



Contactless
Giving

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

24TH MAY 2026

PENTECOST SUNDAY (A)



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Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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Pentecost is often described as the birthday of the Church. The frightened disciples, who had gathered behind locked doors, are transformed by the gift of the Holy Spirit. Fear gives way to courage, confusion to clarity, and hesitation to joyful proclamation. The same Spirit that came upon the apostles is given to the Church today, and to each one of us.

One of the most important things about Pentecost is that the Holy Spirit does not remove people from the world, but sends them into it. The disciples are not told to remain hidden away. Instead, they are sent out to speak, serve, forgive, and witness to Christ. Pentecost reminds us that faith is never meant to be kept private or hidden. The Spirit equips ordinary people to live extraordinary lives of love, faithfulness, and hope.

In the Gospel, Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit upon his disciples and says, *"Peace be with you."* The gift of the Spirit is closely connected with peace: peace in our hearts, peace in our homes, peace in our relationships, and peace within the Church. In a world so often marked by division, anxiety, and uncertainty, the Spirit helps us become people who bring calm, compassion, and reconciliation to others.

Pentecost is also a reminder that none of us journeys alone. The Spirit gathers people of every background and language into one family of faith. The Church is united not because we are all the same, but because the same Spirit lives and works within us.

As we celebrate this great feast, may we pray for a renewed openness to the Holy Spirit, a renewed understanding of the difference, the Holy Spirit can make in our lives, as we ask for the courage to live our faith with confidence, generosity, and joy.

MONDAY MASS

As tomorrow, Monday, is a bank holiday, Mass will be at the later time of 10.00am.

WEDNESDAY 27TH MAY

There will be no 9.15am Mass on Wednesday as there will be the Requiem Mass for the late Derek Saward at 11.00am.

FIRST COMMUNION

Over the last two weekends 37 children have made their First Holy Communion. We were blessed to have two lovely celebrations, and, as always, we are grateful to those who helped to make these days so special. Thanks are due to our Altar Servers, our Flower Arrangers and to our Choir, each of whom, in their particular way, contribute to making these days so very special. Thanks, are also due to the Parents and Catechists, for all they do in handing on the gift of faith. And last, but not least, we congratulate the children on this special moment in their faith journey, and we continue to pray that they will continue to grow in their love for Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

PRIESTS TRAINING FUND

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Priests Training Fund. To date £3,025 has been donated, which is a great response. The fund will remain open until next weekend. If you haven't yet contributed, you can still do so. Contributions can be left in the Parish Office. If you are a UK tax payer and wish to 'Gift-Aid' your contribution please be sure to use one, of the collection envelopes and complete the gift aid section with your details. Gift-aiding does make a difference, increasing your donation by 25p for each pound donated. Please note, it is necessary to complete

the 'Gift-Aid' declaration on the collection envelope, even if you have already have completed a declaration for your parish contributions.

PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

Vocations to the Priesthood are essential to the life of the Church. We all have a duty to promote Priestly Vocations, and that is particularly true for parents in families, and for all in the parish. From Good Shepherd Sunday, until Pentecost, the Archbishop invites each of us to pray for Vocations to the Priesthood. Below is the Diocesan Prayer for Vocations, which we can all make. We will be making this prayer at all Masses, during this time. You are also invited to make this prayer individually, as families, or in other gatherings. Copies of the prayer are available in the porch, if you haven't already done so, please take a copy.

WESTMINSTER PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

God our Father,
you give us the Sacraments
as signs and instruments
of your love and mercy.

Draw from amongst your disciples
men who are willing to serve
your Church generously as priests in the
Diocese of Westminster,
to minister to your people
and to proclaim the Gospel to all.
Send your Spirit to guide and strengthen
them, to be their companion on the
journey, as they discern your will for their
lives.

This prayer we make through
Christ our Lord.

