



Parish Website

# OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,  
KING OF THE UNIVERSE (A)



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## Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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## Parish Administrator 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

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

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

On this last Sunday of the Church's year, Jesus is set before us, as our king. It is Christ our king that is set before us, before we begin the season of Advent next Sunday. The kingship of Jesus is very different, to the kind of kingship that is exercised in this world.

The king we are asked to follow, as described in the first reading, is a shepherd. This shepherd is caring and compassionate, who looks for the lost, bandages the wounded and makes the weak strong. This is the shepherd and king we are asked not only to follow, but whose life and example we are asked to live by. Just as he looks after, and cares for, each of us, so we in turn, are to care for each other.

We are to care for the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the homeless, the poor, the rejected and those in prison; this is where Jesus is to be found. We are to be attentive to others, if we are to find Jesus. This gospel, and today's feast, calls us to draw on the presence of Christ, who dwells within each of us, so we can reach out, to Christ in others, especially those who are in need, of any kind.

This gospel, is not about some unknown time in the future, but it is about each of us, and how we follow Jesus here and now. On this Feast of Christ our King, both the first reading, and the gospel speak about others, who need our help and support. We honour Christ, through whatever we do for each other, and what we do for each other, we do for Jesus. If we have open eyes, and open hearts, we will see Christ the King in everyone we meet.

## SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS

Thank you for your contributions last Sunday, for the Sick and Retired Priests of our Diocese, to date £2,190.00 has been donated. The fund will remain open until next weekend, so if you haven't yet made a donation, it is not too late to do so. Donation envelopes are available in the porch, in which you can place your offering, and return to the parish office. These envelopes should be used if you wish to Gift-Aid your contribution.



## JUBILIEE YEAR

Pope Francis has declared that the year 2025 will be a Jubilee Year, about which there will be more information, as we approach this time. Amongst other activities, in preparation, are an invitation to reflect, again, on the main documents of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vatican Council. There will be two online talks, 'the Year of the Council', the first on 7th November, on 'Lumen Gentium': How the Church Looks at Herself, and the second on 28th November 'Gaudium et Spes': How the Church Looks at the World. The talks are on Tuesday Evenings, 7.30-8.30pm, given by Fr Brian O'Mahony, and will be delivered via Zoom. To register: Please contact Warren Brown [catadmin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:catadmin@rcdow.org.uk). Participants are invited to make a donation of £5 per talk: <https://rcdow.org.uk/donations/agency-for-evangelisation/> by adding 'Year of the Council' in the optional message box. For further information contact Anna, [annadupelycz@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:annadupelycz@rcdow.org.uk)

## ALL SOULS

During November, a number of Masses will be offered for the Holy Souls. If you would like anyone to be included in these Masses, please send their names to the Parish Office, and they will be added to the Book of Remembrance.



## SEASON OF ADVENT



### ADVENT CAROLS

Next Sunday, as we begin the season of Advent, we will be having an Advent Carol Service, at 6.00pm, with the choir and congregation from St John the Baptist Church, who are coming to join us. As this special season begins, do think about joining in this time of prayer, a lovely opportunity to focus our hearts and minds on the beautiful messages of Advent.

### MAUREEN JACK RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Maureen Jack, who died recently. Maureen's Requiem Mass will be this Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November at 11.00am. We remember Maureen and all the family in our prayers.

### EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament next Tuesday, 2.00pm to 3.00pm at the Convent, 18 Kirkdale Road. At 2.30pm we will pray the Rosary for the suffering people of the Holy Land and a end to the senseless violence.



### FOURTY HOURS

#### AT SS ALBAN & STEPHEN CHURCH

You are warmly invited to join the Parishioners of SS Alban & Stephen, at anytime during the 'Forty Hours' devotion from 6pm on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November until 10am on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. During this time the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the altar for adoration and prayer. Visit <https://www.albanstephen.org/adoration-2023/> for further details.



# Travelling Crib

## ***Could you offer Mary and Joseph a room for the night?***

During Advent, the Travelling Crib will be making its way around the parish, beginning with a blessing in church at the 9.45am mass on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

It will then be taken home by a family who plays host to the nativity characters for the night, sharing a short act of worship together during which a candle is lit to signify that our travellers have a home for the night.

