



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

22ND MAY 2022

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C)



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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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Very soon we will be celebrating two important feasts in the Easter calendar: The Ascension of Jesus and Pentecost. Our readings today draw our attention to this and begin to point us in that direction.

Initially after the resurrection, the friends and followers of Jesus went in to hiding for fear of their lives. They had seen their close friend and Master betrayed, denied, condemned and crucified. They had lost all heart. But eventually they began to find the courage and strength to believe in Jesus and in themselves. Jesus had appeared to them several times to strengthen and encourage them. So, they began to go into the streets and villages and proclaim the good news of the resurrection.

They did not do any of this by themselves. They were filled with the Spirit of the risen Jesus. When the crowds ask by what power they heal and preach, Peter replies it is through faith in the name of Jesus the sick are made better. In the first reading this Sunday, from the Acts of the Apostles, many people are healed and cured. The followers of Jesus lay their hands on the people, and they receive the Holy Spirit. This simple but profound ritual was repeated when we were Confirmed. We were sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Just as the first followers of Jesus proclaimed and announced the good news of his resurrection, we in our time, and in our way, are called to do the same. Today, we are the people who are called to be witnesses and messengers of the resurrection. We do this in our homes, our communities and in our workplaces; wherever and however we can.

As we prepare to shortly celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, may we recall and remember our own confirmation. May the Lord help us to realise that we are called not only to believe in his resurrection, but also to live and proclaim this good news through the quality of our daily lives with each other.

ASCENSION

Next Thursday, 40 days after Easter, we celebrate the feast of the Ascension of the Lord. An important Easter feast, and a holyday of obligation, when we are required to attend Mass. Masses will be celebrated at 9.15am and 6.00pm.



SUNDAY MASS

At their recent meeting, the Bishops of England and Wales, decided that the obligation to attend Mass, every Sunday, is to be restored, from the feast of Pentecost, Sunday June 5th. Of course, they recognise for reasons of health, there are those who do not feel safe enough to return to Mass, and point out that it has always been the understanding of the Church that when the freedom of any Catholic to attend Mass in person is impeded for a serious reason, because of situations such as ill health, care for the sick or legitimate fear, this is not a breach of the Sunday Obligation. The Bishops also note "that parishes have benefitted during these difficult times from the online streaming of Mass and other services. "Virtual viewing" of Mass online does not fulfil the Sunday Obligation." The full statement can be found at:

<https://rcdow.org.uk/news/bishops-invite-faithful-to-return-to-mass-at-pentecost/>



PLATINUM PRAISE

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Harpenden Churches will be gathering for **Platinum Praise on Sunday 5th June, between 6:30 - 8:00pm, on Harpenden Common, by the Public Halls.** Everyone is welcome to join this evening of Praise and Thanksgiving for our Queens Platinum Jubilee. Help is needed for this event, including **Readers, Stewards/Marshals, Manning the information table, Stage assistant.** To offer assistance for

any of these roles contact John Swain at john.swain@bethanycc.org.uk or phone 07758 652941

Are you from a nation other than the UK?

Then "Voice of the Nations" would love to hear from you (especially if you are from a Commonwealth country). Voice of the Nations will be a significant aspect of our evening's celebration, with song, dance and music reflecting a variety of cultures in Harpenden. If you are able to bring something of the flavour of your culture to the evening please contact Damilare Adetayo on dadetayo@ywamharpenden.org or phone 07424 709676.

PRIESTS TRAINING FUND

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the recent collection for the Priest Training Fund. Your support for our 19 current seminarians, is both encouraging, and appreciated. The fund remains open for another couple of weeks. If you wish to make a donation, you will find envelopes in the porch, which you can drop into the parish office, or you can make your donation online at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations through the Diocesan website. The formation of priests is of top priority, and this fund contributes to ensuring you will have priests to serve you, in the years to come.

SUPPORTING UKRAINE CAN YOU HELP?



A parishioner who will shortly be hosting a Ukrainian refugee from Kharkiv, has been asked if anyone in Harpenden could sponsor this refugee's friend (Oksana, a cook) and her 16 year old daughter (Sophie) who have been forced to leave their home in the Donetsk. That way the refugee already coming would be nearby to help them adjust to life here - neither have left Ukraine before. They would love to bring their cat too if at all possible. If you would like to find out more, please email Melanie in the parish office. Many thanks.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Canon Dwyer has a BIG Birthday coming up so we will be celebrating on Sunday 5th June in the Presbytery Garden after the 11.30am Mass. Pop in for a drink and a piece of cake. Everyone is very welcome.



cake in the garden where everyone is welcome. Admission £2 (cash only please)

JACKIE DODDS RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Jackie Dodds who died recently, Jackie will be received into the Church on Monday 6th June at 6pm and the Requiem Mass will follow on Tuesday 7th June at 1.00pm. We remember Jackie's family in our prayers at this time.

