



# OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)



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Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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*With every good wish and blessing for you and your family  
during the holy season of Christmas  
Canon Anthony Dwyer*

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CHRISTMAS?

Some of you will already have had delivered to your home, by your local 'Good Neighbour', details of what is happening in church over Christmas and new year. If you haven't yet received one of the leaflets, they can be found in the church porch. Please take a copy so that you know what is happening in church over the Christmas season.

## **THIS WEEK**

### **CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE SUNDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 6PM**

The Parish Christmas Carol Service will take place this, Sunday, evening, at 6.00pm. With traditional Christmas carols, and scripture readings. It is an opportunity to stand back from the busyness of the lead up to Christmas, and to reflect anew on the timeless Christmas story. No matter how busy you may be, do take the opportunity to hear once again this lovely story. Afterwards there will be mulled wine and mince pies in the Undercroft.

### **CHILDREN'S NATIVITY CHRISTMAS EVE**

The Children's Nativity Play takes place at 5.00pm on Christmas Eve. It's good to say that we now have sufficient actors and actresses. For those who are participating, there is the rehearsal on Tuesday, the 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 10.00am to 12.30pm. Everyone who is taking part should attend this practise.

***Please note attendance at this play, does not replace attending Mass on Christmas Day!***

### **CHRISTMAS DAY**

**First Mass of Christmas:** Christmas Eve 'Mass during the Night' at 10.00pm, preceded by carols from 9.30pm

**8.30am, 9.45am\* (Family Mass), 11.30am**

\* The 9.45am Mass on Christmas Day, is the Christmas Family Mass. Children are particularly welcome at this Mass, and are invited to dress as shepherds and angels.

### **ST STEPHENS DAY 26<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

Mass will be celebrated at 10.00am. St Stephen is the patron saint of Altar Servers, our Altar Servers will be attending this Mass, some will be enrolled in the Guild of St Stephen, and those serving for some time will be acknowledged.

### **FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

6.00pm Saturday Vigil, **No Mass at 8.30am, 9.45am and 11.30am.**

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> December Mass at 10.00am.**

**Mary Mother of God (Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> January) Mass at 10.00am**

### **SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY (Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January)**

6.00pm Saturday Vigil, 8.30am, 9.45am and 11.30am.

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January, weekday Masses resume their usual times.**

### **THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD TUESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY**

Masses at 9.15am and 6.00pm.

***A holyday of obligation, when we are obliged to attend Mass.***

## CHRISTMAS OFFERING



In every parish, the offertory collection, on Christmas Day, is for the benefit of the Parish Clergy. Please note that, following guidance from

Westminster Diocese, no part of the donations made by standing order, can be included in the Christmas Offering. Donations can be made via the Christmas Offering envelopes, by scanning the QR code or via the 'Christmas Offering' link, on the card machine, or by payment directly to the parish bank account. If you wish to contribute in this way, these are the details:

**Account Name:** WRCDT Harpenden  
**Sort Code:** 40-05-20  
**Account Number:** 51095951  
**Ref:** CHRISTMAS OFFERING

## ALTAR SERVERS

As usual, Altar Servers are needed for the various celebrations in church over Christmas. Altar Servers, or their parents, are asked to indicate their availability, by signing the sheets in the sacristy. It would be helpful if this could be done as soon as is possible.

**Also, for the Altar Servers, Friday 26<sup>th</sup>** December is the feast of St Stephen, the patron Saint of Servers. The 10.00am Mass that day will include enrolment in the Guild of St Stephen, and the giving of medals for those who have been serving for some time.

## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the collection for the Christmas flowers over the last two weekends. You will see the result of your generosity, and the talents of our flower

arrangers, in our beautifully decorated church, on Christmas Day.



## ADVENT 'GIVING' TREE

We have had a wonderful response to our Advent Giving Tree, and all at The Hygiene Bank would like to say a huge and heartfelt thank you to the whole parish. Your donations will make an enormous difference to the lives of so many families at such a financially difficult time of year. There are still tags on the tree and any further donations can still be dropped off until Tuesday morning. Many thanks to everyone. For more information, email [harpenden@thehygienebank.com](mailto:harpenden@thehygienebank.com). The Hygiene Bank is a volunteer-run charity (No. 1181267).



## KEYSTAGE HOUSING

One of the two of projects that the parish regularly supports, Keystage Housing, have provided us with some information about their work, and how this is funded. They have also sent their latest newsletter. Both are attached to this newsletter, please take a few moments to learn about this good work.

