



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

21ST MAY 2023

7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (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.

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

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

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The gospel today, may seem that Jesus is 'doing' nothing. He is not healing anyone or working a miracle. He is not in the temple, synagogue or market place teaching or speaking to the crowds. He may not even be with his disciples; it seems that he is on his own. What he is doing is talking to God - Jesus is praying, and he is praying for us! Have you ever thought of that; that Jesus actually prays for us?

Why would he need or want to do this? As the men and women who were his closest friends and followers begin to tell others about Jesus and the Kingdom he prays for them because they need all the help and support they can get! This is part of a prayer which asks God to guide, lead and encourage them so that they may be one. This is a prayer asking for unity, and community, for the friends and disciples of Jesus. If they are to be fruitful and effective in their mission and ministry, they need to stay and work together. They can't be witnesses to Jesus by working on their own.

This prayer is meant for us today too. While we have a personal relationship with God and Jesus, we are also part of our parish, and the wider and bigger Church; we are part of the Body of Christ. Our mission today is much the same as that of the early church. Today we are called to be active in living our daily lives as followers of Jesus and doing all we can to promote and build God's kingdom. We can't do this on our own; we too need God's and each other's help, support and encouragement, just as we need the prayer of Jesus.

BE WELCOMING !

St Paul encourages us: 'welcome one another, as Christ has welcomed you'. Our parish is a welcoming parish and, as many of you indicated in the parish survey, your hope is that it will become even more welcoming. Last weekend some of you indicated your willingness to assist with welcoming at Mass. The task is simple, arrive 15 minutes early, distribute Mass and hymn books, arrange the collection and the Offertory Procession, and greet everyone as they arrive. Thank you to everyone who volunteered, if you would be willing to join a rota, to assist as a welcomer, please sign the list in the porch.

PRIESTS TRAINING FUND

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Priests Training Fund, to date £2,114.00 has been donated. As this is a very important collection, one of the few that you can experience the fruits of, the fund will remain open for another few weeks, so if you haven't had the opportunity to do so, you can still give your support, contributions can be dropped into the Parish Office. If you wish to 'gift-Aid' your contribution, please use one of the envelopes, that will be found in the porch.

FIRST COMMUNION

This weekend we have the second of our two First Communion celebrations, when a further 26 children, will receive Jesus, in Holy Communion, for the first time. This is such a special day for the children, their families and catechists, and the whole parish community. Let us keep the children in our prayers, as they receive the gift of the Eucharist.



GOOD NEIGHBOURS

Our 'Good Neighbours' are now at work! Hopefully, many of you have had a message, through your door, telling you who your local good neighbour is. The purpose of having good neighbours, in each area of the parish, is very simple. It can be just a friendly 'hello' or perhaps providing reassurance, knowing that you have a neighbour to contact should you need help in any way. Maybe you are not always able to attend Mass, so would

appreciate receiving a parish newsletter, or other information about parish life. It is nothing more than living our faith, by being Good Neighbours to each other.

MARY'S MONTH HONOURING MARY

By tradition, during May, we honour Mary, our Mother. And it's good to honour Mary, perhaps to pray the Rosary alone, after Mass, or as a family.



KATHY HINSON RIP

This week we heard from Kathy Hinson's son Mark, that she passed away at the age of 95. Mark went on to say that he knows she took great comfort from attending church on Sunday mornings when she was able. May she Rest in Peace.

PARISH HOMELESSNESS ACTION GROUP

A huge thank you to everyone involved in organising, performing or watching the Sing For Concert on Sunday! Your participation and donations are greatly appreciated! Keystage Housing are looking for men's bicycles for 2 of their clients who need transport to get to work. If you have a bike that is in working order and is unused that you would like to donate please contact Cathy Seaton : cmann100@hotmail.com. Donations always welcome for non perishable food, toiletries, mens clothing, bedding and linen for normal double size and single beds. Please don't put bedding in the donation bins- contact Cathy Seaton. Many Thanks

REPOSITORY - FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION

As we are now in First Communion and Confirmation seasons come and have a look at the wide selection of cards and gifts in the Repository suitable for both occasions.



