



OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

26TH OCTOBER 2025

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)



© Chloe Le Tissier

Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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We hear St Paul, in the second reading today, his final letter, written from prison, looking back over his life and ministry with calm confidence and deep faith. *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."* These are not words of pride, but of gratitude — a life poured out in service of Christ, now ready to be gathered into God's eternal embrace.

Paul knows that his journey is drawing to a close, yet there is no fear or bitterness. Instead, there is a profound trust in the Lord who has been his strength through every trial. Others may have abandoned him, but he can still say, *"The Lord stood by me and gave me power."* His faith is not shaken by loneliness or suffering, because it rests on the unshakeable presence of God.

These words remind us that faith is not a sprint but a lifelong race. There are moments of joy and moments of struggle, times when we feel supported and times when we feel alone. Yet through it all, the Lord remains faithful. The crown Paul speaks of — the "crown of righteousness" — is not a reward earned, but a gift freely given to those who keep their eyes fixed on Christ.

Paul's testimony encourages us to persevere, even when faith is costly or the path seems uncertain. Like him, we are invited to live with hope, to place our confidence not in our own strength, but in the Lord, who rescues, sustains, and leads us safely to his heavenly kingdom.

It's a wonderful statement to be able to make, at the end of our journey, that we have fought the good fight, kept the faith, and trusted always in the Lord's faithful love.

ALL SAINTS & ALL SOULS

Usually we honour All the Saints, on November 1st, and pray for the faithful departed, on November 2nd. This year there is a slight change. Because, November 1st occurs on a Saturday, it transfers to Sunday 2nd, and the Holy Souls will be remembered on Monday 3rd November.

ENCOURAGING NUMBERS

In common with other Catholic Churches, throughout England and Wales, every year on the last two Sundays of September and the first two of October, the numbers attending Mass are counted. Below, you will see that we have included the 2019, pre-Covid, figure, as well as this years, and last year's figure. And it's good to note that this year there is an overall increase in attendance, as there is also for Baptisms, Confirmations and Weddings. You will find all of these figures on the parish website:

www.catholicchurchharpندن.org.uk

	2019	2024	2025	Variance from 2019	Variance from 2024
Mass Attendance					
Vigil Mass	140	109	104	-36	-5
8.30am	109	62	80	-29	+18
9.45am	273	180	213	-60	+33
11.30am	170	140	174	+4	+34

PRAY THE ROSARY

There is a week remaining of the month of October, the month of the Holy Rosary. This year, Pope Leo has asked that Catholics across the globe to unite to pray the Rosary for peace in war-torn lands, especially in Gaza and Ukraine. He said '..... "I invite everyone, each day of the coming month, to pray the Rosary for

peace—personally, in the family, and in community." As we look at the tragic happenings in our world, hopefully, many of you will have been moved to respond, and heeded, and responded to this call. If you haven't been able to do so, there is still almost a week to go, so why not try to respond to our Holy Father, and join in the prayer for peace.



A better world needs all of us
FAMILY FAST DAY



Thank you very much for your contributions for CAFOD Harvest Fast Day, when we were asked to deny ourselves, in some way, and so show solidarity with some of the poorest people in our world. £1,895 Was donated. Your contributions, and self-denial, will be used to benefit some of CAFOD's projects. If you have yet to contribute, you can leave your donation at the Parish Office. If you wish to 'Gift-Aid' your contribution, please use one of the CAFOD envelopes.

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 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**.

GROWING IN OUR FAITH

There are many ways in which we can grow in our faith, and we all have a duty to ensure we are doing that. The Agency for Evangelisation, of our Diocese, have a number of events such as 'A Week of Accompanied Prayer' and 'How to converse with God', coming up, which help us to do that. In the porch you will find leaflets with more information, or you can email evangelisation@rcdow.org.uk.

PARISH ADVENT SERVICE INVITATION

The choir will lead our Advent Service on Sunday 30th November at 6pm

We are inviting children from Year 3 to Year 13 to come and join with the choristers and adult choir for this service which will include part of

Handel's Messiah arranged for young voices. The commitment is four Thursday rehearsals and times as follows:

Thursday 6th November 7.00-8.00pm
Thursday 13th November 7.00-8.00pm
Thursday 20th November 7.00-8.30pm
Thursday 27th November 7.00-8.30pm

Sunday 30th November 4.00-5.00pm
Rehearsal, followed by supervised tea

6.00pm Advent Service, to last around one hour.

This short choral 'project' is for anyone from Year 3 to Year 13 - to experience singing with the choristers and to explore the world of choral music. No experience needed. Please email Katie Metcalfe to sign up:

katiemjack@yahoo.co.uk

FOR THE YOUTH OF THE PARISH

The next YOUTH FRIENDLY MASS will be Saturday 8th November 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 next Youth Group for those in the Confirmation Group and those young people in Year 10 and beyond will be Saturday 8th November after the Youth Friendly Mass. Join us for some food, fun and faith sharing.

