



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

27TH NOVEMBER 2022

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)



© Chloe Le Tissier

Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

Presbytery: 1, Kirkwick Avenue, Harpenden AL5 2QH Tel: 01582 712245

Email: anthonydwyer@rcdow.org.uk

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

Website: www.catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk

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

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

Parish Safeguarding Representative Mrs Brigid Brennan

Email: harpensg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk Tel: 07881 785 299

Parish Pastoral Council ppc@catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk

This first Sunday of Advent, so we begin the Church's new year. There are two messages that we will hear over the next four weeks. One message, and set of values, will come to us from the media and the shops, and it will call us, despite the economic situation, to 'shop until we drop'. The suggestion being that, if we do so, we will have the 'perfect' Christmas, as if such a thing exists! This most definitely is 'fake news.' However, there is a very different message, and set of values, that will be offered to us through the gospels, and the liturgy of Advent. We are being asked to prepare a way for the Lord, to stay awake, and to get ourselves ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus. This is most definitely is 'Good News!'

The message of Advent is an invitation and it also a challenge to us. We are called to be looking forward, to be ready, to be prepared and we are to wait in joyful hope.

Waiting is not something that we are always good at. Our modern world moves at great speed. We have smart phones, emails and microwave ovens that all 'help' us through our busy days. However, Advent asks each of us to do the very opposite. During these sacred days of preparation, we are being asked to take some time to be still and silent as we prepare ourselves deeply for Christmas. While we can't simply ignore the shops, and the advertisements over the next few weeks, neither can we ignore the words and messages of Jesus in today's gospel; 'Stay awake!' And 'Stand ready!'

In what ways can I prepare a way for the Lord this Advent as I get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas?

SEASON OF ADVENT



ADVENT CAROLS

Today we commence the season of Advent. Despite the busyness of the coming weeks, it is a time for reflection, and prayer, on the Lord's coming. To help us enter into this season there is the **Advent Carol Service, this evening, at 6.00pm**. A beautiful service of music and readings to put us in touch, once again, with this holy time.

ADVENT REFLECTION GROUP

A group will meet each week of Advent.
Subject:- The Hope of Christmas by Amette Ley. Using the words of Pope Francis, the author shows us the different ways in which hope is manifested in these weeks leading to the birth of Christ.
Dates of meetings:-Wednesdays 30th Nov/7/14/24th December
Time:- 2pm - 3:30pm
Venue:- 23, Sibley Avenue, AL5 1HF
Please respond to:-
juliaandnigel057@gmail.com
Please think of joining us even if you can't manage all four.

WARM SPACES

Some of the Harpenden churches are responding to the Government request to offer warm spaces, for those who may struggle to have sufficient heat, as the weather gets colder. The hope is that there can be at least one warm space available each day. It would be good if we could offer such a space, possibly on a Tuesday between 12noon and 3.00pm. The Undercroft could be used for this, and light refreshments would be available. If you would like to see this happening, your help will be needed. If you would like to assist, please contact the Parish Office.

PARISH CHRISTMAS FAIR

The parish Christmas Fair will be on **Saturday 10th December at the new time of 12 noon to 3pm**. We would be grateful for donations of bottles, books, gifts, toys, raffle and tombola prizes, bric-a-brac which can be left in the church porch or the parish office, and nearer the time, cakes. Raffle tickets will be on sale after all of the Masses from this weekend. **Lots of helpers are needed to set up on Friday evening, to run the stalls, and to clear up afterwards. Please contact Marva if you are willing to help**, even if just for a couple of hours, all volunteers greatly welcomed. Contact Marva@cpoauk.com or phone 07943 837277.



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 Mass, you can also donate by using the Card Machine, select Christmas Flowers.



Thank you in advance for your generosity.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

On Sunday 18th December at 6pm, we have our Parish Carol Service. A traditional service of carols and readings, by candlelight, followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Undercroft.