These are all very reasonably priced and make lovely presents to mark these celebrations.

THE UNVERSE WEEKLY CATHOLIC NEWSPAPER IS BACK



The Universe Newspaper is back in print the cost of the paper is just £3.50. The paper will include all the usual features, articles and news stories.

Copies are available in the porch, there is an honesty box for the payment or if you prefer please use the card machine.

PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

Led by Most Rev. Kevin McDonald Archbishop Emeritus of Southwark.

Saturday 5th August 2023 Coach departs from Harpenden at 7.30am Places: Adults £25, Child/Student £10 for more information visit www.prolifepilgrimage.org and to book contact Geraldine 07971028415

Please also see the poster in the porch.

GETTING MARRIED?

Couples intending to get married, need to give at least six months' notice, as required by the Diocese. Pre-marriage preparation, provides an opportunity to reflect, not just on the wedding, which is for a day, but on the marriage, which is for life, as well as looking at the other necessary arrangements. Anyone getting married within the next year should be in contact with Canon Dwyer. If you know of couples hoping to marry in the coming year, please draw their attention to this notice.

FOLLOWING THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE SAINTS

CALLED TO ACTION BY OUR FAITH- SATURDAY 10TH JUNE

You are invited to CAFOD's International Office on Saturday 10th June for a short time exploring our faith, why we Campaign & how you can help.

The morning will include guest speakers & a chance for discussion in workshops to explore activities such as [Live Simply](#), Our unfair Food System and Liturgy resources.

The morning will run from 10.30-1pm at CAFOD's Office in Lambeth North SE1. For further information contact Tony

tsheen@cafod.org.uk or booking please see <https://cafod.org.uk/news/events> or Eventbrite [here](#).

GETTING INVOLVED WITH CAFOD

Did you know that Church teaching says that we should not only support those in poverty but also tackle the root causes of poverty? Pope Benedict XVI said that "Love — caritas — is an extraordinary force which leads people to opt for courageous and generous engagement in the field of justice and peace." For decades CAFOD has spoken out against injustice. To find out more and get involved in tackling the root causes of poverty, please go to

cafod.org.uk/latestcampaigns

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

June

10th June DWG Open Garden Day *more details to follow*

18th June Strawberry Social

24th June at 3pm Choir Summer Concert

LOST PROPERTY

We have quite a few items in the lost property box at the back of the Church near the Repository. Among the items are a children's water bottles some toys and children's clothes. Please have a look through and see if any of the items belong to you.

Any items remaining, will be taken to a charity shop at the end of the month.

Thank you!

MASS INTENTIONS

<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday 20th May</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11.00am 5.00pm 6.00pm</p>	<p>Easter Feria First Holy Communion Mass - Group 2 Confirmation Group Reconciliation Service</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A) Joseph Meehan RIP (Recently Deceased)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 21st May</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)</p> <p>People of the Parish Joan Gaire RIP Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Monday 22nd May</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9.15am</p>	<p>Easter feria</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday 23rd May</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9.15am</p>	<p>Easter feria</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday 24th May</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9.15am</p>	<p>Easter feria</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday 25th May</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11.00am</p>	<p>St Bede the Venerable, Priest & Doctor Mass of Thanksgiving</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Friday 26th May</p>	<p>St Philip Neri, Priest</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday 27th May</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12 Noon 6.00pm</p>	<p>ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY, Bishop Wedding</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PENTECOST SUNDAY (A) Jean & David Eldred RIP</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 28th May</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PENTECOST (A)</p> <p>Ann Turner RIP Delores Jones-Taylor RIP Gerry Maureen & Geraldine Martin RIP (Anniversary) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</p>

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