

# OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2026

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (A)



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On the Second Sunday of Lent each year, we are led up the mountain with Peter, James and John, and we witness the Transfiguration of the Lord. There, in the quiet, and apart from the crowds, they witness the Transfiguration. Jesus is changed before them; his clothes become dazzling white; and for a brief moment his hidden glory shines through. They see not only the teacher they have been following, but the beloved Son of God. They hear Jesus marked out as ‘...my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.’

This extraordinary moment comes soon after Jesus has spoken plainly about suffering, rejection and the cross. The disciples are troubled and confused. The Transfiguration is given to strengthen their faith. Before they face the scandal of Calvary, they are allowed to glimpse the truth: that beyond suffering lies glory, and that the path of self-giving love leads to life.

Peter, caught up in the wonder of it all, wants to hold on to the moment: “Rabbi, it is wonderful for us to be here.” We recognise that desire. We, too, treasure moments of light – a deep sense of God’s presence in prayer, a joyful family celebration, a time when faith feels strong and clear. Yet the voice from the cloud does not tell them to remain there. Instead, it says, “Listen to him.” The heart of discipleship is not clinging to consoling experiences, but trusting and obeying Jesus in every season.

Lent is our invitation to climb the mountain through prayer, fasting and generosity. In doing so, we allow Christ to reveal more of himself to us. But we are always sent back down into daily life – to our homes, workplaces and communities. During this Lenten journey, may we listen more attentively to the Lord, follow him more faithfully, and carry the quiet light of his presence into whatever valleys we must walk.

## LENT 2026

### SEASON OF LENT

As we began Lent on Ash Wednesday, so we are invited to walk more closely with Jesus Christ on the path to the Cross and the promise of new life. Through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we open our hearts to God's transforming grace. This Lent, consider:

- Setting aside time each day for Scripture reading and quiet prayer
- Participating in Mass more frequently
- Attending Stations of the Cross – 7.00pm each Wednesday
- Reaching out in charity to someone in need
- Joining a parish or diocesan Lenten retreat

May this sacred season renew our faith, strengthen our hope, and deepen our love as we prepare to celebrate the joy of Easter.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Stations of the Cross are a long-established practise, which lead us through the last, momentous and sad events of Our Lord's life. **Each Wednesday of Lent, at 7.00pm**, the Stations take place in church. Do think about participating, and of being reminded of the journey that Jesus made to Calvary, out of love for every one of us.

### LENT REFLECTION GROUPS 2026

The groups have started, but it's not too late to join. This year we will be following the programme 'Enlarging the Space of Our Tent'. As in past years, these will be friendly, faith sharing groups following a shared theme. Please contact Teresa Newham or myself, Julia Roche, if you would like to join a group.

[email:-juliaandnigel057@gmail.com](mailto:juliaandnigel057@gmail.com) OR [marbretherese@googlemail.com](mailto:marbretherese@googlemail.com)

### LENTEN ALMS

It is customary during Lent to donate, what is saved by self-denial, to the Lenten Alms. As in recent years, the Lenten Alms will be donated to our Diocese. Any funds donated will be used to support key areas of the Diocese' Mission, such as youth and evangelisation, Social Action, Education and Family Life. Contributions can be made via the box, to the right of Our Lady's altar. Envelopes, for contributions, will be found in the porch, and can be returned to Parish Office.

### CAFOD LENT FAMILY FAST DAY FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

Last Friday was CAFOD Lent Fast Day, when we were asked to deny ourselves in some way, and to show solidarity and support to some of the poorest people in our world. Anything you were able to save will be collected after Mass today. To 'Gift-Aid' your contribution please use a CAFOD envelope.

## MEET THE ARCHBISHOP

This coming Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, we have the opportunity to meet, and welcome, our new Archbishop, Richard Moth. Archbishop Richard is keen to meet the priests and people of the Diocese, as soon as is possible. For this reason, he will be celebrating six Masses in different parts of the Diocese, in the coming weeks. The Mass for St Albans Deanery, of which we are a part, will take place with Watford Deanery, **next Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, at 6.30pm, at Our Lady & St Michael's Church, Crown Rise, Garston, WD25 0NE. Everyone is very welcome at this Mass, and, hopefully, Harpenden will be well represented.** If you cannot attend in Garston, you are very welcome at any of the other Masses. For details please contact the Parish Office.

