



Contactless
Giving

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

26TH JULY 2026

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)



© Chloe Le Tissier

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In the Gospel today, we hear Jesus using three simple images to teach us about the Kingdom of Heaven: a hidden treasure, a pearl of great value, and a fishing net. Each invites us to ask an important question: **What do I treasure most?**

The man who discovers the treasure and the merchant who finds the priceless pearl both recognise something of extraordinary value. Their response is immediate and joyful. They willingly give up everything else because they know they have found something that will last. Jesus is reminding us that life with God is not just one good thing among many; it is the greatest treasure we can ever possess.

Yet treasure is not always obvious. It can remain hidden until we take the time to look for it. Faith is much the same. In the busyness of everyday life, prayer can be neglected, Sunday Mass can become routine, and God's presence can easily be overlooked. But when we make space for the Lord, we often discover that he has been with us all along, quietly enriching our lives with his love and grace.

The final parable of the net reminds us that God's invitation is offered to everyone. He patiently gathers people from every walk of life, calling each of us into his Kingdom. At the end of time, he alone will judge with perfect justice and mercy.

As we enjoy the slower pace that summer, hopefully, brings, perhaps this is an opportunity to rediscover the hidden treasure of our faith. A few extra moments of prayer, a visit to a church, or simply reading a few lines of the Gospel each day can help us recognise anew the priceless gift that Christ offers. Having found that treasure, it will be something we never want to lose.

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Now that we are well into Summer, many things, so it seems, are slowing down, and, no doubt, many of us will be hoping for some rest, or, at least, a gentler pace of life. Usually, for the month of August, a newsletter is not produced. This year, however, there will be two newsletters during August, one on Sunday 9th and the other on Sunday 23rd. They will be simple newsletters, with times etc for the coming fortnight, and brief information about activities happening about that time.

FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION 2027

Preparation for First Communion and Confirmation will be commencing in the autumn. Registration for both Sacraments has now closed. If you haven't already done so, please return the completed form to the Parish Office without delay.

CONFIRMATION CATECHIST'S NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers to join our Confirmation Catechist team. This is a wonderful opportunity to support and encourage the young people of our parish as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

No previous experience is necessary – just a willingness to share your faith and be part of a friendly, supportive team. If you feel you may be able to help, or would like to find out more, please speak to Canon Dwyer. We would be delighted to hear from you.

THURSDAY MASS

Next Thursday, the funeral Mass for the late Edwin Kemp takes place, at 10.00am. There is no 11.00am Mass next Thursday.

PATRICK JOYCE RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Patrick Joyce who died recently. Patrick's Funeral details will follow shortly.

ASSISTED SUICIDE

A Private Members' Bill on assisted suicide – so-called assisted dying – has been reintroduced to the House of Commons. The *Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill* will have its Second Reading and vote on **Friday, 11 September 2026**.

The Bishops are renewing their call to Catholics, and people of goodwill, to **unite in prayer and compassionate action**. Our Archbishop, Richard Moth, explains our strong opposition to this legislation. He writes:

"The *Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill* which aims to legalise assisted suicide has returned to the House of Commons, and Members of Parliament will vote on its Second Reading on 11 September. This bill is wrong in principle. It is also deeply flawed and, if passed, could lead to vulnerable people feeling pressured into ending their lives.

"The Bill has a serious lack of protection for health and social care staff and risks putting many wonderful hospices and care homes in the position of no longer being able to operate.

"I urge you to [write to your Members of Parliament](#) to petition them to vote against the Bill at Second Reading."

ACT NOW – Contact your MP

You can support the Archbishop's call and **contact your MP now** as a matter of urgency. Even if you have already done so in the past, please speak up and voice your opposition. The charity Right to Life UK (<https://righttolife.org.uk/>) has a simple online mechanism to do this. It takes little more than a few minutes to enter your postcode, make sure the

suggested text suits your viewpoint and submit your message to ask your MP to stop this flawed Bill progressing through parliament.

LIVESIMPLY



The Big Butterfly Count takes place from 17th July – 9th August. The LiveSimply Environment Group will be hosting a Butterfly Walk on Sunday August 2nd at 2.30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come along and see how many different species of butterfly we can spot! We will be meeting at Roundwood Halt on the Nickey Line.

A DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP

SAVE THE DATE

DWG QUIZ NIGHT

The very popular DWG annual quiz will be held on **17th October** in Lourdes Hall. Tickets will go on sale during September.



FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

The parish office remains open during the Summer 9.30am to 12.30pm Monday to Thursday.

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

BEDS & HERTS BIKE 'N' HIKE

This annual sponsored Bike 'n' Hike takes place on Saturday 12th September from 9am to 5pm.

Have fun visiting over 600 churches and chapels, raise funds for our Church and help save other churches in Beds and Herts. For more information and sponsor packs please scan the QR code on the poster on the noticeboard in Church.

FREE CHILDREN'S THEATRE - ROTHAMSTED PARK

Don't Worry... Bee Happy

An interactive Musical storytelling Adventure Free performance in Rothamsted Park. Imajica Theatre specialises in creating interactive and engaging theatre experiences for the family friendly audience, written with the younger audience in mind. Their shows are written for audiences 3-10 years but captivate audiences of all ages. SEN and Neurodivergent inclusive shows filled with singing, dancing, BSL signs and lots of opportunity to join in as our stories unfold. Performance times: 11am – 12noon 1pm till 2pm 3pm till 4pm
Part of the Harpenden Summer Sessions series, free events for everyone to enjoy. Find our more on our website at
www.harpenden.gov.uk/summersessions

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 25th July 12.00 Noon Vigil Mass 6.00pm Sunday 26th July 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	ST JAMES, Apostle Baptism Yasotharan Family 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Annie Carey RIP (Recently Deceased) People of the Parish Karol Gajewski RIP (Anniversary) Andrew Supple RIP (Recently Deceased) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568	PLEASE PRAY FOR: Newly Baptised Heavenly Father, Bless this precious child, newly welcomed into Your family through Baptism. Fill their life with Your love and peace, and help them to grow in faith every day. Amen. Anniversaries Karol Gajewski RIP Pat Kealy RIP Recently Deceased Andrew Supple RIP Prayer for the Faithful Departed Loving Father, welcome those who have gone before us into Your peace. Comfort all who mourn, and keep us united in faith and hope until we meet again in Your heavenly kingdom. Amen.
Monday 27th July 9.15am	Feria Pat Kealy RIP (Anniversary)	
Tuesday 28th July 9.15am	Feria Susan McGroaty RIP	
Wednesday 29th July 9.15am	Saints Martha, Mary & Lazarus	
Thursday 30th July 10.00am 11.00am	Feria Requiem Mass Edwin Kemp No Mass	
Friday 31st July	St Ignatius of Loyola, Priest	
Saturday 1st August Vigil Mass 6.00pm Sunday 2nd August 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	St Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop & Doctor of the Church 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) People of the Parish Tom Cafferty RIP Mary Hammond RIP Zoom Code 883 7014 5568	