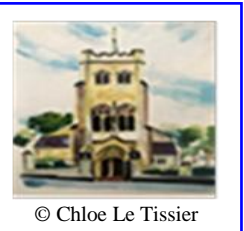




# OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026

3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)



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Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

Presbytery: 1, Kirkwick Avenue, Harpenden AL5 2QH Tel: 01582 712245

Email: [anthonydwyer@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:anthonydwyer@rcdow.org.uk)

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)

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

Parish Safeguarding Representative Mrs Brigid Brennan

Email: [harpendsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:harpendsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) Tel: 07881 785 299

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

Communications Team: [comms@catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk](mailto:comms@catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk)

Each year, the Church invites us to celebrate the *Sunday of the Word of God*—a moment to renew our love for the Scriptures and to recognise the place of God's Word at the heart of our Christian life. This is not simply a day to admire the Bible as a sacred book, but to rediscover it as a living word, spoken by God to us here and now.

The Scriptures continue to speak to every generation, because they reveal who God is, and who we are called to be. When we listen attentively at Mass, it is Christ himself who speaks to us. The Word proclaimed is not just information; it is invitation—an invitation to faith, to conversion, and to hope.

In a world full of noise, opinions, and many distractions, the Word of God offers a different voice: steady, truthful, and life-giving. It challenges us when we are comfortable, consoles us when we are weary, and guides us when the way ahead is unclear. Many of us keep a Bible at home, but this Sunday gently asks: do we open it? Do we allow God's Word to shape our thinking, our decisions, and our relationships?

Both St Jerome, and Pope Francis remind us that "*ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ.*" To know Jesus more deeply, we must become familiar with the Scriptures. This need not be complicated: reading the Gospel of the day, spending a few quiet minutes with a psalm, or reflecting on a line that stays with us can be enough.

On this Sunday of the Word of God, let us renew our commitment to listen more carefully, both in church and in our daily lives. May the Word we hear take root in our hearts, so that it may bear fruit in lives of faith, love, and service.

## ARCHBISHOP'S INSTALLATION

Our Archbishop-elect, Richard Moth will be installed as Archbishop of Westminster on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February, during Mass, at Westminster Cathedral. Admission to this celebration, is by ticket only. Each parish, in the Diocese, has been allocated just one ticket for the Mass of Installation.

On the evening before, Friday 13 February 2026 at 5.30pm, there will be a celebration of Solemn Vespers also in Westminster Cathedral, at which the Archbishop-elect will preach. For this liturgy, each parish has been allocated two tickets.

If you would like to be considered for any of these tickets, please let Canon Dwyer know, no later than Sunday evening. Apologies for the late notice, but this information was only received in the past week, and replies are required by Monday. If a number of requests are received, the names will be put in a hat, and the appropriate number drawn out.

## MASS OF THANKSGIVING

In thanksgiving for the Cardinal Nichols ministry as Archbishop of Westminster, there will be a Mass of Thanksgiving on Thursday 5 February at 5.30pm, in Westminster Cathedral. Everyone is very welcome to attend, and no tickets are necessary.

## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The question is sometimes asked: 'Who is on the Parish Pastoral Council? These are the present members:

***Appointed in November 2023, for 3 years:***

Dominique Pesez, Katie Metcalfe, Caroline Rosser-Smyth, Jane Rose.

***Elected in June 2025 for 3 years:***

Paul Holland, Marcia Davies, Mike Delaney, Sinead Dineen,

***Appointed in June 2025 for 3 years:***

Andrew Belderbos (Secretary), Anna Painter, Michael Hessey (Chair) Genevieve Cox.

The PPC poster will be updated shortly, complete with photographs.

## BANISH THE WINTER BLUES SUPPER

This very popular annual event will be held on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February at the Lourdes Hall. Tickets will be on sale after all the Masses this weekend, priced £25**, which will include a two-course supper and featuring Lulu & the Hullabaloo Blues/Jazz band. **Don't delay tickets are selling fast!** Proceeds will go to the Developing World Group's project **WorkAid** to meet the costs of a service and repair facility centre for sewing machines in Zambia to develop local skills, empowering young people to help themselves. Come as a group or join us on your own on our Parish Table. Contact [marva@cpoauk.com/07943837277](mailto:marva@cpoauk.com/07943837277) if you want a group booking or if you would prefer to pay on-line. EVERYONE is welcome.

## PROTECTING LIFE

The House of Lords will debate the amendment related to abortion up-to-birth, on the last day of the Committee Stage either on 27th January 2026 or 2nd February 2026. This is a very worrying development. Please write to members of the House of Lords and ask them to fight the extreme abortion up-to-birth amendment. This was not in any party's manifesto. It was passed after just forty - three minutes of MPs' backbench debate. Please take a leaflet after Mass with details on how to contact a member of the House of Lords e.g. you can scan the QR code on the leaflet or type <https://spuc.org.uk/campaign/abortion-decriminalisation> into your browser. This online tool brings up a suggested Peer for

you contact either with instructions on posting it to the Peer or emailing it to him/her. Alternatively, you can send a physical letter written in your own words. These are the most impactful. The address is simply ( Name of Peer,) House of Lords, London, SW1A OPW.

**FOR THE YOUTH OF THE PARISH**  
**The Youth Friendly Mass will be this**  
**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 6.00pm.**

Young people from Year 7 to Year 13 and beyond are all very welcome to join and take an active role in this mass: Readers, Welcomers, Musicians, Altar Servants, please join us to make it as youth friendly as possible. Contact the Parish Office if you would like to be involved.