## ST PATRICK'S DAY LUNCH.

This very popular annual event will be on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March from 12 noon in the Undercroft. Tickets, priced £15, will be on sale after all the Masses this weekend and will include a welcome drink, a traditional Irish meal and Irish coffee with barnbrack. Proceeds will go to the Barcelona Project in South Africa.

## COME AND SEE

The Church continues to be very much in need of Vocations to the Priesthood and Diaconate. For any men who may be interested in the diaconate or priesthood, there are two forthcoming opportunities to reflect on these possibilities:

- Saturday 14 March, 12 noon- 3.30pm - St Bonaventure's Church Hall - 81 Parkway, Welwyn Garden City AL8 6JF (A short walk from Welwyn Garden City Station.)

Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided. To find out more and to register your attendance at one of the days, please contact: Canon Roger Taylor - Vocations Promoter [rogertaylor@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rogertaylor@rcdow.org.uk) or Deacon Tito Pereira – Assistant Director Permanent Diaconate 07977 599110 or [titopereira@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:titopereira@rcdow.org.uk).

**FOR THE YOUTH OF THE PARISH**  
The Next Youth Friendly Mass & Youth Group will be on **THIS Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 6.00pm.**



## PATRICIA BROOKMAN RIP

We remember Patricia Brookman in our prayers who has gone home to the Lord. Patricia's Requiem Mass will be on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 11.00am. We extend our heartfelt condolences to their families and loved ones.

## MUSIC FOR LENT

The Cathedral Choir and the Britten Sinfonia will perform a concert of reflection on the ancient Marian hymn, *Stabat Mater*, contemplating the sorrow of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the foot of the Cross. Two musical pieces will be performed: MacMillan's *Stabat Mater*, and Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis*. The concert will take place on Wednesday 18 March at 6.45pm in Westminster Cathedral. To include as many as possible from parishes in the Diocese, the Cathedral is offering

tickets at a discount of 50%. Discounted tickets are available in Sections A, B and N at the following link, using the password below:

<https://www.ticketmaster.co.uk/event/1F00638BCD835BA6?did=50off> Password: WCSBDO. The performance will begin with Sir James MacMillan in conversation with Fr Patrick van der Vorst, the Cathedral Precentor, and founder of [Christian Art](#).

## REPOSITORY

### EASTER CARDS AND BOOKS

The repository now stocks a wide selection of Easter cards and children's books, together with cards for Mother's Day and St Patrick's Day. Come and see our stock before you go to the High Street. A further supply of Day by Day books for Lent is also available in the repository, price £1.20.

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The 2026 Harpenden World Day of Prayer service will take place on Friday 6th March at 11am at St Nicholas's Church. This year's service is written by the Christian women of Nigeria with the theme "I will give you rest, come".

The Harpenden service will be live-streamed on Zoom for those unable to attend in person. Orders of service for anyone joining the live-stream will be available to collect from the High Street Methodist Church from 23rd February (Monday - Thursday 10am - 12 noon). The World Day of Prayer raises around £150,000 each year in the UK for distribution to charity - visit [www.wwdp.org.uk](http://www.wwdp.org.uk) for details or to make a donation. For more information on the Harpenden service and how to access the live-stream please see the postcards in the porch.

## DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP AND LIVE SIMPLY 'SPRING CLEAN' SUNDAY 19TH APRIL AT LOURDES HALL BETWEEN 12 NOON AND 4.30PM.

Enjoy A 'Spring Clean' And Help to Empower Young People in Africa. Details of the wanted items are listed in our church entrance and attached to the Newsletter email. These items will be refurbished by WORKAID and sent to Africa to help with the vocational training of young people. If an item is too large for you to transport we can come and collect it. Please email [Elizabeth.hines@gmail.com](mailto:Elizabeth.hines@gmail.com) or phone/text: 07905 797729



## FAMILY MASS MUSIC

Children at the 9:45am Family Mass are invited to join the music group for the final hymn. After the announcements, head to the back of the church with your hymn book—helpers will hand out percussion instruments. First Holy Communion children should stay with their catechists and sing extra loudly! Singers and instrumentalists are always welcome—regularly or ad hoc. Speak to us after Mass or contact Catherine Roche: [catherine2.roche@gmail.com](mailto:catherine2.roche@gmail.com).



**ST DOMINIC'S SCHOOL  
NURSERY, YEAR 1 and YEAR2 -  
PLACES AVAILABLE**

St Dominic Catholic Primary School has spaces available in the nursery, year 1 and year 2 Classes for the current academic year and welcomes enquiries from parents St Dominic's has recently been assessed by OFSTED and rated as OUTSTANDING.

