



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

26TH FEBRUARY 2023
1ST SUNDAY OF LENT (A)



© Chloe Le Tissier

Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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The Parish Office is open Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 12.30pm.

Telephone: 01582 712245 or email: harpenden@rcdow.org.uk

Website: www.catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk

twitter: https://twitter.com/rc_olol?lang=en

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

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Lent seems to come so quickly after Advent and Christmas. And so today we find ourselves at the first Sunday of Lent. Our Lenten Pilgrimage with Jesus, has begun, in preparation for Easter. We have a journey to make with Jesus and each other before we can experience the joy and new life of Easter.

Our gospel this Sunday sees Jesus being led into the desert. The gospel puts it rather more seriously than Jesus being led into the desert! It opens with the words, "The Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness and remained with him for forty days".

It is no surprise that we begin Lent with Jesus in the desert. Like his ancestors, he too is tried, tested and tempted. However, Jesus refused to easily give up, or give in. Jesus is tempted with the false gifts of power, prestige and wealth. His power and identity come from God. Jesus knows who he is, where he comes from and where he is going on his own journey.

At the start of our own Lenten journey, we can recall and remember that we are not setting out on this journey on our own. God is with us walking by our side very step of way. When we are tempted, we need to follow the example of Jesus, who did not rely on his own strength, but turned to God for help. As we walk our Lenten journey, we need to realise that like Jesus, we too need God's help, support, guidance and protection. Whenever we feel tired or ready to give up or give in, we need to turn to God for encouragement. We know that God will be with us during Lent as God was with Jesus when he was in the desert. God will never leave us alone.



FRIDAYS IN LENT

Each Friday of Lent, Mass will be celebrated at 7.00pm, followed by the Stations of the Cross. Friday is the traditional day for 'making the Stations', so attending Mass, and the Stations of the Cross, during Lent, is a positive activity during this season.

LENT GROUPS

As in previous years there will be groups meeting throughout Lent to reflect, share ideas and pray. The sessions this Lent will be based on Praying the Our Father, by Carl E. Olson which is described by one theologian as "the best collection of Lenten reflections she has seen." The booklet is available from CTS Books £3.50 or at the first meeting.

If you have not been part of a group previously, please do consider joining in this year. The groups are friendly and thought-provoking. There are opportunities for sharing ideas but no pressure to do so. There will be groups meeting on some mornings/afternoon and evenings depending on the demand. Please email:- juliaandnigel057@gmail.com or phone 07891083251 with your choice of day, time and contact details.

LENTEN ALMS

Traditionally, during Lent, anything that we save through self-denial is donated to the 'Lenten Alms'. Funds raised this year will be shared between the four pillars of the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal: Marriage & Family Life; Youth & Evangelisation; The Education Service and Caritas Westminster. You can place your contributions in the 'box' to the right of Our Lady's Altar, or, if you wish to 'Gift-Aid' your contribution, you can use one of the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal envelopes, which will be found in the porch, and return it to the Parish Office.

LENT DAY BY DAY BOOKS

Day by Day books for Lent and Easter 2023 are now available in the Repository. There are books for adults, juniors and infants and they each cost £1. They are an excellent way to prepare for the seasons of Lent and Easter.

CONFIRMATION ENROLMENT

This weekend, our 30 Confirmation Candidates will be enrolled during the Saturday evening Mass. Let us keep them in our prayers, as they take this step on their journey to Confirmation, and let us pray especially that they will be open to the Holy Spirit, and the gifts that he brings.



CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY 3RD MARCH LENT APPEAL

Next Friday is CAFOD's Lent Family Fast Day, CAFOD is supporting families with the skills and tools they've asked for to fight the climate crisis. In Bangladesh, 14-year-old Dristy and her mum Rupali are building seed beds and planting palm trees to protect their crops from flooding and cyclones. Envelopes are available in the porch for your donation and a second collection will be taken up next weekend or you may like to donate online at cafod.org.uk/lent



GOOD NEIGHBOURS'

As part of the Parish Renewal programme, and as you know from the recent requests seeking area volunteers, we have been working on, and are now ready to launch "Good Neighbours'.

