

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

23RD OCTOBER 2022 30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)



Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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Parish Pastoral Council ppc@catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk

In today's Gospel we have the strange scene between a Pharisee and a tax collector. The Pharisee – and he clearly believes he has evidence to prove it – is the "good" person. He carefully keeps the Law of the Jews and the Commandments of God. He faithfully observes the obligations of a good Jew: he prays, he fasts, and he gives alms. And yet, God is not happy with him. Why? Because he is a totally self-centred person. He says, "I thank you, God, that I am not like others, especially this terrible tax collector. Jesus criticises the Pharisee for not being aware that all these good things he claims to do have God as their source. Without God, he could do nothing, he would be nothing.

On the other hand, the tax collector is certainly a sinner. He surely does not observe the Jewish law. If he is like the average tax collector, he is a swindler and extortionist. He collects tax money from his own oppressed people and hands (some of) it to the hated Romans. He really is a sinner. He really behaves abominably before God and neighbour. And God loves him!

Jesus says that when the tax collector left the Temple, he did so as a friend of God, while the Pharisee was rejected. How can this be? Is this God's justice? The reason is that, although the tax collector is undoubtedly a sinner, he admits his sin. He knows that by himself he cannot do anything that he cannot change, unless God comes to his help. "God, be merciful to me, a sinner," he implores. God will come immediately to the help of a sinner who in humility and truth recognises his sin. On the other hand, how can God come to help a proud man, who thinks he can take care of himself?

PIZZA & POP

The Parish Pastoral Council are hosting a Pizza and Pop social event in the Undercroft on Tuesday November 8th at 7.30pm to discuss ideas for getting



families, especially children, more involved in the



life of the parish. All are welcome to come and give us your ideas in a friendly and informal atmosphere. We look forward to seeing you there!

CONTACTING THE PPC

One of the hopes of the Parish Pastoral Council is that they are known to parishioners, and easily contactable by them. Agendas, and minutes of their meetings, will be found on the parish website at

www.catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk

The PPC also have their own email address and can be contacted at

ppc@catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk

NOVENA

The Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, has now resumed after the 9.15am Mass, every Wednesday. Our Lady of Perpetual Help is a title given to the Blessed Virgin Mary. This title is associated with an icon of Our Lady from the late 1400s. Our Lady of Perpetual Help can be a powerful intercessor for us.

MONTH OF THE ROSARY

October is the month of the Rosary.



CONFIRMATION 2023

Preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, for young people in Year 9 or above, will commence soon. Application forms are available for collection by the candidates after all Weekend Masses.



Completed forms and copies of Baptismal Certificates must be returned to Melanie in the parish office by today Sunday 23rd October.

LADIES GROUP LUNCHTIME EVENT

Sister Regina has kindly offered to lead us in prayer, music and reflection this Wednesday 26th October at 12
Noon in the Undercroft. Tickets will be priced at £5 and will be preceded by a soup lunch. Proceeds will go to the Barcelona settlement in South Africa. To help with catering, please email/phone

HOLY SOULS We commence

Marva at marva@cpoauk.com/07943 837277.



We commence the month of November, in couple of weeks. During the month a number of Masses will be offered for the Holy Souls, if you would like anyone included in these Masses, please email, or drop in, the names

to the parish office. and these will be added to the Holy Souls book which will be placed before the Altar in November

RELICS OF ST BERNADETTE

Since the beginning of
September, the relics of
St Bernadette are being taken
to churches in every Diocese in
England, Scotland and Wales.
They have already been in our
Diocese, in our Cathedral and in
other churches. On October
28th from 4pm the relics will be
in the Shrine of Our Lady of
Willesden, 1 Nicoll Road,



Willesden, NW10 9AX, until 9.15am on October 30th, For more information visit: Roman Catholic Parish of Willesden - Church of Our Lady of Willesden (rcdow.org.uk)

CHRISTMAS IN THE REPOSITORY

The repository now has a wide selection of Christmas items, including Cribs, Christmas Tree decorations, Christmas candles, children's Christmas books, Advent calendars, and a selection of Christmas cards, both traditional and modern. Tony Field spoke last week on the importance of including children in the church. This is an opportunity for them to come and view the Christmas stock and choose an Advent

calendar or decorations for their tree. Come in and take a look after Mass.



ST DOMINIC'S SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Its that time of year again. Reception Admissions for children starting in September 2023. Applications open on 1st November and close on



15th January 2023. Open mornings at St Dominic's school 9.30am -10.30am on 17th November and 22nd November. for more information please see the website

https://www.stdominic.herts.sch.uk/Our-School/Admissions/

Dates when Canon Dwyer will be available in the church, to discuss the possibility of signing Certificate of Catholic Practice will be announced shortly so watch this space!

L A DORANT CHARITY FOR ALMSHOUSES.

This is a modern Almshouse, based in New Greens, St Albans, and which provides accommodation for people of limited means and of good character who reside in the City and District of St Albans aged 60 and over. There are eleven studio and eight one-bedroom flats on three floors, with lift access, and with communal relaxation facilities, both inside and out. At all times, residents can summon help from the warden or call-centre, while they do need to be able to care for themselves. The aim of the Trustees is 'to give quality of life to those living in Dorant House.' For more information visit their Website

www.doranthouse.org or email info@doranthouse.org or call 01727 830039

DATES FOR YOU DIARIES

SING FOR ...4 JANUARY 2023

Please put the dates in the diary - something to look forward to in January! Adults and children are invited for this charity-fundraising singing project - more details to follow but there is a choice of Tuesday OR Sunday rehearsals.

Tuesday 10th January 7.30-9.00pm Undercroft

Tuesday 17th January Tuesday 24th January Tuesday 31st January

AND to widen the opportunity for more/families to take part in this project :

Sunday 15th January 3.00-4.00pm Undercroft

Sunday 22nd January Sunday 29th January

Performance SUNDAY 5th FEBRUARY 2pm Rehearsal, 3pm CONCERT

Please email katiemjack@yahoo.co.uk to book a place £35 for the project per family (whether 1 person or 10!) Money, after expenses, to NOAH and Keystage Housing.

MASS INTENTIONS NEXT WEEK	
Saturday 22 nd October	feria
6.00pm	30 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C) Joan Gardner RIP (Anniv)
Sunday 23 rd October	30 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)
9.45am	People of the Parish Susan Jennings RIP (Anniv) Henry Wraight RIP Zoom Code 883 7014 5568.
Monday 24 th October	feria
9.15am	Jean & David Eldred RIP
12.00 Noon	Baptism McGill-Ortiz Family
Tuesday 25 th October	feria
9.15am	Lawrence Phillips (Sp Ints)
Wednesday 26 th October	feria
·	Tommy Doran (Sp Ints) Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
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9.15am	Tommy Doran (Sp Ints) Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help feria
9.15am Thursday 27 th October 11.00am	Tommy Doran (Sp Ints) Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help feria
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