CALLING ALL CHILDREN

The 9.45am Mass on Christmas Day will be the Christmas Family Mass. So, children if



you like dressing up, come to this Mass, dressed as a shepherd or an angel, or even as an animal! There may be something for each of you as you leave Mass.



CHRISTMAS IN THE REPOSITORY

The repository now has a wide selection of Christmas items, including Cribbs, Christmas Tree decorations, Christmas candles, children's Christmas books, Advent calendars, and a selection of Christmas cards, both traditional and modern. Tony Field spoke recently on the importance of including children in the church. This is an opportunity for them to come and view the Christmas stock and choose an Advent calendar or decorations for their tree. Come in and take a look after Mass.



LINOCUT CHRISTMAS CARDS

Hand printed linocut Christmas cards by Teresa Newham are now available at a cost of £2 each or three for £5. All proceeds to Our Lady of Lourdes Building Fund. Eight designs to choose from. For further details please call Teresa on (01582) 766403 or email marbretherese@googlemail.com.



SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS

Thank you for your contributions, in recent weeks for the collection for the Sick and Retired Priests of our Diocese. £2,254.46 has so far been donated, and will contribute to providing for the needs, and care, of the 66 retired priests of our Diocese.



If you haven't yet made a contribution, it is not too late to do so, the Fund will remain open for a few more weeks. By making a donation you can ensure that these priests, after a lifetime of service, are cared for. Donation envelopes are available, which need to be completed if you want to 'Gift-Aid' your donation, and you can also contribute via the card machine.

ALTAR SERVERS



In recent weeks we have been inviting our younger parishioners, to volunteer to serve at Mass. The response, to date, has not been overwhelming, and that is disappointing! Altar Servers carry out an important ministry, during Mass, and contribute to the dignified celebration of the Liturgy.

More offers, from boys and girls, who have made their First Communion, would be most welcome, as indeed would offers from any of our young people. So, parents please encourage your children to offer themselves for this important ministry. If you would like your child to serve, please send their details to the Parish Office.

ST. ALBANS AND DISTRICT FOODBANK

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

ST DOMINIC'S SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

It's that time of year again. Reception Admissions for children starting in September 2023. Applications open on 1st November and close on 15th January 2023. Open mornings at St Dominic's school 9.30am -10.30am on 17th November and 22nd November. for more information please see the website <https://www.stdominic.herts.sch.uk/Our-School/Admissions/> Canon Dwyer will be available in the church, to discuss the possibility of signing Certificate of Catholic Practice (CCP), from 5.30pm to 6.30pm, on Monday 28th November. 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.



WORLD GIFTS CAFOD'S WORLD GIFTS
Give a gift of hope this Christmas

In Advent, let's share the promise of hope that has been made to us with our sisters and brothers around the world. You can buy CAFOD's World



Gifts for family and friends this Christmas online at <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/> or pick up a catalogue in church. World Gifts such as "super soup kitchens", "trees for life", or "water for a family" will help transform lives in a world filled with challenges.

HOMELESSNESS SUPPORT GROUP

We have now agreed with both NOAH and Keystage to house one each of their donation bins which have arrived and can be found in the courtyard of the Church.

For NOAH, (Blue Bins) they ask for clothing (no undergarments, unless they are brand new and packaged); coats and jackets; shoes; toys; and bric-a-brac. You can also Gift Aid your donations for them by filling out a Gift Aid form, copies of which will be kept at the back of church and also in a plastic pocket attached to the bin. The donations will either go directly to those in need, or will be sold in their charity shops to raise income and continue to fund their services.



Keystage (Black Bin) have asked for tinned foods and non-perishable foods e.g. cereals, biscuits, chocolate; and socks, gloves, scarves and toiletries.

Thank you all so much for your ongoing support which is much appreciated by both NOAH and Keystage. If anyone is interested in becoming more involved with the group, please contact Monika Westgate at monikamoko@hotmail.com.

