Contactless Giving

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A
24TH OCTOBER 2026



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The words of St Paul to the Thessalonians, in the second reading, remind us that faith is not simply something we believe; it is something we live and share with others. Paul praises the Christians of Thessalonica because they became *"imitators of us and of the Lord"*, receiving the Gospel with joy, even in the midst of suffering.

Their faith was not dependent on everything going well in their lives. They experienced affliction and difficulties, yet the joy of the Holy Spirit remained with them. This is an important reminder for us. Christian joy does not mean that we are free from worry, disappointment or sorrow. Rather, it comes from knowing that God is with us, even in the most difficult moments of our lives.

St Paul also tells the Thessalonians that their example had become known throughout Macedonia and Achaia. Their faith spoke louder than words. By the way they lived, they showed others what it meant to believe in Jesus Christ and to trust in the living God.

There is a challenge here for each of us. We may sometimes think that sharing our faith requires special words or opportunities to speak about religion. Yet very often, it is our everyday lives that provide the most powerful witness. The patience we show towards others, our willingness to forgive, our generosity towards those in need, and the hope we maintain during difficult times can all reveal something of Christ to the world.

We are called not only to imitate Jesus ourselves, but also to become examples of his love to others. We may never know how much our actions influence those around us. We can ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen our faith, deepen our joy, and help us to live in such a way that others may come to recognise the presence of Christ through us.

A DAY OF GREAT JOY!



It was a great joy and pleasure to be in Arundel Cathedral on Monday for the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Stephen Wang. Along with Archbishop Moth, many other archbishops and bishops, and over 100 priests together with Bishop Stephens family, friends and representatives of the parishes of his new Diocese, it was a truly joyful and uplifting occasion. Having been Received into the Church in Harpenden, it was good to hear Harpenden mentioned, as Bishop Stephen reflected on his faith journey to date.

In the homily, Archbishop John Wilson, who presided at the Ordination, reminded us: "A bishop is called to shepherd God's people in the footsteps of Christ, the Good Shepherd. I know Bishop Stephen will lead the people of Arundel & Brighton towards the Lord Jesus, especially by seeking out those who are lost, and walking together with those he will serve. May the Lord Jesus strengthen Bishop Stephen and guide him as he shepherds his people." Let us heed those words, and continue to pray for Bishop Stephen as he takes up his new ministry.

PARISH CELEBRATION

To celebrate his Episcopal Ordination, Bishop Stephen will be coming to the parish to celebrate Mass, on Sunday November 8th, at 11.30am. After Mass, there will be a celebration in St Dominic' School. If you would like to come and bring some food for the refreshments, please add your name to the sign-up sheet affixed to the lift wall. Please only sign up if you can attend.

MONTH OF NOVEMBER –
PRAYING FOR THE HOLY SOULS

During the month of November, we especially remember and pray for all our deceased loved ones — the Holy Souls. Parishioners are invited to collect a Holy Souls sheet and envelope from the porch of the Church. Please write the names of your deceased family members and friends on the sheet, place it in the envelope provided, and return it with your offering to the Parish Office, by posting it through the **Presbytery Letterbox** or handing it in to the **Parish Office**. All names received will be included in the **Masses offered for the Holy Souls during November**.

CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY

We recently marked CAFOD Harvest Fast Day, when we were asked to deny ourselves in some way, and so show solidarity with those, in the world, who have so little. £1,005 has been donated so far. If you would still like to contribute, it is not too late to do so. Contributions can be left in the Parish Office, and don't forget to use a CAFOD envelope if you wish to 'Gift-Aid' your donation.

CAFOD SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Could you inspire the next generation and gain valuable experience of presenting to

young people at the same time? CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, is looking for volunteers to visit local schools to present assemblies and workshops. Full training and support provided. See cafod.org.uk/Volunteer for more information or contact Westminster's CAFOD representative Chris Driscoll at cdriscoll@cafod.org,uk or call 07776 493162.

RECEPTION SCHOOL FORMS

It's that time of year when applications are being made for places in Reception. Parents who require the Certificate of Catholic Practise to be signed, or other confirmation of Mass attendance, can meet with Canon Dwyer on **Wednesday 2nd December in Church from 5.30pm – 6.30pm.**

ACCOUNTS

Each year the parish submit their accounts to the Diocese. If you are interested in knowing some more about what your money is spent on, you will find details on the parish website. As details of the accounts are shared, it is an opportunity to thank everyone who faithfully contributes to the support of the parish. You will find the accounts, for the year ended 31st December 2025 at https://www.catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk/olol-financial-results/

CLOCKS GO BACK!



As autumn settles in, a little reminder that the clocks go back one hour this Sunday, so on Saturday evening remember to turn your clocks back.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the Repose of the Souls of Zita McGuinness and Thomas Parrott who both died recently.

Funeral details for Zita McGuinness

Zita's Requiem Mass will be held on Thursday 5th November at 1.00pm.

Funeral details for Thomas Parrott

Requiem Mass will be held on Tuesday 10th November at 10.30am and a memorial service will follow at 1.30pm.

We remember Zita and Thomas's families in our prayers at this time.

DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP QUIZ NIGHT

The Developing World Group want to thank all those who participated so enthusiastically last Saturday in the Quiz in aid of our latest 2026 project with Just Small Change Village Loan Schemes and Regenerative Farming programmes in Eastern Uganda All agreed it was great fun and we raised in excess of £ 1800 - a magnificent sum. Your support is key. Thank you so much.