Date for your diary the December Youth Mass & Youth group will be on Saturday 13th December

DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP

The DWG want to thank all who supported the recent Quiz in aid of their latest project: building four metal bridges with handrails for the impoverished community of Khiraule, Nepal. The splendid amount of £1300 was raised for which we are extremely grateful. Please remember us and the communities we endeavour to help with your aid in your prayers.



DON'T FORGET

Remember on Saturday as you retire for the evening to turn your clocks back one hour.



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/2023/05/OLOL-Database-New-Parishioner-Form-May-2023.pdf> Completed forms can be emailed or posted into the Parish Office. harpenden@rcdow.org.uk

FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

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



JIM FEENEY RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Jim Feeney who died recently. Jim's Requiem Mass will be on Thursday 6th November at 11.00am. We remember Margery and the family in our prayers at this time.

GOOD NEIGHBOURS NEEDED

Help make our parish welcoming! We're looking for friendly volunteers to act as local representatives in their area.

What's involved:

- Be a contact for parishioners (we provide names and letters).
- Welcome new parishioners (we provide details).

- Deliver Christmas and Easter leaflets locally.

We especially need help in Roundwood, Townsend Lane–Moreton End Lane, Crabtree, and Rothamsted Estate/Hatching Green.

Interested? Please Email

goodneighbours@catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk thank you!

CONFIRMATION PHOTOGRAPHS

The last few Confirmation photographs are available to be collected from the Repository Shop after weekend Masses.

REPOSITORY – POP IN FOR A LOOK!

Come and browse — there's much to see, Gifts and cards for your family! Candles, cribs, and calendars too, Something special waits for you. Support the Repository — don't delay, And share the joy this Christmas Day!

CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING

Join us in the Undercroft and enjoy making a beautiful Christmas wreath. There will be three workshops with ten places in each one:

Tuesday 9th December 10am -12 noon

Tuesday 9th December 2pm - 4 pm

Wednesday 10th December 7pm - 9 pm.

Tickets cost £35 and include all materials and refreshments. To secure a place in advance, e-mail

julie_moroney@yahoo.co.uk. Payment can be made by bank transfer (Julie will give you the DWG account details), cheques made payable to WRCDT Harpenden, or cash. Please write your name and 'Wreath Making' on the envelope and hand it into the parish office. All proceeds will go to the ongoing work of the Developing World Group.



ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN PARISH ADVENT TALKS 2025

The Adult Faith Formation group at St Alban and St Stephen (14 Beaconsfield Road, AL1 3RB) are offering two Advent Talks whose focus is the Holy Land. Fr John Deehan (Ecumenical Catholic Chaplain at St Albans Cathedral) will speak on *'The Holy Land – Gift or Entitlement?'* at 7.45pm on Monday 1st December. The talk will focus on the Biblical Theology of the Holy Land, drawing mainly on the Old Testament scriptures. Fr Paul McDermott (Parish Priest, St Edward the Confessor, Golders Green – RCDOW Holy Land Pilgrimage Co-ordinator) will speak on *'The Word was Made Flesh Here'* at 7.45pm on Monday, 8th December. The talk will cover the geography of the Holy Land at the time of Jesus. Refreshments available and everyone is welcome to join us in the parish hall.

A PRESENT FOR CHRISTMAS

The Parish Catenians are raising funds for a church defibrillator, first aid training for Welcomers, and to help young people from Luton attend the next Flame gathering. **Future Meeting dates:** 12th November and our Christmas Dinner – 17th December, with music, fun, and a raffle for the defibrillator fund. All parishioners welcome!
Contact dennis@denniscooper.uk (new email).

ST DOMINIC'S RECEPTION ADMISSIONS

The Admissions process for Reception places for September 2026 will opened soon. If you would like a tour of the school for entry into Reception 2026, please contact the school office on 01582 760047. School Tours will take place on Wednesday 12th November at 9.30am and Wednesday 26th November at 1.30pm

For more information please see the school website

<https://www.stdominic.herts.sch.uk>

Canon Dwyer will be available to discuss the possibility of signing form on Tuesday 25th November and Monday 8th December. Please call the Parish Office to book an appointment.

PLACES AVAILABLE AT ST DOMINIC'S

St Dominic Catholic Primary School has spaces available in Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 classes for current academic year and welcomes enquiries from parents of children who are interested in a rounded catholic education that includes academic, religious and social skills. St Dominic's has recently been assessed by OFSTED and **rated as OUTSTANDING. Please contact school office on 01582 760047 to arrange visit.**

FOR THE YOUTH OF THE PARISH HERTFORDSHIRE YOUTH SUMMIT

If you are aged 14–17 — this event is for you! You're invited to the Hertfordshire Summit at *Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Welwyn Garden City.*

Come and spend the afternoon with other young people from across the region for games, workshops, social time, and prayer. We'll have Adoration and Mass, we'll have fun, and together we'll take inspiration from Saint Carlo Acutis on how we can strive for holiness as teenagers today.



Date: Saturday, 22 November 2025



Time: 13:00-19:00



Bring a packed lunch or snacks (no nuts). Parish social after Mass!