FIRST COMMUNION IN THE REPOSITORY

We are approaching the First Communion season and the repository has a variety of gifts suitable for girls and boys such as necklaces, bracelets, pens, bibles, photo frames & albums, rosary beads, first missals and candles, together with First Communion cards and invitations.



A SAFE PLACE

Despite hearing of high numbers of Covid, it's very good that so much of life appears to be returning to normal. Throughout the pandemic your patience, and understanding, has been much appreciated. As in other parishes, we continue to follow the guidance, received from the Bishops, which is still in place, that hand gel is dispensed on arrival and departure, that unless exempt, everyone should continue to wear masks in church, and windows or doors are left open. During the pandemic, parishioners commented how safe they felt in church, hopefully, with everyone's cooperation, that continues to be the case.

DWG PLANT SALE

SATURDAY 28TH MAY FROM 10AM - 2PM

Next Saturday, the Developing World Group warmly invite you to a sale of plants at 23 Sibley Avenue Harpenden AL5 1HF. Enjoy refreshments and



LAUDATO SI WEEK 2022

Laudato Si' Week 2022, to be held May 22-29, will mark the seventh anniversary of Pope Francis' landmark encyclical on creation care. This global celebration will unite Catholics to listen and respond together to the cry of creation, rejoice in the progress we have made in bringing Laudato Si' to life, and intensify our efforts through the dynamic Laudato Si' Action Platform, walking the "Synodal" path. For more information go to <https://laudatosiweek.org/>

CHOIR SUMMER CONCERT

Summer Concert at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Saturday 25th June, 7.30pm.

Arias and Choruses from Handel's Samson with soloists including

Alison Langer and Lawrence Thackery.

Choirs from Our Lady of Lourdes,

High Street Methodist Church,

St. George's Music Society and

St Nicholas Church.

Guest orchestra featuring graduates from the Royal Academy of Music.

Tickets on sale from the parish office, online

<https://ticketsource.co.uk/Our-Lady-Of-Lourdes-Church-Choir> (which does include a small booking fee)

and at Our Lady of Lourdes Church each Sunday.

£15 adults, £5 students and children.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Many hands make light work!

Would you consider volunteering your time to join the Church Cleaning Team?

Volunteers are needed to clean the Church on either Tuesday or Thursday morning. The rota would be on a four weekly basis and would only take approx. 40 minutes after morning Mass on Tuesday or Thursday.

Please contact Melanie in the Parish Office if you are interested.

**LORETO COLLEGE (ST ALBANS)
CENTENARY GARDEN PARTY**
Sunday 10th July 2022 12pm to 6pm
(last admission 5pm) Admission
£5.00 per person (FREE entry for
children aged 5 and under) There will
be live music by the popular local
band Soulfish, BBQ, afternoon tea,
bar, traditional games/stalls and
much more including our Centenary
Raffle. A link to the ticket page and
more information can be found at
www.loreto.herts.sch.uk

VACANCY

Musicale is the leading music hub in the area providing music education for over 700 children, young people and adults every week from our main building and within the local primary and secondary schools. We are looking for a new team member to join our Harpenden office who will support the administration of our business. If you are a strong communicator, extremely well organised with an eye for detail and proficient with Microsoft Office applications such as Excel and Word, we would love to hear from you. This is a full time role, 9am-5.30pm, with over 10 weeks holiday allowance. Please send your CV and covering letter to Katie Fenner via katie@musicale.co.uk

LOST PROPERTY

We have quite a few items in the lost property box at the back of the Church near the Repository. Please have a look through and see if any of the items belong to you. Thank you!

MASS INTENTIONS NEXT WEEK	
Sat 21st May 1.30pm 6.00pm	Easter feria Wedding SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C) William Dooley RIP (Anniv)
Sun 22nd May 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C) People of the Parish Sarah Togher RIP Zoom Code 883 7014 5568
Mon 23rd May 9.15am	Easter feria
Tue 24th May 9.15am	Easter feria Sr Kathleen & Sr Antoinette (Spec Ints) Zoom Code 846 8231 6518
Wed 25th May 9.15am	St Bede the Venerable, Priest & Doctor
Thur 26th May 9.15am 6.00pm	THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD Les Ulyatt RIP (Recently Deceased) Zoom Code 843 3670 2322
Fri 27th May	ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY, Bishop
Sat 28th May 12.00 Noon 6.00pm	Easter feria Baptisms Cheesman & Catto Families SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C) Dominican Jubilarian's (Spec Ints)
Sun 29th May 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C) Noel O'Sullivan RIP (Recently Deceased) People of the Parish Zoom Code 883 7014 5568