



Contactless
Giving

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

26TH APRIL 2026

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY



© Chloe Le Tissier

Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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Today is “Good Shepherd Sunday,” the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. It is a day when our attention is drawn to the voice of Christ who calls, guides, and gathers his people. We are called to pray especially for vocations to the priesthood. A vocation is not simply a career choice or a personal ambition; it is a response to a call. The Lord still calls men to serve as priests, to shepherd his people, to preach the Gospel, celebrate the sacraments, and accompany others in their journey of faith. This call is quiet, often gradual, but deeply personal.

Every vocation begins within the life of the Christian community. Families, parishes, and schools can play a vital role in nurturing an openness to God’s will. When young people see faith lived with sincerity and joy, when they are encouraged to pray and to listen, they are more able to recognise how God might be calling them.

It is also important that we pray intentionally for vocations. Our prayer is not a passive act; it is a real participation in God’s work, opening hearts to hear and respond. Over the last 30 years or so, there have been four vocations, to the Priesthood, from our parish. How good it would be to see other young men responding today, to that calling, from our parish

Each of us has a vocation—the call to follow Christ in the particular circumstances of our lives. By living our own calling faithfully, we help create a culture where other vocations, including the priesthood, can flourish.

May we listen more closely to the voice of the Good Shepherd, may we encourage and support those who are being called to serve his Church in generous and courageous ways.

PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

As many will be aware, vocations to the Priesthood are dropping considerably. For the Church to continue its work Priests are necessary. In response to this situation, the Archbishop invites everyone in the Diocese, from Good Shepherd Sunday until Pentecost, to pray for Vocations to the Priesthood. Below is a prayer we can all make. We will be making this prayer at all Masses, during this time. You are also invited to make this prayer individually, as families, or in other gatherings.

WESTMINSTER PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

God our Father,
you give us the Sacraments as signs
and instruments of your love and
mercy.

Draw from amongst your disciples
men who are willing to serve your
Church generously
as priests in the Diocese of
Westminster,

to minister to your people and to
proclaim the Gospel to all.

Send your Spirit to guide and
strengthen them,

to be their companion on the journey,
as they discern your will for their lives.

This prayer we make through Christ
our Lord.

Amen

Our Blessed Lady Immaculate

Pray for us

St John Southworth

Pray for us

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

COLLECTION FOR PRIEST TRAINING FUND

This weekend, on Good Shepherd Sunday, there will be a second collection for the Priest Training Fund. This fund plays a crucial role in supporting men who are discerning and preparing for the priesthood. Their formation includes academic study, spiritual development, and pastoral training — all of which are essential for their future ministry. As we reflect on Christ as the Good Shepherd, we are reminded that He continues to call shepherds for His Church today. Please keep our seminarians and those considering this calling in your prayers. Next weekend, you will have the opportunity to support this important work. Thank you for your generosity.

FOR THE YOUTH OF THE PARISH

Youth Friendly Mass will be this Saturday
25th April at 6.00pm. Followed by the
Youth Group for those young people in the
confirmation Group and Year 10 and
beyond.



CAN YOU HELP?

The present team of helpers who have been running the 'Youth Group' in recent years, have decided that the time has come to stand down. This means that, presently, there isn't anyone to continue with this important work for our young people. Many people, quite rightly, say 'what are we doing for our young people?' This is the right question to ask! If the parish is to provide for our young people,

then the question might be reversed, and we can ask: what are you prepared to do for our young people? If you can assist, or would like more information about what is involved, please contact Canon Dwyer.

REFRESHMENTS IN THE UNDERCROFT

Today, everyone is warmly invited for refreshments after the 9:45am and 11:30am Masses in the Undercroft. It's a lovely opportunity to gather, relax, and enjoy some time together as a Parish community—everyone is most welcome!

occasions. Pop in and have a look — you're always very welcome!



DIAMOND JUBILEE

60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

We warmly invite all parishioners to join us in celebrating a very special milestone — the 60th Anniversary of Monsignor Harry Turner's Ordination to the Priesthood.

This joyous occasion will be marked with a Special Mass on Sunday 7th June at 11:30am. Following the Mass, everyone is welcome to continue the celebration at a parish gathering in Lourdes Hall.

Please come along to give thanks, share in the celebration, and honour Monsignor Harry Turner's many years of dedicated service. All are most welcome.

SING FOR 14

The next Sing For project has begun! Please encourage friends to join us - you can forward details to school parents' groups, work colleagues, friends etc Rehearsals in the Undercroft at OLOL , please email katiemjack@yahoo.co.uk to reserve your place !

The fee is £40

Rehearsal dates & times:

7.30pm-9.00pm

Tuesday 28th April

Tuesday 5th May

Tuesday 12th May

Concert:

Saturday 16th MAY at 3pm

(Rehearsal 2pm)

REPOSITORY

We are now entering the seasons of First Communion and Confirmation, and the repository has been restocked with a beautiful selection of cards and gifts to mark these very special occasions. Do come in and choose something meaningful to celebrate an important moment in a young person's life.