This initiative answers the call to become a more open and welcoming parish, as highlighted in the feedback from the parish survey, exemplified by, *'The parish being a much stronger community, where everyone feels welcome, and not alone whatever their personal situation, and there is much more looking out for people including non-Catholics'*.

As shown on the map at the back of the church, you can see the parish has been divided into several small areas, each with its own representatives, who will keep contact with the parishioners in their own area.

The aim is to develop a local community in each area by :

- dropping a newsletter through a letter box to those unable to leave home
- welcome new catholic neighbours
- let the parish office know of any specific needs of parishioners in that area (for example a need for transport to go to Mass, request of a visit of a Eucharistic minister...)
- just say "hello" or keep telephone contact with parishioners who may not be well, or in need of a friendly chat.

As the map highlights, the red sections show which areas are not yet covered by volunteers, and the yellow sections show areas where there are some, but not enough volunteers for the number of households, so we would be grateful if anyone could step forward to help cover these areas.

You can write your details on the sign-up sheet next to the map, or otherwise contact the parish office or email dr.harpendenlol@gmail.com if you have any questions. It is a very good and straightforward opportunity to become the missionary disciples we are all called to be.

SYRIA-TURKEY EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the CAFOD Appeal for Syria and Turkey appeal over the last two weekends. A total of £1,805.90 has now been donated. Your generosity will help to provide for some of those basic needs, such as food, shelter water and warmth. If you have yet to make a donation, you can use one of the CAFOD emergency envelopes, that will be found in the porch, and return it to the Parish Office.

For more details visit CAFOD's **Syria Turkey Emergency Appeal online at** <https://cafod.org.uk/give>.

PRAYER REQUESTS

From time to time, there may be a person, or intention, you would like to pray for. If so, there is now a book available, on the table with the gifts, for you write down the prayer intention. The book will be brought up, at those Masses, where there is an offertory procession, and placed on the Altar.

NEWSLETTER

Most parishioners are now receiving the weekly newsletter by email, and this seems to be working well, saving a lot of paper, and expense to. A few copies are placed in the porch each week, for those who may not have email, and these copies are for those people. **So, if you have a computer please do not take a copy of the newsletter.** If you don't presently receive the newsletter by email, but would like to do so, please email your details to the Parish Office.

REPOSITORY

Colouring Books



The Repository has a new range of attractive colouring books for children. These books will help children understand the various seasons of the church's year, particularly the present season of Lent, and then Easter. All books are very reasonably priced, come and have a look.

GETTING MARRIED?

Couples intending to get married, need to give at least six months' notice, as required by the Diocese. Pre-marriage preparation, provides an opportunity to reflect, not just on the wedding, which is for a day, but on the marriage, which is for life, as well as looking at the other necessary arrangements. Anyone getting married within the next year should be in contact with Canon Dwyer. If you know of couples hoping to marry in the coming year, please draw their attention to this notice.



PARISH WALK IN THE PARK

I shall be away in March and we decided on our last walk the future ones would be on the first Wednesday of the month so the next one will be on April 5th. Details to follow. Janet

ST DOMINIC NURSERY FOR ADMISSION SEPTEMBER 2023



On the 30th January 2023, the application process for Nursery places opened for children born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020. Our Early Years provision enables parents to

access 30 hours free childcare with Nursery morning sessions running Monday- Friday, 8.45am - 11.45am and an optional Lunch Club run by school and an afternoon Pre-School run by *Friends Together* running from after lunch club until 3.30pm. Wrap around care offered by *Friends Together* also means that care for children is available between 7.50am and 6pm, should this be required. For further information please visit our website

www.stdominic.herts.sch.uk

ST. ALBANS AND DISTRICT FOODBANK

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

Thank you. LiveSimply group

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2023

This year's World Day of Prayer will take place this Friday 3rd March. The main Harpenden service will take place at 10.30am at All Saints, Station Road, and there will be a service on Zoom at 7.45pm. This year's service is written by the women of Taiwan with the theme "I have heard about your faith."

The World Day of Prayer raises around £250,000 each year in the UK for distribution to charity - visit www.wwdp.org.uk for details or to make a donation. For more information on the Harpenden services please see the postcards in the porch.