The next day they pass on the Crib to another family. This journey symbolises Mary and Joseph's difficult journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem before the birth of Jesus and allows us to take a moment of stillness in an otherwise busy Advent.

It will be an opportunity too for families to get to know each other a little better as they receive and then deliver on the crib.

The last hosts will bring the crib back to mass on Christmas Eve at the Nativity Service at 5pm.

All are welcome to participate in this activity - the young and the young at heart! Help with transport can be provided if needed.

There will also be a Travelling Crib Diary which will be posted on the parish website. Even if you are unable to host the crib you will be able to follow its journey through Advent.

If you would like the Travelling Crib to come into your home, please contact Anne Meehan on 07790 417685 or email [comms@catholicchurchharpندن.org.uk](mailto:comms@catholicchurchharpندن.org.uk)





## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Next weekend there will be a collection for flowers so that the church can be decorated for the Christmas season. The collection will be at the end of each Mass, you can also donate by using the Card Machine, select Christmas Flowers.

Thank you as always for your generosity.



## CHRISTMAS IN THE REPOSITORY



Come and see our range of Christmas cards both traditional and modern, together with Cribbs and figures, again traditional and modern and some which are especially for children to play with. We also have Christmas candles, tree decorations, and children's books, together with Advent calendars. All are very reasonably priced.

**DAY by DAY Advent books for Adults and children are available in the Repository.**

## MISSIO RED BOXES

Please bring your Red mission boxes to Mass for emptying. Either take to the Sacristy or alternatively take to the Parish Office. Boxes will be emptied and then left at the back of the church for collection. Thank you

## CAFOD ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CRISIS APPEAL

CAFOD are working with local partners in Gaza and Israel to provide urgent humanitarian aid to those in need. We are supporting families with cash vouchers, essential supplies and counselling. Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at [cafod.org.uk/ipc](https://cafod.org.uk/ipc) or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping

those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers.

## ST DOMINIC'S SCHOOL ADMISSIONS



It's that time of year again. Reception Admissions for children starting in September 2024. Applications open 1<sup>st</sup> November and close 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024. For more details [St Dominic Catholic Primary School - Admissions](#)

**Canon Dwyer will be available in the church, on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December between 5.30pm & 6.30pm to discuss the possibility of signing Certificate of Catholic Practice (CCP). Please note, the purpose of the CCP is to confirm that the applicant, and their family, are practising Catholics, that is, attend Mass every Sunday and on holydays of obligation.**

## ST. ALBANS AND DISTRICT FOODBANK

Milk and juice collections for the foodbank will be taken up next weekend. So please, if you can, bring a carton of UHT milk or long-life juice to the church next Saturday or Sunday.

## THE FRIENDS OF WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL BIG GIVE CAMPAIGN

Westminster Cathedral the mother Church of our diocese has improved the lighting of its main sanctuary. The previous aged and inefficient system had to be replaced as spare parts were no longer available. The improved lighting is of great benefit on major occasions particularly if they are being broadcast or live streamed. The improvements are being funded by the Friends of Westminster Cathedral. They are asking for our help by supporting their Big Give Campaign with online donations. For donations made from 12.00 noon on Tuesday 28 November and before 12.00 noon on Tuesday 5 December every £1 given is worth £2 with matched funding and £2.25 if you can tick the Gift Aid box. The link to the donation site is <https://bit.ly/FriendsBG23> or scan the QR code.



## CHRISTMAS GIFT PACKS

Keystage Housing are organising Christmas gift packs for their service users. They need 100 Chocolate oranges and Matchmaker chocolate boxes and new Men's socks!

Please could we help them achieve this.

All donations can be placed in the Yellow Collection bin located in front of the Church.

## FOR THE YOUTH OF THE PARISH

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm will be the next Youth friendly mass for 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. Contact the parish office if you'd like to take part.

## OLOL YOUTH GROUP:

Year 9 Confirmation Candidates & Year 10 and beyond Save the date:

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 7.00pm to 8.30pm

**'WEAR YOUR CHRISTMAS JUMPER OR ACCESSORIES FOR A FESTIVE YOUTH GROUP ON SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER'**



Join us for our Parish Youth Group at 7pm in the Undercroft, and pizzas are on the menu! Once a month, we will meet after the 6pm Youth Friendly Mass for some food, some fun and some faith sharing time together.