## CRIB DONATIONS FOR CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY



Throughout the Christmas season, parishioners are warmly invited to light a candle by the crib as a sign of prayer and generosity. All crib offerings will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society. The Catholic Children's Society provides vital support to children and families across our diocese, particularly those experiencing poverty and deprivation. Your generosity helps bring hope, care, and practical assistance to some of the most vulnerable in our communities. Donations may be placed in the wall safe marked *Candles* or by posting an envelope through the Presbytery letterbox. Thank you for your kindness, compassion, and continued support.

## CHRISTMAS IN THE REPOSITORY

Thank you to everyone that has supported the Repository over the last year, there are still a few Christmas items for those last-minute shoppers, do pop in and have a look.

**We have just taken delivery of the New Westminster Year Books for 2026 priced £5.50.**

## 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.



## FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

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

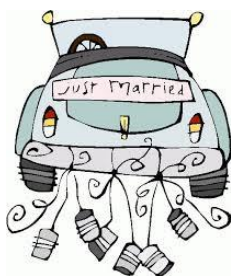
**The Parish Office will be closed from 24<sup>th</sup> December until Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January.**

Thank You.



## GETTING MARRIED?

Couples intending to marry are required by the Diocese to give at least six months' notice. Pre-marriage preparation offers an important opportunity to reflect not only on the wedding day itself, but on the lifelong commitment of marriage, as well as to look at the other necessary arrangements. Anyone hoping to marry within the next year should contact Canon Dwyer as soon as possible. If you know of any couples planning to marry in the coming year, please draw their attention to this notice.



## 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 from those year groups who are interested in a rounded catholic education that includes academic, religious and social skills. St Dominic's has recently been assessed by OFSTED and rated as OUTSTANDING.

### RECEPTION ADMISSIONS

The Admissions process for Reception places for September 2026 is open and will close on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026. If you would like a tour of the school for entry into Reception 2026, please contact the school office.

### NURSERY OPEN MORNINGS

St Dominic's will be hosting Nursery Open Mornings on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January at 9.15am and again on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 9.15am. 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**

For more information please contact 01582760047 email:

[admissions@stdominic.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admissions@stdominic.herts.sch.uk)

MASS INTENTIONS		
<b>Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>  <b>Vigil Mass 6.00pm</b>  <b>Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Dec</b> <b>8.30am</b> <b>9.45am</b> <b>11.30am</b> <b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Advent Feria</b> <b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)</b> Deceased members of the Kelly Family RIP  People of the Parish Bernard St John Glew RIP Kathleen Porter RIP (Anniversary) Carols by Candlelight <b>Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</b>	<b>PLEASE PRAY FOR:</b>  <b>RIP Anniversaries</b> Kathleen Porter RIP  <b>Prayer for the Faithful Departed</b> Loving God, we remember those who have died. Grant them the peace of Christ, and let Your perpetual light shine upon them. Comfort all who mourn and strengthen our hope in the resurrection. <b>Amen.</b>
<b>Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec</b> <b>9.15am</b>	<b>Advent Feria</b> Elizabeth Donoghue & Family (Sp Ints)	
<b>Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec</b> <b>9.15am</b>	<b>Advent Feria</b> Teresa Newham (Special Intentions)	
<b>Wed 24<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> <b>9.15am</b> <b>5.00pm</b>	<b>Advent Feria</b> Rasad Wadge RIP Children’s Nativity	
<b>SEASON OF CHRISTMAS</b>		
<b>Wed 24<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> Carols from 9.30pm <b>10.00pm</b> <b>Christmas Day</b> <b>Thur 25<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>8.30am</b> <b>9.45am</b> <b>11.30am</b>	<b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>  People of the Parish  People of the Parish People of the Parish People of the Parish <b>Zoom Code 836 5755 3398</b>	
<b>Fri 26<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> <b>10.00am</b>	<b>St Stephen, The First Martyr</b> Altar Servers	
<b>Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>  <b>Vigil Mass 6.00pm</b> <b>Sun 28<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> <b>8.30am</b> <b>9.45am</b> <b>11.30am</b>	<b>St John, Apostle &amp; Evangelist</b> <b>No Confessions Today</b>  <b>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY &amp; JOSEPH (A)</b> Fr Tom Kenny RIP <b>NO MASS</b> Janet Figg RIP (Anniversary) Peggy & Jack Shaw RIP <b>Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</b>	
<b>NO CONFESSIONS ON SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>		