**NURSERY OPEN MORNINGS**

Please contact the school office on 01582 760047, for more information or to book a place on the tours.

**Nursey applications open on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026 and close on the 2nd March 2026**

**PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM:**

Celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation in Walsingham on **Wednesday 25th March!** Join our coach from **St Bartholomew's, St Albans** at 7:45 am for a day of pilgrimage: **Holy Mass** at 12 noon in the Basilica, **Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction**, and a walk or ride along the **Holy Mile** to the original Holy House to pray the Prayer for England.

**Cost:** £27 adults, free for children.

Please contact Rosemary Roscoe  
07723 546642

[Rosemary.roscoe@gmail.com](mailto:Rosemary.roscoe@gmail.com) or

Margaret Leahy

[margleahy@gmail.com](mailto:margleahy@gmail.com) 01727 763832

for further details.

There will be pick-ups in Hatfield and Letchworth.

**ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR  
THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY  
WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL, SATURDAY  
23RD MAY 2026 AT 2:30PM.**

The Archbishop is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary



of Catholic marriage in 2026. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your parish office the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and contact email (or telephone number, if no email), by 19<sup>th</sup> April. Closer to the time, the Agency for Evangelisation will send out an invitation from the Archbishop.

**FROM THE PARISH OFFICE**

Any notices for the Newsletter please email the Parish office by lunchtime on Wednesday

Thank You.



**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.catholicchurchharpندن.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Parishioners-Registration-Form-2025.pdf>

Completed forms can be emailed or posted into the Parish Office.

[harpندن@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:harpندن@rcdow.org.uk)

**KEYSTAGE HOUSING APPEAL**

Keystage Housing urgently need clean single and regular double duvets (no large stains or rips). Pillows, sheets, duvet covers, and towels are also welcome. To donate, contact Cathy Seaton at [cmann100@hotmail.com](mailto:cmann100@hotmail.com).

**NOAH APPEAL**

Winter coats, hats, and socks are still needed. Please place donations in the BLUE bin in the church courtyard.

Thank you in advance for your generosity to supporting Noah & Keystage Housing.

## MASS INTENTIONS

<p><b>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February</b> 12.00 Noon</p> <p><b>Youth Friendly Mass</b> <b>Vigil Mass 6.00pm</b> <b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March</b> 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p><b>Lent Feria</b> Baptism McClean Family</p> <p><b>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (A)</b> Fr Raymond Pesez RIP</p> <p>People of the Parish Gillian Scarlett (Special Intentions) Linda Dwyer RIP (Anniversary) <b>Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</b></p>	<p><b>PLEASE PRAY FOR:</b></p> <p><b>Newly Baptised</b> Heavenly Father, Bless Angus and Alastair as they begin their journey of faith. May they grow in Your love and always walk in Your light. <b>Amen.</b></p>
<p><b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March</b> 9.15am</p>	<p><b>Lent Feria</b> Private Intentions</p>	<p><b>Recently Deceased</b> Malcolm Payne RIP</p>
<p><b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March</b> 9.15am</p>	<p><b>Lent Feria</b> Malcolm Payne RIP (Recently Deceased)</p>	<p><b>RIP Anniversaries</b> Linda Dwyer RIP JJ Murphy RIP Maureen Murphy RIP Patricia Murphy RIP</p>
<p><b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March</b> 11.00am 7.00pm</p>	<p><b>Lent Feria</b> Requiem Mass Patricia Brookman Stations of the Cross</p>	<p><b>Prayer for the Faithful Departed</b> Loving God, we remember those who have died, especially those whose anniversaries we honour. Comfort the grieving, grant peace to the souls of the faithful departed, and bring us all to the joy of eternal life with You. <b>Amen.</b></p>
<p><b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March</b> 11.00am</p>	<p><b>Lent Feria</b> JJ Maureen Patricia Murphy RIP (Anniv)</p>	
<p><b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March</b></p>	<p><b>Lent Feria</b></p>	
<p><b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March</b> 12.00 Noon</p> <p><b>Vigil Mass 6.00pm</b> <b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March</b> 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p><b>Lent Feria</b> Baptism Elbourne Family</p> <p><b>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (A)</b> Efrain Gonzalez RIP (Recently Deceased)</p> <p>Josie Penfold RIP People of the Parish Willie Dwyer RIP (Recently Deceased) <b>Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</b></p>	

### CONFESSIONS

**SATURDAYS 10.30AM – 11.00AM & AFTER THE 6.00PM VIGIL MASS**