## FUTURE DATES

13<sup>th</sup> January, 10<sup>th</sup> February, 17<sup>th</sup> March 10am - 3pm, 13<sup>th</sup> April, 11<sup>th</sup> May, 8<sup>th</sup> June & 13<sup>th</sup> July.



**DATES FOR YOUR CALENDARS**  
You are all warmly invited to join us for..



**Advent Service -**  
Sunday 3rd December 6pm



**Parish Christmas Fair - Lourdes Hall**  
**NEXT SATURDAY**

This very popular annual event will be held on **SATURDAY 2nd DECEMBER** from noon to 3pm in the Lourdes Hall. There will be all the usual stalls including bottles, cakes, craft, gifts, toys and white elephant, as well as Irish coffees, hot dog lunches and more.

We also will have Santa's Grotto for the children to visit.

Raffle tickets will be on sale after all the Masses and you can start bringing in your donations of cakes, jewellery, bottles, toys, good quality white elephant etc into the porch of the Church NOW.

Everyone is welcome.

If you can help setting up, working on a stall or clearing up, please contact [marva@cpoauk.com](mailto:marva@cpoauk.com) or 07943 837277.



**Choristers Christmas Concert -**  
Thursday 7th December 7.30pm



**Carols by Candlelight -**  
Friday 22nd December 6pm



## CAFOD WORLD GIFTS

CAFOD have delivered the World Gifts Catalogues and they are in the porch for you to take home a copy. World Gifts are a wonderful way for the Parish Community to share the hope and joy of Christmas with our global family.

## CHILDREN'S NATIVITY SERVICE - CHRISTMAS EVE 2023



We are pleased to say that we will be having a Children's Nativity again this year. The service will be at 5.00pm on Christmas Eve, and is a lovely reminder to the children about the reasons for celebrating this great feast. This year we are dramatising the story "The Not-So-Wise Man" which will be read by an adult, but we do need a cast of many - (shepherds, angels, wisemen, townsfolk etc.) So, if you would like your child to take part please come to the rehearsal in church on Saturday 23rd December at 10:00am to 12.30pm, when we will be reading the story to the children and asking for them to take various parts (There are no speaking parts!) Your child does need to be at this rehearsal to take part on Christmas Eve. We have some costumes, but if you have anything suitable then they would be most useful. The children need to be primary school age and if they are taking part in the nativity they will need to be in church at 4.30pm on Christmas Eve. Please let me know as soon as possible if they would like to take part, in the Nativity Service (contact Ginny St John Glew, 01582 620322 or email [ginny.sjg@gmail.com](mailto:ginny.sjg@gmail.com))

## CHRISTMAS DINNER 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, SUPPORTING NOAH & KEYSTAGE HOUSING

You, your family and friends are invited to the Harpenden, Luton & District Catenian, Christmas dinner, to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> December at Harpenden Golf Club 6-15pm for a 7pm sit down.

Tickets are person £35 per head for two course Christmas fare including wine. Tables of eight or tens can be reserved, or you can enjoy this happy, light-hearted gathering by taking any number of places, knowing that you will be having fun with friends.

As a special treat we will be entertained by

**Our Lady of Lourdes 'Sing for' Group directed by Katie Metcalfe.**

They will sing a selection of seasonal favourites and lead us in frivolity and carol singing. The Sing For project runs three times a year with money raised going to Keystage Housing and Noah, so please, help fill the dining room by booking your tickets today via email to

[john.williams58@btinternet.com](mailto:john.williams58@btinternet.com)

Dress is smart casual preferably with a Christmas theme. The deadline for booking is December 6<sup>th</sup> but don't wait until then, please book now. Raffle takings and a Catenian donation will be given to the charities for Christmas.

## SING FOR ..... CHRISTMAS!

### PERFORMANCES:

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December** 7.00-9.00pm OLOL extra rehearsal/ fundraising performance

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December** - Catenians Christmas Dinner.

## FAMILY RESOURCES

The Chosen is the first-ever multi-season series about the life of Christ. Season 1 is available on Netflix.

