds and Herts. For more information and sponsor packs please scan the QR code on the poster on the noticeboard in Church.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 18th July Vigil Mass 6.00pm Sunday 19th July 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	Feria 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Joyce Martin RIP (Anniversary) Rob Powell RIP (Recently Deceased) People of the Parish Thanksgiving Mass for the Choir from the Hammond Family Zoom Code 883 7014 5568	PLEASE PRAY FOR: Anniversaries Joyce Martin RIP Rita Dooley RIP Recently Deceased Rob Powell 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.
Monday 20th July 9.15am	Feria Sr. Mary Ngan Nguyen OP (Special Intention)	
Tuesday 21st July 9.15am	Feria Jack Powell (Special Intentions)	
Wednesday 22nd July 9.15am	ST MARY MAGDALENE Rita Dooley RIP (Anniversary)	
Thursday 23rd July 11.00am	ST BRIDGET OF SWEDEN, Religious, Patron of Europe Andy Nolan RIP	
Friday 24th July	Feria	
Saturday 25th July 12.00 Noon Vigil Mass 6.00pm Sunday 26th July 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	ST JAMES, Apostle Baptism Yasotharan Family 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Annie Carey RIP (Recently Deceased) People of the Parish Karol Gajewski RIP (Anniversary) Andrew Supple RIP (Recently Deceased) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568	