Contactless Giving

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

ALL SAINTS YEAR A
1ST NOVEMBER 2026



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What is holiness? As we celebrate the feast of All Saints, it is a question worth asking ourselves. We honour the saints because their lives reveal something of God's goodness and love. Yet they were not all extraordinary people who lived remarkable lives. Many were ordinary people who, in their own circumstances, tried to follow Christ faithfully.

So, what is holiness for me?

The Gospel offers us a starting point. Jesus speaks of the poor in spirit, the gentle, the merciful, those who hunger for what is right, and those who make peace. These Beatitudes describe the qualities we recognise in the saints. They show us that holiness is not about being admired or achieving great things, but about allowing Christ to shape the way we live.

The saints followed different paths. Some served the poor, others cared for the sick, taught the faith, or gave their lives for what they believed. Many lived lives of quiet goodness, showing extraordinary love through ordinary acts of kindness. Their example reminds us that holiness is possible for each of us, whatever our circumstances.

Perhaps we have known people whose lives have helped us understand this: a parent, a friend, a neighbour, or someone in our parish whose faithfulness and generosity have touched us. They may never be officially recognised as saints, but they have shown us something of what holiness means.

The saints are not simply people to admire; they are people whose example encourages us to follow Christ more closely. They remind us that we do not have to be perfect, but we do have to be willing to grow in love.

As we celebrate All Saints, let us ask ourselves: What is holiness for me? What might I change, forgive, or give more generously so that Christ becomes more visible in my life?

With God's grace, each of us is called to become a saint.

PARISH CELEBRATION



Next Sunday, we look forward to celebrating the recent Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Stephen Wang. Bishop Stephen will be the principal celebrant, at the 11.30am Mass next Sunday. After Mass, there will be a celebration in St Dominic' School. Everyone, of course, is very welcome at both the Mass, and the reception afterwards. If you plan to attend the reception, and, or, if you can contribute food for the refreshments, please sign the list in the porch.

REFRESHMENTS FOR THE CELEBRATION

If you are bringing refreshments to share for the celebration next Sunday, these can be **dropped off on the day at the 9.45am Mass,** where members of the Ladies' Group will kindly transport them to St Dominic's School.

Alternatively, **St Dominic's School will be open from 10.45am** for you to drop off your contributions directly.

Please bear in mind that there may be road closures due to the Remembrance Service on Church Green, so allow extra time for your journey.

Many thanks for your generosity and support!

MONTH OF NOVEMBER – PRAYING FOR THE HOLY SOULS

During the month of November, we especially remember and pray for all our deceased loved ones — the Holy Souls. Parishioners are invited to collect a Holy Souls sheet and envelope from the porch of the Church. Please write the names of your deceased family members and friends on the sheet, place it in the envelope provided, and return it with your offering to the Parish Office, by posting it through the **Presbytery Letterbox** or handing it in to the **Parish Office**. All names received will be included in the **Masses offered for the Holy Souls during November**.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the Repose of the Souls of Zita McGuinness and Thomas Parrott who both died recently.

Funeral details for Zita McGuinness

Zita's Requiem Mass will be held next Thursday 5th November at 1.00pm.

NB: Please note there will be no 11am Mass on Thursday

Funeral details for Thomas Parrott

Requiem Mass will be held on Tuesday 10th November at 10.30am and a memorial service will follow at 1.30pm.

LORRETTA RAMSWELL'S RIP

Lorretta Ramswell, wife of long deceased parishioner John Ramswell funeral service will be held on Monday 9th November, 11.00am at All Saints Church, Harpenden Lorretta would have been known to many as a founder of the Harpenden Child Contact Centre.

CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY

We recently marked CAFOD Harvest Fast Day, when we were asked to deny ourselves in some way, and so show solidarity with those, in the world, who have so little. £1,040 has been donated so far. If you would still like to contribute, it is not too late to do so. Contributions can be left in the Parish Office, and don't forget to use a CAFOD envelope if you wish to 'Gift-Aid' your donation. We will be sending off your contributions this week.

RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

When we attend Mass, we gather as a community, and broadly speaking, we all do the same things at the same time, whether it is kneeling, standing or sitting. When it comes to receiving Holy Communion, our custom is that we receive standing, on the hand or the tongue. One bishop writes: "disrupting this moment only diminishes this powerful symbolic expression, by which the faithful in processing together express their faith that they are called to become the very Body of Christ they receive." Reverence, is of course, important, and he continues: "reverence can and should be expressed by bowing before the reception of holy Communion, but no one should engage in a gesture that calls attention to oneself or disrupts the flow of the procession,"

YOUTH MATTERS

The next Youth Friendly Mass and Youth Group take place next Saturday 7th November at 6pm.

CHECK FIRST

Most of you will be aware that space on our notice boards is very limited! Choices have to be made as to what is displayed. If you have a poster that you think should be displayed, please hand it is to the parish office. Do not display it, without checking first.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

We are looking for a volunteer who could spare a little time each week to help our Parish. It is not an arduous task and would be a lovely way to offer a little of your time in service to our Parish community. If you feel you might be able to help, please have a word with Canon Anthony after Mass. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

TUTOR NEEDED

A Tutor is needed to assist a young person in preparing for the Cambridge English exam. If you are interested, please contact Canon Dwyer.



PARISH CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Parish Christmas Fair will be in **Saturday 5th December from 12 noon – 3pm at Lourdes Hall.**

We would be grateful for donations of bottles, books, gifts, toys, red and white items, jewellery, raffle prizes and bric-a-brac which can be left in the church porch or parish office.

Nearer the time we will be collecting cakes. Raffle tickets will be on sale after all the masses from 7th/8th November.

Lots of volunteers are needed to set up on Friday 4th December from 4-6pm, run the stalls and clear up on Saturday 5th November. Please contact Pauline (07803 710 637, pmlmann@hotmail.com) if you

are able to help, even if just for an hour or two. All volunteers are welcome.

LIVESIMPLY QUOTE

In his Papal Encyclical, Laudato si, Pope Francis referred to his predecessor Pope Benedict XVI who urged us to realise that creation is harmed "where we ourselves have the final word, where everything is simply our property and we use it for ourselves alone. The misuse of creation begins when we no longer recognise any higher instance than ourselves, when we see nothing else but ourselves."

RECEPTION SCHOOL FORMS

It's that time of year when applications are being made for places in Reception. Parents who require the Certificate of Catholic Practise to be signed, or other confirmation of Mass attendance, can meet with Canon Dwyer on **Wednesday 2nd December in Church from 5.30pm – 6.30pm.**

ACCOUNTS

Each year the parish submit their accounts to the Diocese. If you are interested in knowing some more about what your money is spent on, you will find details on the parish website. As details of the accounts are shared, it is an opportunity to thank everyone who faithfully contributes to the support of the parish. You will find the accounts, for the year ended 31st December 2025 at https://www.catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk/olol-financial-results/

LIVESIMPLY A REPAIR FAIR AT OLOL!

A big thank you to all those parishioners who brought items to the St Albans Fixers' Fair at Lourdes Hall last Saturday. So far we have raised over £128 in donations, to be shared between the church and the fixers.

CATENIAN NEWS

Upcoming Catenian Events

The **next men's meeting is on 11th Nov** at Harpenden Golf Club. There will be Mass at 7pm, celebrated by Canon Anthony to remember deceased members and friends and families of all those present. There is something very special about holding Mass in a small room. This will be followed by a convivial dinner. All men of the parish are welcome to attend, subject to numbers. The meal cost including wine is £35. Please email dennis@denniscooper.uk by the 4th Nov to book your place.

Our Christmas gathering is on the 9th December and is open to all members of the parish, family, and friends. In addition to enjoying dinner and singing carols, the CEO of Friends of the Holy Land will speak to us about life in this part of the world, which seems entirely appropriate in this season of Christmas. Please make a note in your diaries and begin to think about who will make up your table of 8's or 10's.

WAITROSE SHOPPERS – ST DOMINIC'S



St Dominic's School is now in the Community Matters Boxes at the checkouts of Waitrose Harpenden. If you shop there, please pick up a few green tokens at the checkout and pop them in the St Dom's pot. This show of support will enable the school to buy valuable new resources,

namely library books & IT equipment. Every token counts so thank you!

MASS WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION TO CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Welwyn Garden City, invites you to a Mass with special attention to children and adults with additional needs, to be celebrated by Fr. Norbert Fernandes on Saturday, 21 November 2026 at 6:00pm, followed by refreshments, Bingo, Raffles, Quiz and Karaoke in the Trinity hall after Mass . All are most welcome, particularly parishioners and visitors with additional needs, together with their families, friends and carers.

