



Parish Website

# OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024  
2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT (B)



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## Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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Office Administrator & Bookkeeper Mrs Melanie Armitage

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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One of the most famous tests in the Bible is the one that Abraham faced. Abraham was a very good man, a man of faith. He was well prepared by his strong faith and trust in God, to face the test to which he was put. When God called to Abraham, he responded ready and willing, "Here I am!" Then came the test, one chance to get it right or wrong. God asked Abraham to sacrifice the life of his only son. After Abraham had demonstrated his willingness, to give all to God, God interrupts the action and Isaac's life is spared.

Did God need that test? Probably not. After all, God knows everything. It was Abraham who learned from that test. He learned, how truly strong his faith was and, in the process, we who ponder at this event, can come to admire, and, hopefully, imitate Abraham's faith. So, it is through different events in life, our faith is tested. How we respond, demonstrates, to us, the strength of our faith and in the process, it can become stronger. It works. The more I trust God, the more and better, I become, at trusting God.

In taking Peter, James and John up the mountain to witness his Transfiguration, Jesus was preparing them for their tests. Jesus let them see a glimpse, of the future that awaits. What they saw was so extraordinary and overwhelming, they wanted to remain. They had yet to endure the test, of Jesus's own death on the cross, and resurrection from the dead. So, they did, and so will we. Jesus's Transfiguration was not only for their benefit, but for ours, too. Jesus wants us, to be as well prepared as Abraham, Peter, James and John. Are you working on it?

## LENT 2024



### FRIDAY MASS & STATIONS

Each Friday during Lent, there will be Mass at 7.00pm, followed by the Stations of the Cross. This could be a good Lenten Practise. Giving an hour each week, to attend an extra Mass, and to follow Jesus' journey to Calvary, by making the Stations of the Cross'.

### LENT GROUPS 2024

These groups are now up and running however, it's not too late to join them. Please email [juliaandnigel057@gmail.com](mailto:juliaandnigel057@gmail.com) or [rachellee987@gmail.com](mailto:rachellee987@gmail.com) for more information.

### LENT & EASTER IN THE REPOSITORY

We have now received a further supply of Lent Day to Day books for adults and these are on sale in the repository for £1. We also have a wide range of Easter cards together with Lent reading books, colouring and activity books and magazines for children. These are ideal for preparing children to celebrate Easter.

St Patrick's Day and Mothering Sunday are also approaching and again, we have a range of cards for each of these festivals. Do pop in after Mass you'll be surprised at what we have to offer.

### LENTEN ALMS

#### Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2024

If you can, please show your support for the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal. All funds raised go towards projects across our Diocese. Each year, the Diocese uses donations made to support the work of our services, such as Marriage & Family Life; Youth Ministry, and Education. Funds are also used to support the work of Caritas Westminster, who work for, and with, some of the most vulnerable people in our Diocese. Cardinal Nichols, has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. So, please take a donation envelope today, for more information. You can use the QR code to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity.



### FRIDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY WAS CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY

This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. Please give today using the envelope which can be found in the porch or online at [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk). Your contributions will be collected after all Masses this weekend. If you are able to Gift Aid your donation please complete the envelope with your details and pop the sheet inside the envelope with your donation.

## BEING WHOLEHEARTED

Elsewhere in the newsletter, you will find details of the different Lenten activities taking place in the parish. If you are still deciding what to do, you may find an idea here. Also, if you're struggling to enter in to this season, it's still not too late to do so, or if you've started, but stopped, there's plenty of time to start again. Whatever you are doing in Lent, try to be wholehearted, for example if your decision is to attend Mass during the week, then try to come on time, to be present for all of the Mass. In other words, keeping to your Lenten commitment, and so to be ready to celebrate the great feast of Easter.



## SYNOD 2024

The work of the Synod continues in preparation for the final session set for October 2024. In preparation, the Cardinal has invited us to consider our experience of mission, in the context of building up community and widening participation. The second listening session takes place next Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February, between 7.30-8.45pm, in the Undercroft. If you are unable to attend the listening session, you will find the questions, being discussed at the meeting, on the parish website at:

<https://www.catholicchurchharpندن.org.uk/synodal-gatherings/> from Tuesday. The responses from each parish, will be collated by their respective Deans, and presented at the Council of Deans on March 6<sup>th</sup>. It is important that everyone's thoughts are included, if you can't come along on Tuesday evening, please give a little time to think about, and respond, to these questions.

## REST IN PEACE

### MAUREEN FRANCIS RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Maureen Francis, who died recently. We remember Maureen's family in our prayers at this time.

### MARGARET MERRITT RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Margaret Merritt, who died recently. Margaret's Funeral will be on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 11.00am. We remember Margaret's family in our prayers at this time.

### ALLAN HEALY RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Allan Healy who died recently. Allan's Funeral Mass will be on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 11.00am. We remember Mary and all the family in our prayers at this time.

### JOYCE THOMAS RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Joyce Thomas who died this week. Funeral details will be announced shortly. We remember Alan and all the family in our prayers at this time.

## DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP JUST SMALL CHANGE

'How YOU are helping in Uganda'  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March from 7pm-9pm  
in the Undercroft

Peter and Jane Donaghue, two trustees of 'Just Small Change', a charity we have consistently supported, will be giving a talk on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm in the Undercroft. This is an excellent opportunity for you to find out how your support of the Developing World Group is helping the very poor in the Budaka district of Eastern Uganda to build their own pathway out of poverty with the help of Goats! Using the funds, we donated 'Just Small Change' has organised an innovative Goat Breeding Programme and associated Savings and Loan Scheme in the village of Kadimukoli. Peter and Jane will give us feedback from the



very grateful households they met on their recent visit. We look forward to seeing you and offering some goats milk to taste!

### ST PATRICK'S DAY LUNCH

" Important Change ..the lunch will not start until 1pm to enable people to attend Allan Healy's funeral"



This very popular annual event will be held on Monday 18th March (the day after SPD) in the Undercroft from 1pm. Tickets priced £15 will include a welcome drink, a traditional Irish meal, barnbrack and Irish Coffee and will be on sale at all the Masses this weekend. Proceeds will go to Sister Margaret's Barcelona Settlement in South Africa. EVERYONE is welcome.

### 'CHORDS'

Join Soprano Alison Langer and Guests, in a musical recital exploring mothers and motherhood. Music included lullabies and arias from Puccini to Kate Bush!

Treat Mum to a superb afternoon on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 3pm in Church. For tickets and more information please email:

[Alison\\_langer@hotmail.com](mailto:Alison_langer@hotmail.com)

Ticket prices

Adults £8, Mothers £7, Children 12+ £4

### ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 2:30pm.

The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples



in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage

in 2024. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give Melanie in the Parish Office the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

Closer to the time the Agency for Evangelisation will send out, on behalf of the

Cardinal, an invitation to the registered couples.

### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 1st March 2024

The Harpenden World Day of Prayer service will take place at 10.30am at the High Street Methodist Church. The World Day of Prayer raises more than £200,000 each year in the UK for distribution to charity -

visit [www.wwdp.org.uk](http://www.wwdp.org.uk) for details or to make a donation. For more information on the Harpenden service and how to access the live-stream please see the postcards in the porch.

### ST DOMINIC NURSERY

ADMISSION SEPTEMBER 2024



Applications close at 3.30pm on 6th March.

for applications for Nursery places for children born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021.

For further information please visit our website [www.stdominic.herts.sch.uk](http://www.stdominic.herts.sch.uk)

### FROM THE DIOCESE JOB OPPORTUNITIES

A small selection of positions available

**Cathedral Estate Works Manager**

Closing date 27<sup>th</sup> February

**Parish Secretary - West Green & Hertford**

Closing Date 28<sup>th</sup> February

**Safeguarding Officer in the Safeguarding department**

Closing date 29<sup>th</sup> February

**Gift Shop Assistant in the Cathedral**

Closing date 1<sup>st</sup> March

**Retreat Leader at SPEC**

Closing date 4<sup>th</sup> March

**Parish Bookkeeper at Mill Hill**

Closing Date 11<sup>th</sup> March

**Chancery Assistant in the Chancery Dept**

Closing Date 13<sup>th</sup> March

**For further details and more roles please visit**

<https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/>

**MASS INTENTIONS**



<p><b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February</b> 12.00 Noon</p> <p><b>Vigil Mass 6.00pm</b></p> <p><b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February</b> 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p><b>Lent feria</b> Baptism Blaj Family</p> <p><b>2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT</b> Joan Mahoney RIP</p> <p>People of the Parish Denis Mann RIP (Anniversary) Linda Dwyer RIP (1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary) <b>Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</b></p>
<p><b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February</b> 9.15am</p>	<p><b>Lent Feria</b> Ann Turner RIP (1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary)</p>
<p><b>Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February</b> 9.15am</p>	<p><b>Lent Feria</b> Patrick Davies (Special Intention)</p>
<p><b>Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February</b> 9.15am</p>	<p><b>Lent feria</b> Sr. Columba Cleary RIP (Recently Deceased)</p>
<p><b>Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February</b> 11.00am</p>	<p><b>Lent feria</b> Mary &amp; Lance Nash (Recently Deceased)</p>
<p><b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March</b> 7.00pm 7.30pm</p>	<p><b>SAINT DAVID, Bishop Patron of Wales</b> Ann Halloran (Special Intention) <b>Stations of the Cross</b></p>
<p><b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March</b> 12.00 Noon</p> <p><b>Vigil Mass 6.00pm</b></p> <p><b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March</b> 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p><b>Lent feria</b> Frankland and Halligan Families</p> <p><b>3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT</b> Kathy Bearpark RIP</p> <p>Eileen Soden RIP (Recently Deceased) People of the Parish Bridget Flanagan RIP (Anniversary) <b>Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</b></p>

**CONFESSIONS - SATURDAYS**  
**10.30AM - 11.00AM & AFTER THE 6.00PM VIGIL MASS**