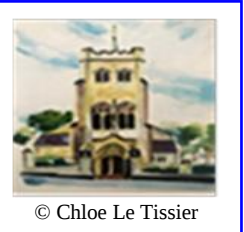




OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

21ST SEPTEMBER 2025

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)



© Chloe Le Tissier

Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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Today we hear the unusual parable of the “dishonest steward.” At first hearing, it can leave us scratching our heads. Why would Jesus appear to praise someone who acts with trickery and self-interest? Yet the point is not that dishonesty is good, but that the steward acted with urgency, creativity, and determination in a moment of crisis.

Jesus observes that the “children of this world” can sometimes show more energy and resourcefulness than the “children of light.” People often devote great effort to securing their financial future, yet how much energy do we put into securing our eternal one? The parable challenges us to examine our priorities. Do we show the same decisiveness and imagination in living our faith as we do in worldly matters?

The second part of the Gospel makes the lesson clearer. Jesus reminds us that “the person who is trustworthy in very small matters is trustworthy also in great ones.” Faithfulness does not begin with grand gestures, but with the little things: honesty in daily work, patience in family life, kindness to a neighbour, generosity with our time. These “small matters” reveal where our heart truly lies.

We are also reminded that money and possessions are not ends in themselves but gifts entrusted to us for a greater purpose. They are meant to be used wisely, to build relationships, to serve others, and to strengthen our bond with God. How we use what we have—our money, our talents, our time—shows whether we live for ourselves alone, or for the Kingdom of God. May we ask for the grace to be faithful stewards of all God has given us, so that, in both little things and great, we reflect His generosity and love.

MISSION APPEAL

Today we welcome Fr Jude Burger, who will be making the annual Mission Appeal on behalf of the Comboni Missionaries. There will be an additional collection, as you leave Mass.

CONFIRMATION

Thank you to those who offered to assist with the Confirmation Programme, this coming year. Hopefully, there are now sufficient volunteers to assist with running this programme in this coming year. If anyone else is willing to assist in any way, please have a word with Canon Dwyer.

TEA AND COFFEE TODAY

Today, after the 9.45am and 11.30am Masses, tea, coffee and soft drinks will be served in the Undercroft. Please come and join us, everyone is welcome, it will be a great opportunity to meet and catch up with parishioners old and new.



HELP NEEDED FOR THE CHRISTMAS FAIR (SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER)

For many decades the parish has organised a Christmas Fair, in Lourdes Hall, which has raised tens of thousands of pounds for the parish, and for other good causes. For the last 25 years, this event has been organised by Marva Hall and she has decided that this will be her last year in charge. **We urgently need one or more**



of you to step up to work with her this year with a view to taking over in 2026. Please contact Marva (07943 837277) or

the Parish Office for more information. Without new leadership, this will be our last Christmas Fair.

SEASON OF CREATION

The Season of Creation, runs from September 1st until October 4th, the feast of St Francis of Assisi. To celebrate this feast there will be an extra Mass on Saturday 4th October at 11.00am, everyone is very welcome.

The Season of Creation, is a time of sustained prayer and action, lasting a month and four days. During this season we are encouraged to pray and engage in activities, that will deepen our relationship with God, our neighbour and the earth we share, being ever more attentive to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

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/2023/05/OLOL-Database-New-Parishioner-Form-May-2023.pdf> Completed forms can be emailed or posted into the Parish Office. harpenden@rcdow.org.uk

FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

Any notices for the next Newsletter please email the Parish office by lunchtime on Wednesday. Thank you.



CONFIRMATION PHOTOGRAPHS

Confirmation photographs are available to be collected from the Repository Shop after weekend Masses.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY GROUP

The Children's Liturgy runs weekly at 9.45am mass during school term time. We're a very friendly and supportive group and we'd like to welcome more



people to join the team of helpers. No experience is required - we will hold your hand all the way. You'd be expected to help approximately once every 6 weeks. It's a delightful opportunity to work with the young people in our parish. If you'd like to know more, please contact Marion Gajewski at Mariong6045@gmail.com.

The team prepares a simple Gospel lesson which is appropriate for school aged children. Children of this age are very welcome whilst their parents remain in the church. If any child requires parental support to attend the lesson, parents may remain in the foyer of the undercroft. We very much look forward to seeing your children there.

LIVESIMPLY

A REPAIR FAIR AT OLOL!

Repair Fair – Saturday 27TH

September, 2–5 pm, Lourdes Hall

The LiveSimply team, in partnership with St Albans District Fixers, invites parishioners and the public to bring broken or faulty portable electricals and electronics for a free repair attempt. Nimble-fingered seamstresses will also tackle minor clothing and fabric repairs or alterations. The Fixers would love extra hands—anyone confident with a screwdriver or sewing skills can buddy up with their experienced team. Other volunteer roles may be available. For more information or to offer help, contact Jon Newham.

jonathan.newham@gmail.com.



ST DOMINIC'S SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

It's that time of year again. Reception Admissions for children starting in September 2026. Applications open 3rd November and close 15th January 2026. Reception Open mornings will be held on

Wednesday 12th November at 9.30am and Wednesday 26th November at 1.30pm. Please book through the school office.