Amen

Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Pray for us
St John Southworth Pray for us

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO SPAIN

Following the success of the Lourdes pilgrimage last year, we are planning another one, but this time to Spain, from 5th to 10th October 2026. Do consider being part of this potentially wonderful experience, by emailing dennis@denniscooper.uk

Brief outline of Schedule. Flight to Madrid & hotel check-in. The pilgrimage will include a visit to the English Collage at Valladolid, and an optional walking tour of Madrid. Visits to Avila (famous for being the home of St Teresa) and the magnificent 12th century Wall, A day visit to Segovia, renowned for it's connection with the Spanish Mystic, St John of the Cross. The final, full day, will include a trip to Salamanca, famous for it's two cathedrals, and two universities. The cost includes flights, 5 nights half board accommodation, airport duty and taxes, one 20kgs suitcase. Cost per person in a shared room is approx. £950 tbc subject to a minimum group size 20 and potential airline price increases due to external forces. Hence why a speedy response is encouraged.

to families and children and explaining the different ways in which they can help at Mass, then we really need you. We are a very friendly group and it's a great way to get to know people in the parish. Please come and chat to us if you think you might be interested.

DIAMOND JUBLIEE

60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The 60th Anniversary of Monsignor Harry Turner's Ordination to the Priesthood will be marked with a Special Mass on Sunday 7th June at 11:30am.

Following the Mass, everyone is welcome to continue the celebration at a parish gathering in Lourdes Hall. If you would like to take part, please add your name to the signup sheet affixed to the lift wall (only sign up if you can come). Father Harry has made it said that he doesn't want any presents, but if you wish, you can make a donation to one of his favourite charities: www.passage.org.uk
<https://www.cardinalhumecentre.org.uk/>
Aid to the Church in need
<https://acn.uk.org>

DWG TEA IN THE GARDEN

The Developing World Group will be holding their Annual Tea And Cake in the Garden On **Saturday June 6th From 10am-2pm**

At 38 Park Avenue North AL5 2ED. Plants And Homemade Cakes will be on sale (cash preferred please). Everyone is most Welcome as are donations of plants.



CAN YOU HELP?

Thank you to those who have volunteered to assist with our Parish Youth Group. Hopefully, we can soon meet, and talk about the way forward, and what we can do for our young people. Many people, quite rightly, say 'what are we doing for our young people/'This is the right question to ask. If the parish is to provide for our young people, then the question might be reversed, and we can ask: what are you prepared to do for our young people? There is still room for more to be involved, so do think about how you can assist. If you would like more information about what is involved, please contact Canon Dwyer.

WELCOMERS FOR THE 9.45 MASS

We are looking for additional helpers to welcome at the 9.45 Mass. If you aren't already busy volunteering and particularly if you are someone that is happy chatting

CATENIAN UPDATE

The Catenian dinner last week was a great success with 31 people attending, including non Catenian parishioners.

Did you know that Catenians are one of the main sponsors of Flame, being held next year on Saturday 6th March and organised by CMYfed (The Catholic Youth Ministry) . Tickets are now on sale. Visit <https://cymfed.org.uk/flame/>

Through the Catenian Bursary Fund, Catenians support our young people and have over time awarded £1.2 million- to 16–25-year-old Catholics, to serve in Lourdes or take part in personal projects that help develop their character, through faith. Interested in finding out more about becoming a Catenian, then email Simon Davies at simon-davies9@sky.com Nothing ventured nothing gained!

PARISH PICNIC – SUNDAY 28 JUNE

After the 11:30am Mass, please join us for our Parish Picnic in Rothamsted Park. Bring your own food and drink, and a picnic blanket. Outdoor games are very welcome! We'll walk across to the park together after Mass. Please say a prayer for sunshine. We look forward to a wonderful afternoon together.

STRAWBERRY SOCIAL

Save the date for this very popular annual event. It will be held on 5th July in the Presbytery garden More details will be available in the coming weeks.

REPOSITORY

We are now entering the seasons of First Communion and Confirmation, and the repository has been restocked with a beautiful selection of cards and gifts to

mark these very special occasions. Do come in and choose something meaningful to celebrate an important moment in a young person's life. We also have a lovely range of Baptism and Wedding gifts, along with cards for all occasions and Jubilees! Pop in and have a look — you're always very welcome!

FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed on Bank Holiday Monday. Any notices for the Newsletter please email the Parish office by lunchtime on Wednesday Thank You.



CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please let the Parish Office know if you have moved/changed any of your contact details so we can keep our records as up to date as possible.