PART-TIME SITE SUPERVISOR VACANCY

The parish of St Alban & St Stephen (next to St Albans's City Station) are looking for a part-time site supervisor to work Monday-Friday 8am - 11am. The successful candidate will play a key role in the care and upkeep of the parish complex. Working independently, as well as with volunteers and contractors, you will help ensure that the site is maintained to a high standard and that health and safety requirements are met. An application form and full job description can be found at https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/site-supervisor-job-ref-895-stals/ Closing date for applications is 11th November. Interviews on 17th November.

FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office is open Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 12.30pm. Any notices for the Newsletter please email the Parish office by lunchtime on Wednesdays.



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.
https://www.catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk/category/welcome/

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/2025/11/Parishioners-Registration-Form-2025.pdf
Completed forms can be emailed or posted into the Parish Office.
harpenden@rcdow.org.uk

NATIVITY JOURNEY AT WINTERSHALL

Will be performed from the 15th to the 20th of December 2026. Attendees can discover the true meaning of Christmas with an unforgettable immersive event for all the family. They stand with the shepherds, walk with Mary, Joseph and the donkey, journey with Roman soldiers and enter the stable to watch the miracle unfold. Tickets can be booked here:
https://www.wintershall.org.uk/event/the-nativity-journey/
A short introductory video is available here:
https://youtu.be/xoAFCjrJC88?si=ocGQrvQq3dylr5CN

A DAY WITH MARY is taking place at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 7th November 2026 (9.45am to 5.00pm). The Most Reverend Richard Moth, Archbishop of Westminster will be the Celebrant & Preacher at 10.30am Cathedral Mass on

that day. Further information is available at https://www.adaywithmary.org/

HARPENDEN EVENING FLORAL GROUP
You are invited to a special floral demonstration with Coral Gardiner, 'Tree-mendous Christmas' on Thursday 12th November, doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm start. Place: Katherine Warington School. Tickets are £18 in advance by email or payable on the door. For more information email: harpendeneveningfloralgroup@outlook.com

SPACe
Have you been to SPACe? That's Southdown Performing Arts Centre. www.southdownspace.org It is open again after stage 1 of refurbishing and now has an extra toilet and disabled access via a ramp. There is a full programme of events including popular First Friday entertainment with tea and cakes; Jazz; Gilbert and Sullivan; Jeckyll and Hyde and Christmas Carol. Find further details and tickets on the website, flyers at the back of church or through Margaret Cox. SPACe is also seeking to employ a Performing Arts Pioneer.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 31st October **12.00 Noon** **Vigil Mass 6.00pm** **Sunday 1st November** **8.30am** **9.45am** **11.30am**	**Feria** Baptism Cox & Watson Families **ALL SAINTS (A)** Maureen Jack RIP (Anniversary) Johanna Gregory RIP People of the Parish Marie & Michael Walker (Golden Wedding) **Zoom Code 883 7014 5568**	**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** **Prayer for the Newly Baptised** Heavenly Father, bless these newly baptised children and guide them always in Your love. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.** **Anniversaries** Maureen Jack RIP Steve Pattrick RIP **Recently Deceased** Maura Higgins RIP **Prayer for the Holy Souls** Heavenly Father, during this month of November, we remember in a special way all the faithful departed, especially our family members, friends and those who have no one to pray for them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace and rise in glory. **Amen.**
Monday 2nd November **9.15am**	**ALL SOULS DAY** Maura Higgins RIP (Recently Deceased)	
Tuesday 3rd November **9.15am**	**Feria** Holy Souls	
Wednesday 4th Nov **9.15am**	**St Charles Borromeo, Bishop** Steve Pattrick RIP (Anniversary)	
Thursday 5th November **11.00am** **1.00pm**	**Feria** **NO MASS** Requiem Mass Zita McGuinness	
Friday 6th November	**Feria**	
Saturday 7th November **Youth Friendly Mass** **Vigil Mass 6.00pm** **Sunday 8th November** **8.30am** **9.45am** **10.45am** **11.30am**	**Feria** **32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)** People of the Parish Holy Souls Luke Kealy RIP (Anniversary) Church Green Remembrance Service Deceased of 2 World Ward & Other Conflicts **Zoom Code 883 7014 5568**	