We also have a lovely range of Baptism and Wedding gifts, along with cards for all

FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday 28th April and will re-open on Wednesday 29th April at 9.30am.

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

Thank You.



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.

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

GIFT AID 2025/2026

As the 2025/2026 tax year ended on 5th April 2026, we will soon be submitting our Parish Gift Aid claim.

If you are a UK taxpayer, Gift Aid is a simple way to make your donations go further—at no extra cost to you. For every £1 you give, the Parish can claim an additional 25p from HM Revenue & Customs, significantly increasing the value of your support.

Whether you donate through the card machine or by standing order, you can include your contributions in Gift Aid. All it takes is completing a short Gift Aid declaration form.

By signing up, you are helping the Parish continue its mission, maintain the church, and support our community. If you haven't yet joined the Gift Aid scheme, we warmly encourage you to do so.

Forms are available in the church porch, and completed forms can be returned to the Parish Office. If you would like more information or wish to set up a standing order with Gift Aid, please contact the

Parish Office—we will be happy to assist you.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

STRAWBERRY SOCIAL

Save the date for this very popular annual event. It will be held on 5th July in the Presbytery garden More details will be available in the coming weeks.

GETTING MARRIED?

Couples intending to marry are required by the Diocese to give at least six months' notice. Pre-marriage preparation offers an important opportunity to reflect not only on the wedding day itself, but on the lifelong commitment of marriage, as well as to look at the other necessary arrangements. Anyone hoping to marry within the next year should contact Canon Dwyer as soon as possible. If you know of any couples planning to marry in the coming year, please draw their attention to this notice.



HARPENDEN YOUNG PEOPLE'S CENTRE

On Monday 27th, Services for Young People are pleased to welcome the Town Mayor, Beth Fisher, at Harpenden Young People's Centre from 6pm. (Next to the Library on the High Street)

This is a great opportunity for *all* Young People to observe, to ask questions and find out more about what the Mayor is doing to support Young People locally. This invitation is to all Young People in the Parish, aged 11-19.

FUN FOREST ADVENTURES

"St Columba's College Friday Fun Forest Adventures from 9.15-10.15am every Friday from 1st May - Calling all little ones aged from 18 months to 3-year olds to enjoy some free forest activities in our wonderful Forest School. For more information please call Mary Masters on 01727 892097 or visit our website stcolumbascollege.org/visit-us" & see the poster on the noticeboard in the porch.

LOURDES HALL

If you would like to book Lourdes Hall please contact Simon Lowe
Email: harpendenct@rcdow.org.uk
Mobile: 07859 943348

MASS INTENTIONS

<p>Saturday 25th April 12.00 Noon</p> <p>Youth Friendly Mass Vigil Mass 6.00pm</p> <p>Sunday 26th April 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p>ST MARK, Evangelist Baptism Silvey Family</p> <p>FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Good Shepherd Sunday) Kevin Long (Special Intentions)</p> <p>People of the Parish Carlos Alberto Saa Castro RIP (Anniversary) Diana Newham RIP (Anniversary) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</p>	<p>PLEASE PRAY FOR: Newly Baptised Bless and protect them always, guide them as they grow, and fill their life with faith, hope, and love. May they walk in the light of Christ all their days. Amen.</p> <p>Recently Deceased Angela Cremin RIP Sr. Stephany Thiel</p> <p>RIP Anniversaries Carlos Alberto Saa Castro RIP Diana Newham RIP</p> <p>Prayer for the Faithful Departed Lord Jesus, in your Passion, Death and Resurrection, you conquered sin and opened the gates of eternal life. We commend to you our departed brothers and sisters; grant them rest in your peace and bring them to the joy of your Resurrection. Amen.</p>
<p>Monday 27th April 9.15am</p>	<p>Easter Feria Angela Cremin RIP (Recently Deceased)</p>	
<p>Tuesday 28th April 9.15am</p>	<p>Easter Feria Daniel Hegarty (Special Intentions)</p>	
<p>Wednesday 29th April 9.15am</p>	<p>St Catherine of Siena, Virgin & Doctor of the Church Sr. Eileen (Special Intentions)</p>	
<p>Thursday 30th April 11.00am</p>	<p>Easter Feria Sr. Stephany Thiel OP (Recently Deceased)</p>	
<p>Friday 1st May</p>	<p>Easter Feria</p>	
<p>Saturday 2nd May Vigil Mass 6.00pm</p> <p>Sunday 3rd May 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p>St Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor of the Church</p> <p>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Tom Sexton RIP (Recently Deceased)</p> <p>Fr Robert Dudley RIP (Anniversary) People of the Parish Mary Hammond RIP Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</p>	