LIFE ASCENDING GROUP MEETING DAY CHANGE

The Life Ascending Group have changed their meeting day. Meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday every month at the Convent on Kirkdale Road, Harpenden. Who can get involved? Retired parishioners in their middle and later years. Particularly anyone living alone. For more details contact John Williams by email John.williams58@btinternet.com or phone 01582 760547

START CHRISTMAS WITH A CRACKER

Looking forward to a lockdown free Christmas this year, then start with a party. Join the

Catenian family and friends Christmas dinner at Harpenden Golf Club at 7pm on 7th December. Local Catenians are predominantly from our parish so you will know virtually everyone present. Good food, good company, with entertainment on top. Tickets are priced at less than cost at £35 per head to include a three-course meal and wine. So come on, join in, have some fun.

There will be a seating plan, so you can book a single ticket, any multiple or even your own table of eight or ten. Don't let the past drag you down, break out and book with John Williams now at john.williams58@btinternet.com before you forget.



THE HARPENDEN TRUST

Is looking for volunteers to help with its annual Christmas appeal collection. If you can spare a few hours this Dec/Jan then please contact the office: 01582 460457 admin@theharpendentrust.org.uk

SING FOR ...4 JANUARY 2023

Please put the dates in the diary - something to look forward to in January! Adults and children are invited for this charity-fundraising singing project - more details to follow but there is a choice of Tuesday OR Sunday rehearsals.

Tuesday 10th January 7.30-9.00pm Undercroft

Tuesday 17th Jan, 24th Jan, 31st Jan

AND to widen the opportunity for more/families to take part in this project :

Sunday 15th January 3.00-4.00pm Undercroft
22nd Jan, 29th Jan

Performance SUNDAY 5th FEB 2pm Rehearsal, 3pm CONCERT

Please email katiemjack@yahoo.co.uk to book a place £35 for the project per family (whether 1 person or 10!) Money, after expenses, to NOAH and Keystage Housing.

MASS INTENTIONS NEXT WEEK

<p align="center">Sat 26th Nov 10.30am - 11.30am</p> <p align="center">12.00 Noon</p> <p align="center">6.00pm</p>	<p>feria First Reconciliation</p> <p>Baptism Wicks Family</p> <p>1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A) Sadie Beirnes RIP (Anniv)</p>
<p align="center">Sun 27th Nov</p> <p align="center">8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p> <p align="center">6.00pm</p>	<p>1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)</p> <p>People of Parish/Holy Souls Mary Kelly RIP (1st Anniv) Erroll Yates RIP (Anniv) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568.</p> <p>Advent Service - Choir</p>
<p align="center">Mon 28th Nov 9.15am</p>	<p>Advent feria Alice Matheson RIP (Recently Deceased)</p>
<p align="center">Tue 29th Nov 9.15am</p>	<p>Advent feria Holy Souls</p>
<p align="center">Wed 30th Nov 9.15am</p>	<p>ST ANDREW, Apostle, Patron of Scotland Victor Newham RIP (Anniv) Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help</p>
<p align="center">Thur 1st Dec 11.00am</p>	<p>Advent feria Cornelius Dennehy RIP (Anniv)</p>
<p align="center">Fri 2nd Dec</p>	<p>Advent feria</p>
<p align="center">Sat 3rd Dec 6.00pm</p>	<p>St Francis Xavier, Priest 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A) Ita Long RIP</p>
<p align="center">Sun 4th Dec</p> <p align="center">8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p>2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)</p> <p>Walter Nicholls RIP (Anniv) People of the Parish Alan & Mary Healy Wedding Anniversary Zoom Code 883 7014 5568.</p>



CONFESSIONS

- SATURDAYS 10.00AM - 10.30AM & AFTER THE 6.00PM VIGIL MASS
(NO MORNING CONFESSION ON 26TH NOVEMBER)