3 seasons have now been released and follow Jesus through the lives of his disciples and friends. It is free to watch and can be watched by downloading the Angel app

<https://watch.angelstudios.com/>

Another series that can be found on Netflix is *Mysteries of the Faith*

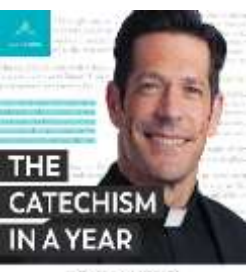
## ON THE GO:

Apps To Help You On Your Own Journey With God, Available On Google Play And The App Store

**PRAY AS YOU GO:** a free 10 to 13 min daily prayer session designed to go with you wherever you go, to help you pray whenever you find time, but particularly whilst travelling to and from work. Prayer As You Go also offers prayers series, retreats and extra resources, such as Mental Health Awareness Exercises



<https://pray-as-you-go.org/retreats-and-series/>



**THE CATECHISM IN A YEAR (WITH FR MIKE SCHMITZ)** podcast to transform your relationship with the Church that Christ founded.

<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/catechisminayear>

Fr Mike Schmitz also recorded The Bible in a Year podcast, 365 episodes of 20-25 min to be guided through the Bible

<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-registration>

## THE SANTA MARTA GROUP

Was established in 2014 by Pope Francis to combat human trafficking and modern slavery. SMG is now delivering 'Awareness and Guidance for Communities' to encourage local action and to prevent human

trafficking and modern slavery taking place in our midst. **On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November the Santa Marta Group will hold an information meeting in the parish hall of Our Lady Immaculate and St Andrew Catholic Church, 16, Nightingale Road, Hitchin SG5 1QS, from 7pm - 9pm.** Kevin Hyland, the UK's first Independent anti-slavery Commissioner and currently chief advisor to the Santa Marta Group will lead the meeting. All are welcome to come to learn more about the prevalence of human trafficking and modern slavery in our communities and the steps we can take to prevent it.

## HARDYNGE CHOIR

Invite you to join them at St John's Church, Harpenden on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 8pm for Christmas in Blue, Festive Jazz and Christmas Close Harmony. Supporting the Hospice of St Francis. Tickets are £16, Students £8 and under 16 are free. Seasonal Refreshments are included in the ticket price. book online:

[www.hardyngechoir.org](http://www.hardyngechoir.org) or call 0845 475 1644

## HARPENDEN CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL

High Street Methodist Church are pleased to announce, by popular demand, the return of The Journey: our immersive theatrical experience taking guests on a tour of the real Christmas story. (Definitely recommended for children, and adults too.) High Street Methodist will be open from 2-6pm and we will also be offering refreshments, children's crafts and musical entertainment.

## ADVENT FAMILY PACK

Celebrate Trust has produced a variety of activity packs based on the Church's liturgical seasons. The packs can be downloaded here: <https://www.celebratetrust.org/onlinefamilyactivitypacks> Please see details of the Advent pack in the church porch.

## MASS INTENTIONS

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Vigil Mass 6.00pm</b></p>	<p><b>feria</b></p> <p><b>OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, King of the Universe (A)</b> Mary Kelly RIP (Anniversary)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>8.30am</b> <b>9.45am</b> <b>11.30am</b></p>	<p><b>OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, King of the Universe (A)</b></p> <p>Jean &amp; Patrick Ward RIP People of the Parish &amp; Holy Souls Jack Shaw RIP (Anniversary) <b>Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>9.15am</b></p>	<p><b>feria</b></p> <p>Sadie Beirnes RIP (Anniversary)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>9.15am</b></p>	<p><b>feria</b></p> <p>Victor Newham RIP (Anniversary)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>11.00am</b></p>	<p><b>feria</b></p> <p>Requiem Mass for Maureen Jack</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>11.00am</b></p>	<p><b>ST ANDREW, Apostle, Patron of Scotland</b> Holy Souls</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December</b></p>	<p><b>feria</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Vigil Mass 6.00pm</b></p>	<p><b>feria</b></p> <p><b>1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)</b> Derek Grimshaw RIP (Anniversary)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>8.30am</b> <b>9.45am</b> <b>11.30am</b>  <b>6.00pm</b></p>	<p><b>1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)</b></p> <p>Jacqui Shanahan RIP (Recently Deceased) People of the Parish Cornelius Dennehy RIP (Anniversary) <b>Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</b> Advent Service</p>



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