



Parish Website

# OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023

4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

& THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



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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.

Telephone: 01582 712245 or email: [harpenden@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:harpenden@rcdow.org.uk)

Website: [www.catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk](http://www.catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk)

twitter: [https://twitter.com/rc\\_olol?lang=en](https://twitter.com/rc_olol?lang=en)

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

**Parish Safeguarding Representative Mrs Brigid Brennan**

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Parish Pastoral Council [ppc@catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk](mailto:ppc@catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk)



*Wishing you, and your families  
many blessings ay Christmas,  
and in the coming year!*

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December**  
10.00am - 12.30pm

**Advent feria**  
Rehearsal of Children's Nativity

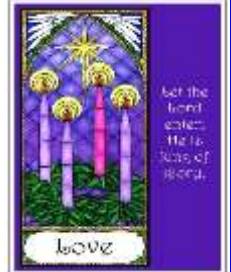
**Vigil Mass 6.00pm**

**4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)**  
Mike Gaire RIP (Anniversary)

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

**4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)**

9.00am People of the Parish  
11.00am Teresa Newham (Special Intention)  
**Zoom Code 883 7014 5568**  
5.00pm Children's Nativity



## SEASON OF CHRISTMAS



**SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

Mass During the Night  
with carols from 9.30pm

10.00pm People of the Parish

**MONDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

8.30am People of the Parish  
9.45am People of the Parish  
11.30am People of the Parish

**Zoom Code 858 3421 9758**



**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December**  
10.00am

**ST STEPHEN, The First Martyr**  
Altar Servers Mass

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December**  
10.00am

**ST JOHN, Apostle & Evangelist**  
Sr Regina (Special Intentions)

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> December**  
10.00am

**THE HOLY INNOCENTS**  
Maureen Jack RIP

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December**

**ST THOMAS BECKET, Bishop & Martyr**

**SATURDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

**6<sup>th</sup> Day in the Octave of Christmas**

**Vigil Mass 6.00pm**

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS MARY & JOSEPH (B)**  
People of the Parish

**SUNDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER**

9.00am Sr Nora (Special Intentions)  
11.00am Kathleen Porter RIP (Anniversary)  
**Zoom Code 883 7014 5568**



**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 Mass at 10.00am**  
**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January Masses return to the usual weekday times.**



**Details of all the Masses, and other celebrations, taking place over Christmas, will be found in the Advent/Christmas leaflet, and on the parish website. Please note the different times on both Christmas Eve, and New Years Eve.**

### **TWO MASSES**

As Christmas day this year, falls on a Monday, the Church asks us to attend Mass on two days, on both Sunday and Monday. This what is called an 'obligation', hopefully though we attend Mass because we want to, not because we have to. Don't forget that in addition to the vigil Mass on Saturday at 6.00pm, there are just two Masses on Sunday (Christmas Eve), at 9.00am and 11.00am.

### **CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

In every parish, the offering on Christmas Day, is personal to the Parish Clergy. Alongside the Easter Offering, Mass Stipends, and donations for baptisms, marriages and weddings, this provides for the personal upkeep of priests. Envelopes, for your contributions, for this fund are attached to the Christmas service leaflet, and will be found in the porch. You can also donate via the 'Christmas Offering' link, on the card machine. Please note that donations made by standing order cannot, according to Diocesan guidance, be included in the Christmas offering.

### **FOR THE CHILDREN**

- **On Christmas Eve, at 5.00pm, there is the Children's Nativity Play, to which children and families are very welcome. Please note that this event, does not replace attending one of the Christmas Masses.**
- **The Christmas Family Mass, take place on Christmas Day, at 9.45am.** Children are invited to come to Mass dressed as nativity characters. For those without nativity outfits, there will be paper crowns available, on arrival. If your child would like to be involved in the Mass (reading, acting, helping in some way), contact Michelle on 07841 098 591.

### **ALTAR SERVERS**

Altar Servers will be needed to play their part in our Christmas liturgies. Those who can assist are asked to indicate their availability, by signing the sheets in the sacristy. Tuesday 26th December is the feast of St Stephen, the first deacon, and patron saint of Altar Servers. Servers are invited to attend the 10.00am Mass that day, and renew their commitment.

## FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

The Parish office will be closed over Christmas and will re-open on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January. This newsletter is the last until after Christmas. Our first newsletter of 2024 will be available on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January. Any notices for the Newsletter please email the Parish office by Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January. Thank you.



## THE NOODLE BOX

"The Noodle Box" will be available inside the church for anyone who needs a hot snack. The box is full of pot noodle/pasta cups and instant soups and take away cups. They are free to take! Please spread the word, especially as the cold weather is upon us. This is just a start to the project and we can place boxes where needed as we go along!



## HAPPY CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Catenians organised a Christmas dinner on 13<sup>th</sup> December, it was a great success and enjoyed by all. Thanks to the 'Sing For' Group led by Katie Metcalfe, with musical accompaniment by Malcolm Scott, who sang a selection of seasonal favourite songs and carols. It was a wonderful evening of fun and friendship and raised £500 in support of NOAH and Keystage Housing. Thanks to all parishioners who supported the evening.

## LOST PROPERTY

There is quiet a collection of lost property, in a box, near to the repository at the back of the church. If you have lost something, do please take a minute to look and see if it is there. Any items remaining, will be taken to a charity shop at the beginning of the new year.



## EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO FROM JANUARY 2024

### FOR THE YOUTH OF THE PARISH

The next Youth Friendly Mass will be on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January** at 6pm

### OLOL YOUTH GROUP:

**Year 9 Confirmation Candidates & Year 10 and beyond Save the date:**  
**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January 7.00pm to 8.30pm**

### SING FOR SEVEN

Starts Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 7.30pm-9.00pm in the Undercroft. Then 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> Feb and final performance Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> Feb at 3pm.

### BANISH THE **BLUES** SUPPER

The Banish the Blues Supper will be held on **Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> of January** with Lulu and the Hullabalooos. There will be a two-course supper during the interval.

## 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.