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.catholicchurchharpندن.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Parishioners-Registration-Form-2025.pdf>

Completed forms can be emailed or posted into the Parish Office. harpندن@rcdow.org.uk

WINTERSHALL

THE LIFE OF CHRIST

16 - 20 June 2026 -

The Story Of Jesus, Brought To Life Discover the wonder of Jesus' life with an unforgettable event for all the family. The Life of Christ is a play like no other, placing you in the middle of an immersive theatre experience. Join over a hundred actors in

the stunning grounds of Wintershall Estate as this magnificent story is movingly recreated with authentic detail in an epic open-air production. Watch the Wedding in Cana, the Feeding of the 5000 and the Last Supper unfold before your eyes. It's the perfect day out for families, faith groups, theatre lovers and schools.

Tickets can be booked

at <https://www.wintershall.org.uk/event/life-of-christ/>

Please note that 16th & 17th June are schools' only days. There is limited availability on Thursday 18th & Friday 19th June. At present there is availability on Saturday 20th June but please book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

GIFT AID 2025/2026

As the 2025/2026 tax year ended on 5th April 2026, we will soon be submitting our Parish Gift Aid claim.

If you are a UK taxpayer, Gift Aid is a simple way to make your donations go further—at no extra cost to you. For every £1 you give, the Parish can claim an additional 25p from HM Revenue & Customs, significantly increasing the value of your support.

Whether you donate through the card machine or by standing order, you can include your contributions in Gift Aid. All it takes is completing a short Gift Aid declaration form.

By signing up, you are helping the Parish continue its mission, maintain the church, and support our community. If you haven't yet joined the Gift Aid scheme, we warmly encourage you to do so.

Forms are available in the church porch, and completed forms can be returned to the Parish Office. If you would like more information or wish to set up a standing order with Gift Aid, please contact the

Parish Office—we will be happy to assist you.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

PILGRIMAGE OF REPARATION & PRAYER FOR THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

Celebrant: Rt Rev Peter Collins, Bishop of East Anglia,

When: 1st August 2026

Where: Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham

Time: 12:00 to 17:00, beginning with the Pilgrim Mass at noon.

Coach from Harpenden: Chef Peking at 7.30am

Price: £30 Adults & £12 Children

Further information about the pilgrimage, livestreaming and coach meeting points can be found on the website

<https://prolifepilgrimage.org/>

To book contact Geraldine 07971028415

MASS INTENTIONS

<p>Saturday 23rd May 1.00pm</p> <p>Vigil Mass 6.00pm</p> <p>Sunday 24th May 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p>Easter Feria Wedding Cox & McGleenon</p> <p>PENTECOST SUNDAY Rita Dooley RIP (Anniversary)</p> <p>Patricia Bonardi RIP (Recently Deceased) People of the Parish Jimmy Brophy RIP (Anniversary) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</p>	<p>PLEASE PRAY FOR:</p> <p>Newly Married Couple May your marriage be filled with love, patience, joy, and unwavering faith. May you grow together in strength and kindness, support one another through every season, and build a home filled with peace and gratitude. May God bless your union today and always. Amen.</p> <p>Recently Deceased Patricia Bonardi RIP Matthew Larkin RIP</p> <p>RIP Anniversaries Rita Dooley RIP Jimmy Brophy Michael O'Brien RIP Dolores Jones RIP</p>
<p>Monday 25th May Bank Holiday 10.00am</p>	<p>Mary, Mother of the Church Michael O'Brien RIP (Anniversary)</p>	
<p>Tuesday 26th May 9.15am</p>	<p>St Philip Neri, Priest Dolores Jones RIP (Anniversary)</p>	
<p>Wednesday 27th May 9.15am 11.00am</p>	<p>ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY, Bishop No Mass Requiem Mass Derek Saward</p>	<p>Prayer for the Faithful Departed</p> <p>Loving Father, welcome those who have gone before us into Your peace. Comfort all who mourn, and keep us united in faith and hope until we meet again in Your heavenly kingdom. Amen.</p>
<p>Thursday 28th May 11.00am</p>	<p>OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST Matthew Larkin RIP (Recently Deceased)</p>	
<p>Friday 29th May</p>	<p>Feria</p>	
<p>Saturday 30th May 12.00 Noon</p> <p>Vigil Mass 6.00pm</p> <p>Sunday 31st May 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p>Feria Baptism Pancamo & Barratt Families</p> <p>THE MOST HOLY TRINITY Paddy Brown RIP (Recently Deceased)</p> <p>Yvonne McBrearty RIP (Recently Deceased) People of the Parish David Mercer RIP Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</p>	