CERTIFICATES OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE

Dates when Canon Dwyer will be available in the church, to discuss the possibility of signing Certificate of Catholic Practice (CCP), will be announced shortly. Please note, the purpose of the CCP is to confirm that the applicant, and their family, are practising Catholics, that is, attend Mass every Sunday and on holydays of obligation.

A TALK ABOUT A PILGRIMAGE TO NOTRE DAME AND LOURDES

Carole Cox a member of the Newman Association will give a talk on her experiences of pilgrimages to both Notre Dame and Lourdes on

Thursday 25th September at 2.00pm in the Undercroft of Our Lady of Lourdes . All are very welcome.

DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP- QUIZ

Join us on **Saturday October 18th 7.00pm for 7.30pm** start at Lourdes Hall.

The proceeds of this very popular annual Parish event will be in support of the projects of the Developing World Group. (please see the website for more information on their work) **Tickets are still available!**

Entrance is £20, including a Fish and Chips supper; come along and join a table of Parishioners or if you have a group of family/friends book a table for up to 8 people. Bring your own bottle and glasses and cash for the Raffle. **To secure a booking e mail Betty Hines:** elizabeth.hines@gmail.com.



Quiz Night – Ticket Payment

Tickets may be paid by:

- **Bank Transfer** (DWG account details from Betty)
- **Cheque** (payable to *WRCDT Harpenden*)
- **Cash** (in an envelope with a note of everyone's name, handed into the Parish office)

Please ensure all payments are made by **14th October**.

Thank you for your continued support!

40-SOMETHINGS 5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL

A friendly group (including several parishioners) play 5-a-side football every Thursday at 7pm in the Sir John Lawes School sports hall. With 10 regulars, we often need extra players. All ages and abilities welcome! Interested? Contact Andrew at 07985 503 527 or andrew.belderbos@googlemail.com

OPALS FREE EVENT

(Older Persons Activity Learning & Safety)
Join us on **Friday 3rd October 2025, 10am–2pm** at the **Eric Morecombe Centre** for talks from Herts Fire & Rescue, Police, Trading Standards, Neighbourhood Watch and more. Free hot lunch and refreshments included! If you would like to attend please contact Terry Morris terry.morris@hertfordshire.gov.uk or call 07740670642

SOUTHDOWN PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE (SPACE)

November 25th High Street Players
Autumn production for more details visit www.hsplayers.org.uk
November 28th Southdown Christmas Lights Switch on. SPACE will be open so do come along in for a mince pie and hear about our plans for the development of our building.

Our aim at SPACE is to be a Christian performing arts centre offering an affordable and inclusive community space with events which explore life and faith. For more details please contact office@southdownspace.org

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 27 September:

Live Simply's Tool Renovation at Lourdes Hall from 12pm – 6pm.

Saturday 11th October

3pm Sing for 12 Concert in Church
everyone welcome

Tuesday 14 October:

Soup and Reflection in the Undercroft from 12pm – 2pm.
Sister Regina will speak about 'Hope'.

Thursday 16th October

Chorister's Concert in Church at 7pm

Saturday 18 October:

DWG Quiz at the Lourdes Hall
at 7pm-7.30pm start

Saturday 22nd November

DWG 'Thanksgiving' Barn Dance
at St Dominic School
Doors open at 7.00pm for 7.30pm start.
For more info contact Noel on nfj.whittle@gmail.com

Sunday 23rd November

Newman Musical
Afternoon with Alison Langer, Sunday 23rd
November in Lourdes Hall

Saturday 6 December:

Christmas Fair at the Lourdes Hall from 12pm – 2pm.

MASS INTENTIONS		
Sat 20 th Sept	SS Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Priest & Paul Chong Ha Sang & Companions, Martyrs	PLEASE PRAY FOR: THE POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER: For our relationship with all of creation. Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect. Prayer for the Deceased We remember in our prayers all who have recently departed this life, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May the Lord welcome them into His eternal peace, grant comfort to their families, and strengthen us all with the hope of the resurrection. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen. Recently Departed: Joyce Jay RIP Maureen O’Sullivan RIP Sean McDonagh RIP Anniversaries: Mary McGarry RIP
Vigil Mass 6.00pm	25 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Mary McGarry RIP (Anniversary)	
Sun 21 st Sept		
8.30am	People of the Parish	
9.45am	Joyce Jay RIP (Recently Deceased)	
11.30am	Teresa Metcalfe RIP Zoom Code 883 7014 5568	
Mon 22 nd Sept	Feria	
9.15am	Maureen O’Sullivan RIP (Recently Deceased)	
Tues 23 rd Sept	St Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest	
9.15am	Capuchin Mission South Sudan (Special Intentions)	
Wed 24 th Sept	OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM	
9.15am	Rasad Wadge RIP	
Thur 25 th Sept	Feria	
11.00am	Sean McDonagh RIP (Recently Deceased)	
Fri 26 th Sept	Feria	
Sat 27 th Sept	St Vincent de Paul, Priest	
12.00 Noon	Baptism Rose Family	
Vigil Mass 6.00pm	26 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Duncan Gallagher RIP (Anniversary)	
Sun 28 th Sept		
8.30am	Diane Clark RIP (Anniversary)	
9.45am	Sarah Cullinane RIP (Anniversary)	
11.30am	People of the Parish Zoom Code 883 7014 5568	
CONFESSIONS SATURDAYS 10.30AM – 11.00AM & AFTER THE 6.00PM VIGIL MASS		