To register your interest, please contact the parish office. Don't miss out — and don't forget to invite your friends!

<https://youth.rcdow.org.uk/events/big-hertfordshire-summit/>

HELP NEEDED FOR THE CHRISTMAS FAIR (SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER)

For many decades the parish has organised a Christmas Fair, in Lourdes Hall, which has raised tens of thousands of pounds for the parish, and for other good causes. For the last 25 years, this event has been organised by Marva Hall and she has decided that this will be her last year in charge. We urgently need one or more of you to step up to work with her this year with a view to taking over in 2026. Please contact Marva (07943 837277) or the Parish Office for more information. Without new leadership, this will be our last Christmas Fair.

AN AFTERNOON OF MUSIC – INVITATION FROM THE NEWMAN ASSOCIATION CIRCLE

The Newman Association Circle warmly invites you to join us for an Afternoon of Music on Sunday, 23rd November at 1:30pm for 2:00pm.
Venue: Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden, AL5 1PD
Tickets: £15 per person
Enjoy a delightful performance by Alison Langer (soprano) with her accompanist, featuring a selection of classical and popular songs, followed by afternoon tea at 3:00pm.

How to Book

Please email Madeleine Hopkins at maderic@btinternet.com with:
Your name
Your parish (Our Lady of Lourdes, Harpenden)
The number of tickets required
If you require confirmation by post, please enclose a stamped, addressed envelope.

Payment Options

1. Bank Transfer

Account name:

The Newman Ass Herts Circ

Sort code: 20-74-09

Account number: 70645427

Reference: Your surname + "MusicAft"

Once you've made the transfer, please email Madeleine at maderic@btinternet.com to confirm your payment has been received.

2. Cheque

Make payable to The Newman Association (£15 per person).

If you wish to pay by cheque, please email Madeleine to arrange this.

Please note: we are unable to accept cash payments.

We look forward to sharing a lovely afternoon of music and fellowship with you!

PAID INTERNSHIPS – Catholic Leadership Programme

The Westminster Diocese Education Department is offering paid three-week internships for Catholic university students to experience life as a teacher in our schools. Open to those interested in Religious Education, other secondary subjects, and the Primary sector. Bursaries are available for those pursuing QTS in RE. Find out more on the RCDOW website.

[here](#). **Applications close 30th November 2025.**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 22nd November

Hertfordshire Youth Summit

Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Welwyn Garden City. 1pm – 7pm

Sunday 23rd November

Newman Musical

Afternoon with Alison Langer, Sunday 23rd November in Lourdes Hall

Sunday 30th November

Advent Service at 6pm in Church

Saturday 6 December:

Christmas Fair at the Lourdes Hall from 12pm – 2pm.

Sunday 7th December

5pm in Church

The Harpenden Music Foundation presents the gift of Music at Christmas

DWG Christmas Wreath Making in the Undercroft

Tuesday 9th December

10am – 12 Noon

2pm – 4pm

Wednesday 10th December

7pm – 9pm

MASS INTENTIONS		
Sat 25th Oct 12.00 Noon	Feria Baptisms Tsang & Griffiths Families	PLEASE PRAY FOR: Newly Baptised Cassie Mae Tsang Finley Griffith Loving God, we thank You for the precious children welcomed into Your family through Baptism. Surround them with Your love and joy, and help their parents and godparents to guide them in faith as they grow. May these little ones always know they are loved by You and by our parish family. Amen. Recently Deceased Fateneh Bibi Pourqaedi RIP Nonya Lau RIP Prayer for the Faithful Departed Loving and merciful God, we remember all who have died, especially those recently departed, and those whose anniversaries we keep. Welcome them into the joy of Your eternal kingdom, where every tear is wiped away. Grant them the peace of Christ, and comfort all who mourn their loss. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Vigil Mass 6.00pm	30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Nonya Lau RIP (Recently Deceased)	
Sun 26th Oct 8.30am	People of the Parish	
9.45am	Sheila Foley RIP (Anniversary)	
11.30am	Deceased Members of the Choir Zoom Code 883 7014 5568	
Mon 27th Oct 9.15am	Feria Private Intention	
Tues 28th Oct 9.15am	SS SIMON & JUDE Apostles Lyndsay Scarlett (Special Intentions)	
Wed 29th Oct 9.15am	Blessed Martyrs of Douai (Diocesan) Anne Collier (Special Intentions)	
Thur 30th Oct 11.00am	Feria	
Fri 31st Oct	Feria	
Sat 1st Nov 12.00 Noon	Feria Baptisms Cridland & Greany Families	
Vigil Mass 6.00pm	ALL SAINTS Maura Grimshaw RIP (Anniversary)	
Sun 2nd Nov 8.30am	Elizabeth Castro RIP	
9.45am	People of the Parish	
11.30am	Maureen Jack RIP (Anniversary) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568	
CONFESSIONS SATURDAYS 10.30AM – 11.00AM & AFTER THE 6.00PM VIGIL MASS		