EAGERLY SOUGHT

Every week since the Covid lockdown we have broadcast this 11:30am mass on Zoom and YouTube, and we could really do with an additional person or two, willing to help, either on the occasional Sunday, or perhaps on a rota, to ensure it continues giving the housebound and others access to our Masses. **If you are able to help, please contact John Saliot. 07980537791 or at 11:30 Mass. Thank You!**

YOUTH MATTERS
The next Youth Friendly Mass and Youth Group take place on Saturday 7th November at 6pm.

PART-TIME SITE SUPERVISOR VACANCY
The parish of St Alban & St Stephen (next to St Albans's City Station) are looking for a part-time site supervisor to work Monday-Friday 8am - 11am. The successful candidate will play a key role in the care and upkeep of the parish complex. Working independently, as well as with volunteers and contractors, you will help ensure that the site is maintained to a high standard and that health and safety requirements are met. An application form and full job description can be found at https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/site-supervisor-job-ref-895-stals/ Closing date for applications is 11th November. Interviews on 17th November.

WAITROSE SHOPPERS – ST DOMINIC'S


St Dominic's School is now in the Community Matters Boxes at the checkouts of Waitrose Harpenden. If you shop there, please pick up a few green tokens at the checkout and pop them in the St Dom's pot. This show of support will enable the school to buy valuable new resources, namely library books & IT equipment. Every token counts so thank you!

LIVESIMPLY - Advance Notice
A REPAIR FAIR AT OLOL!
The UK is the world's second-highest producer of e-waste per capita. Help us reduce waste! The LiveSimply team, in partnership with St Albans District Fixers, is holding a Repair Fair at Lourdes Hall on Saturday afternoon, 24th October. Bring your broken portable electricals, electronics or clothing for our skilled volunteer fixers and seamstresses to attempt repairs.
We would also welcome volunteers handy with a screwdriver or experienced in sewing. No expert skills needed, as you can work alongside an experienced fixer. For further information or to volunteer, please contact Jon Newham. jonathan.newham@googlemail.com.

NATIVITY JOURNEY AT WINTERSHALL
Will be performed from the 15th to the 20th of December 2026. Attendees can discover the true meaning of Christmas with an unforgettable immersive event for all the family. They stand with the shepherds, walk with Mary, Joseph and the donkey, journey with Roman soldiers and enter the stable to watch the miracle unfold. Tickets can be booked here: https://www.wintershall.org.uk/event/the-nativity-journey/
A short introductory video is available here: https://youtu.be/xoAFCjrJC88?si=ocGQrvQq3dylr5CN

A DAY WITH MARY is taking place at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 7th November 2026 (9.45am to 5.00pm). The Most Reverend Richard Moth, Archbishop of Westminster will be the Celebrant & Preacher at 10.30am Cathedral Mass on that day. Further information is available at https://www.adaywithmary.org/

SPACe
Have you been to SPACe? That's Southdown Performing Arts Centre. www.southdownspace.org It is open again after stage 1 of refurbishing and now has an extra toilet and disabled access via a

ramp. There is a full programme of events including popular First Friday entertainment with tea and cakes; Jazz; Gilbert and Sullivan; Jeckyll and Hyde and Christmas Carol. Find further details and tickets on the website, flyers at the back of church or through Margaret Cox. SPACe is also seeking to employ a Performing Arts Pioneer.

FROM THE PARISH OFFICE



The Parish Office is open Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 12.30pm. Any notices for the Newsletter please email the Parish office by lunchtime on Wednesdays.

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.
https://www.catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk/category/welcome/

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.
harpenden@rcdow.org.uk

MASS INTENTIONS		
Saturday 24th October	**Feria**	**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**
	30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)	**Prayer for the Newly Baptised** Heavenly Father, bless these newly baptised children and guide them always in Your love. May they grow in faith, hope and love, surrounded by the care of family and friends. May they always know the joy of being Your beloved children. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
Vigil Mass 6.00pm	John Aaltio (Special Intentions)	
Sunday 25th October		
8.30am	Roger Gregory RIP (Recently Deceased)	
9.45am	People of the Parish	
11.30am	Maura Grimshaw RIP (Anniversary) **Zoom Code 883 7014 5568**	
Monday 26th October	**Feria**	
9.15am	Susan Jennings RIP (Anniversary)	
Tuesday 27th October	**Feria**	
9.15am	Lorna Sexton RIP (Recently Deceased)	
Wednesday 28th October	**SAINTS SIMON & JUDE, Apostles**	
9.15am	Oliver Gajdowski (Special Intentions)	
Thursday 29th October	**Blessed Martyrs of Douai (Diocesan)**	**Anniversaries** Maura Grimshaw RIP Susan Jennings RIP
11.00am		
Friday 30th October	**Feria**	**Recently Deceased** Lorna Sexton RIP
Saturday 31st October	**Feria**	**Prayer for the Faithful Departed** 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.**
12.00 Noon	Baptism Cox & Watson Families	
	ALL SAINTS (A)	
Vigil Mass 6.00pm	Maureen Jack RIP (Anniversary)	
Sunday 1st November		
8.30am	Johanna Gregory RIP	
9.45am	People of the Parish	
11.30am	Marie & Michael Walker (Golden Wedding) **Zoom Code 883 7014 5568**	