ST PATRICK'S DAY LUNCH.

This very popular annual event will be on Friday 17th March at 12 noon in the Undercroft. Tickets will be on sale from next weekend and will cost £15 for a welcome drink, a traditional Irish lunch and an Irish coffee with barmbrack. Proceeds will go to Sister Margaret's Barcelona Settlement.

PARISH EVENTS DATES FOR THE DIARY

EASTER CONCERT

Performance of a new cantata, written in the wake of the pandemic and in gratitude to the NHS this will be held on

SATURDAY 25TH MARCH at 3PM

Tickets will be available for this concert in due course but please save the date. It is in the afternoon to encourage a large audience - to include children, families and those unable to attend evening concerts so readily.

It will last for approximately 1.5 hours with refreshments served afterwards.

STRAWBERRY SOCIAL

in the Presbytery Garden.
Sunday 18th June at 3pm



ANNUAL MASS FOR MATRIMONY

The annual Mass for Matrimony at the Cathedral will be celebrated by the Cardinal on Saturday 13th May at 2.30pm for all couples celebrating a significant Wedding Anniversaries. If you would like to attend please send your details into the Parish Office, please include the date you were married, and contact details.



LOURDES HALL

SOUTHDOWN ROAD HARPENDEN

Available for Hire, and for one off Parties for more details contact

Caretaker: Mr Simon Lowe

Mobile: 07859 943 348

Email: harpendenct@rcdow.org.uk

BRENNAN SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCING

meet at the Lourdes hall every:

Wednesday - 5.00pm - 6.30pm

Saturday - 12 Noon - 1.30pm

From ages 4 upwards First lesson is a free trial

Contact Jenny Brennan - 07867992509

RECRUITMENT OPPORTUNITY:

Headteacher, St Martin de Porres Catholic Primary School, Luton (L18-L24)

St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust are recruiting for a Headteacher at St Martin de Porres Catholic Primary School in Luton.

The school is two-form entry and has a proud tradition of delivering excellence in Catholic Education, placing the child's needs at the centre of their teaching and ensuring that all children leave the school with the skills and spiritual qualities they will need for a happy and successful life. For further information, please contact Kerri Wiseman at Academicis on

kwiseman@academicis.co.uk or 07733

628155/01223 907979; or go to

www.mynewterm.com/jobs/142264/EDV-2022-SMDPCPS-19513. (Closing date for applications:

13th March 2023)

MASS INTENTIONS NEXT WEEK

<p>Saturday 25th February 12.00 Noon</p> <p>6.00pm</p>	<p>Lent feria Baptism Bonwick Family</p> <p>1st SUNDAY OF LENT (A) Caitriona Kelly RIP Confirmation Enrolment Mass</p>
<p>Sunday 26th February</p> <p>8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p>1st SUNDAY OF LENT (A)</p> <p>Nora O'Leary RIP (Recently Deceased) People of the Parish Bridget Flanagan RIP (Anniversary) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568.</p>
<p>Monday 27th February 9.15am</p>	<p>Lent feria Felix Doran RIP</p>
<p>Tuesday 28th February 9.15am</p>	<p>Lent feria Doran Family (Special Intention)</p>
<p>Wednesday 1st March 9.15am</p>	<p>ST DAVID Bishop, Patron of Wales Gordon Lewis RIP</p>
<p>Thursday 2nd March 11.00am</p>	<p>Lent feria Mary & Morgan Morris (Special Intention)</p>
<p>Friday 3rd March 7.00pm</p>	<p>Lent feria Gavin Sherman (Sick Intention) followed by Stations of the Cross</p>
<p>Saturday 4th March</p> <p>6.00pm</p>	<p>Lent feria</p> <p>2ND SUNDAY OF LENT (A) Special Intentions for The Ladies Group</p>
<p>Sunday 5th March</p> <p>8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p>2ND SUNDAY OF LENT (A)</p> <p>People of the Parish Professor Henry Halliday RIP (Recently Deceased) Harry Davis RIP (Anniversary) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568.</p>

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