



Parish Website

# OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

28<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024  
4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)



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## Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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

Email: [anthonydwyer@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:anthonydwyer@rcdow.org.uk)

## Parish Administrator & Bookkeeper 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](mailto:harpenden@rcdow.org.uk)

Website: [www.catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk](http://www.catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk)

twitter: [https://twitter.com/rc\\_olol?lang=en](https://twitter.com/rc_olol?lang=en)

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

## Parish Safeguarding Representative Mrs Brigid Brennan

Email: [harpdensg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:harpdensg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) Tel: 07881 785 299

Parish Pastoral Council [ppc@catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk](mailto:ppc@catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk)

Jesus, as we know, was renowned as a great speaker and wonderful storyteller. He always knew his audience and to whom he was speaking. He spoke about seeds being sown, about sheep and shepherds, wine and vineyards! Perhaps that is why in this Sunday's gospel, we read that 'his teaching, made a great impression on them'. What Jesus offered the people then, and us also, is Good News, not fake news!

But it is not only what Jesus says, that makes an impact on the people, it is also what he does. Jesus heals a man who is sick, resulting in the people being even more amazed at what he did, rather than just what he said. If this Jesus can heal a man, and forgive him his sins, then who is he? They have heard him speak with authority, and they have seen him heal a man who was sick. Their response to experiencing Jesus is, 'What is this? A new teaching - with authority!'

As we continue through these early days and weeks of this New Year, it seems appropriate that Jesus offers us, something that is radically new. Jesus continues, through the gospels, to offer us an alternative message; a message that is new.

A message that invites us, to try to change, some of our less than positive habits, am I asking God to help me, or am I trying to do this all by myself? There is the story that tells of a man praying about what lies ahead. He is worried, afraid and anxious about what awaits him. He prays to God saying, 'Lord, give me a light, so that I may walk forward, without being afraid.' There was silence. Then God spoke and said, 'No, I will not give you a light. Instead, you take my hand and we will walk into the future.'

## PARISH FEAST DAY

Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> February, is the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, our parish feast day. To mark this day there will be a special Mass at 3.00pm, which will include the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. This Sacrament is for those who are of 'advanced age and are chronically unwell'. Do think about coming to honour our patron. If you need help in getting to Church, or could offer a lift, please get in touch with the Parish Office.



are still 600 people sheltering and being cared for in the parish compound, together with over 50 seriously disabled and vulnerable children. Water and food can be bought in the local markets at much inflated prices. With the damage inflicted on this site some time ago now, cooking hot meals is only possible three times a week. The parish is also providing for 200 people in the Orthodox property as well as for local Muslim neighbours. Next Sunday there will be a collection for this cause, after all the Masses.

## ANNUAL RETURN

Each year, every parish completes an annual return, detailing numbers attending Mass, as well as numbers of Baptisms, First Communion, Confirmation, Weddings and Funerals. You might be interested to know that during 2023, 17 children were Baptised, which is less than half of the number for 2019, the year before the pandemic. This is something we can ignore, or worry about, or we could do something!

## NOT FORGOTTEN

Some of you may remember the parish survey, which was conducted in March /April 2020, just as the Pandemic was beginning, and you might be thinking that it has been buried away somewhere, and forgotten! However, some suggestions have already been taken forward. At recent Parish Pastoral Council meetings, it has been discussed, and members are keen that work continues on implementing some of the suggestions received. Hopefully, there will be more news on this before too long.

## GOOD NEIGHBOURS - NEW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Last May, we launched our Good Neighbours initiative within the parish, with over 50 volunteers coming forward and being organised into teams to cover different areas of the parish, providing a friendly face and a point of contact for other parishioners in the area. Some examples of the types of things our volunteers have done: Made contact with the households in their area. Welcomed new parishioners in their area.



## LENT 2024

### LENT GROUPS 2024

These groups will meet for 5 weeks, beginning 19th February (Ash Wednesday is 14th Feb) The theme will be; further reflections on the Our Father, using the Diocesan resource; We Dare To Say. We offer a choice of day/time but, to assist with the formation of Groups, we ask you to state your preferences 1st/2nd/3rd

If you have been in a group previously you will be contacted by email, if not

**PLEASE ADD YOUR NAME TO THE LIST IN THE PORCH OF THE CHURCH OR**

**email: [juliaandnigel057@gmail.com](mailto:juliaandnigel057@gmail.com)**

## FROM THE CARDINAL

Following a request from the Holy Family parish in Gaza City, and from the Latin Patriarch in Jerusalem, the Cardinal asks that a collection is made to assist those, who are suffering so terribly in the Holy Land. The Cardinal writes: 'In the last few days I have heard directly, via Zoom, from the Parish Priest of the Church of the Holy Family in Gaza City and from the CEO of the Latin Patriarchate. The situation they face is grave and most demanding. We were told that there

Delivered Christmas leaflets.