**OLOL YOUTH GROUP**

The Youth Group for those in the Confirmation Group and those young people in Year 10 and beyond will be this Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January after the Youth Friendly Mass. Join us for some food, fun and faith sharing.

**SING FOR – 13 REHEARSAL DATES:**

**In the Undercroft 7.30pm – 9.00pm**

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February

**CONCERT DATE:**

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 3.00pm

**RECENTLY DECEASED**

We remember in our prayers the following parishioners who have gone home to the Lord. We extend our heartfelt condolences to their families and loved ones.

**JOSIE PENFOLD RIP**

Josie's Requiem Mass will be on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 11.00am.

**PATRICIA BROOKMAN RIP**

Patricia's Requiem Mass will be on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 11.00am

**LENT REFLECTION GROUPS 2026**

As **ASH WEDNESDAY is 18th FEBRUARY** this year, the groups will commence week **beginning Monday 16th February.** More details will follow in due course but for the moment we are asking for volunteers to host 5/6 people once a week up to week beginning 30th MARCH.

As in past years, these will be friendly, faith sharing groups following a shared theme, (to be confirmed in due course). Please do let either Teresa Newham or myself, Julia Roche, know if you feel you could do this. Even if you feel that you can't host, please think of joining a group and let us know your 1st/2nd/3rd choice of day and time.

[email:-juliaandnigel057@gmail.com](mailto:juliaandnigel057@gmail.com) OR  
[marbretherese@googlemail.com](mailto:marbretherese@googlemail.com)

**FAMILY MASS MUSIC**

Children at the 9:45am

Family Mass are invited to join the music group for the final hymn. After the

**announcements, head to the back of the church with your hymn book—helpers will hand out percussion instruments. First**



Holy Communion children should stay with their catechists and sing extra loudly! Singers and instrumentalists are always welcome—regularly or ad hoc. Speak to us after Mass or contact Catherine Roche: [catherine2.roche@gmail.com](mailto:catherine2.roche@gmail.com).

### LOST PROPERTY

There is now a large amount of lost property in the box on the table outside the repository. If you believe any of these items are yours, please reclaim them as soon as possible as anything unclaimed will be given to charity.



**Left behind on Christmas Day, Peter Rabbit wants to play! If he's yours, come take him soon, He's waiting patiently by the repository.**



### FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

Any notices for the Newsletter please email the Parish office by lunchtime on Wednesday  
Thank You.



### 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](mailto:harpenden@rcdow.org.uk)



### GETTING MARRIED?

Couples intending to marry are required by the Diocese to give at least six months' notice. Pre-marriage preparation is an important opportunity to reflect on the lifelong commitment of marriage as well as practical arrangements. Anyone hoping to marry within the next year should contact Canon Dwyer as soon as possible, and please pass this notice on to any couples planning to marry.



### ST DOMINIC'S SCHOOL NURSERY, YEAR 1 and YEAR2 - PLACES AVAILABLE

St Dominic Catholic Primary School has spaces available in the nursery, year 1 and year 2 Classes for the current academic year and welcomes enquiries from parents St Dominic's has recently been assessed by OFSTED and rated as OUTSTANDING.

### NURSERY OPEN MORNINGS

Please contact the school office on 01582 760047, for more information or to book a place on the tours.

**Nursey applications open on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026 and close on the 2nd March 2026**

For more information please contact 01582760047 email:

[admissions@stdominic.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admissions@stdominic.herts.sch.uk)

MASS INTENTIONS		
<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January</b>  <b>Vigil Mass 6.00pm</b> <b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>8.30am</b> <b>9.45am</b> <b>11.30am</b>	St Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor of the Church  <b>3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)</b> <b>Youth Friendly Mass</b> Rasad Wadge RIP (1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary) Deceased Members of the O’Hare Family People of the Parish Eileen Barrett RIP (Recently Deceased) <b>Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</b>	<b>PLEASE PRAY FOR:</b>  <b>Recently Deceased</b> Eileen Barrett RIP  <b>RIP Anniversaries</b> Rasad Wadge RIP Liam Dooley RIP Bernard McGarry RIP Ewan Keppie RIP  <b>Prayer for the Faithful Departed</b> Loving God, we remember those who have died. Grant them the peace of Christ, and let Your perpetual light shine upon them. Comfort all who mourn and strengthen our hope in the resurrection. <b>Amen.</b>
<b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>9.15am</b>	<b>Saints Timothy &amp; Titus, Bishops</b> Liam Dooley RIP (Anniversary)	
<b>Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>9.15am</b>	<b>Feria</b> Sr Eileen (Special Intentions)	
<b>Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>9.15am</b>	<b>St Thomas Aquinas, Priest &amp; Doctor of the Church</b> Bernard McGarry RIP (Anniversary)	
<b>Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>11.00am</b>	<b>Feria</b> Ewan Keppie RIP (Anniversary)	
<b>Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Feria</b>	
<b>Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January</b>  <b>Vigil Mass 6.00pm</b> <b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February</b> <b>8.30am</b> <b>9.45am</b> <b>11.30am</b>	St John Bosco, Priest  <b>4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)</b>  Terry Newman RIP (Recently Deceased) People of the Parish Blessing Ufaroh (Thanksgiving) Gerry Maureen & Geraldine Martin RIP (Anniversary) <b>Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</b>	
<b>CONFESSIONS</b> <b>SATURDAYS 10.30AM – 11.00AM &amp; AFTER THE 6.00PM VIGIL MASS</b>		