Kept in touch and checked in with older or vulnerable parishioners.

Liaised with the Parish Office to organise assistance such as a Eucharist Minister visit.

The role is not onerous but is central to putting our parish mission into practice and demonstrating that Our Lady of Lourdes, through its parishioners, is a warm and caring parish, and we are grateful for everything our volunteers do.

We are currently looking for a person or persons to take on covering the Roundwood area, and an additional person to assist the current volunteer covering the Townsend Lane-Moreton End Lane area. You can see a map of the streets covered by each area in the map here:

<https://www.scribblemaps.com/maps/view/Harpden-Areas/nJeCdSHTMk>

If you would be interested in getting involved with these, or any other areas, please email [goodneighbours@catholicchurchharpden.org.uk](mailto:goodneighbours@catholicchurchharpden.org.uk).

If you are unsure who your area Good Neighbours representative is, you can email us at the address above, or contact the parish office who will pass your query on to us.

#### FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

- The Parish Office will be closed on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February. Any urgent matters please email or phone the Parish Office and leave a message.
- The deadline for notices for the Newsletter is 2pm on Wednesdays.  
Thank you.



#### REPOSITORY DAY BY DAY BOOKS

We have received the DAY BY DAY Lent books for adults and children and these can be purchased from the Repository for £1 each. They are a lovely accompaniment for each day during Lent.

#### THE NOODLE BOX

"The Noodle Box" will be available inside the church for anyone who needs a hot snack. The box is full of pot noodle/pasta cups and instant soups and take away cups.

They are free to take! Please spread the word, especially as the cold weather is upon us.



#### FOR THE YOUTH OF THE PARISH

The Next Youth Mass will be on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm for young people in 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.

#### LOL YOUTH GROUP:

**Year 9 Confirmation Candidates & Year 10 and beyond this Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February 7.00pm to 8.30pm in the Undercroft**

*Come and be part of this exciting project!*  
Future dates 17<sup>th</sup> March 10am - 3pm, 13<sup>th</sup> April, 11<sup>th</sup> May, 8<sup>th</sup> June & 13<sup>th</sup> July.

#### ST DOMINIC NURSERY

#### FOR ADMISSION SEPTEMBER 2024

On the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024, the application process for Nursery places opened for children born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021.

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](http://www.stdominic.herts.sch.uk)  
**Applications close at 3.30pm on 6th March.**



## SING FOR SEVEN

Sing For Seven - Performance  
**SATURDAY 10th FEBRUARY at 3pm** A fabulous line up of music and the perfect way to start the new year!  
 Please sign up and encourage family and friends to join you .  
 Anyone interested can email me : [katiemjack@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:katiemjack@yahoo.co.uk)

## SPOTLIGHT ON AFRICA QUIZ NIGHT SATURDAY 3RD FEBRUARY

Please come to our ever-popular Quiz in Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, AL5 1PF. Next Saturday evening 7pm for 7.30pm prompt start. £15 per head (tables of 8) Ploughman's Cheese Platter.  
 Cash Bar. Raffle.  
 RSVP [wendy.howson@gmail.com](mailto:wendy.howson@gmail.com)  
 07432 838477



## NOAH AND KEYSTAGE DONATION BINS

For NOAH, (Blue Bin) they ask for clothing (no undergarments, unless they are brand new and packaged); coats and jackets; shoes; toys; and bric-a-brac.



## KEYSTAGE (Yellow 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.

MASS INTENTIONS	
<b>Sat 27<sup>th</sup> January</b>  <b>Vigil Mass 6.00pm</b> <b>Sun 28<sup>th</sup> January</b> 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	<b>feria</b> <b>4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>  Liam Dooley RIP (Anniversary)  Mr N T Jose RIP (Anniversary) People of the Parish Bernard McGarry RIP Dennis & Linda Cooper 50 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary Blessing Zoom Code <b>883 7014 5568</b>
<b>Mon 29<sup>th</sup> January</b> 9.15am	<b>feria</b> Zofia Toriel RIP (Recently Deceased)
<b>Tues 30<sup>th</sup> January</b> 9.15am	<b>feria</b> Kay Hill RIP (Recently Deceased)
<b>Wed 31<sup>st</sup> January</b> 9.15am	<b>St John Bosco, Priest</b> John Brian (Special Intention)
<b>Thur 1<sup>st</sup> February</b> 11.00am	<b>feria</b> Kathy Bearpark RIP
<b>Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> February</b>	<b>THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD</b>
<b>Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> February</b>  12.00 Noon  <b>Vigil Mass 6.00pm</b>  <b>Sun 4<sup>th</sup> February</b> 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	<b>SS Laurence, Dunstan &amp; Theodore, Archbishops of Canterbury</b> Le Tissier Family & Bellas Family Baptism  <b>5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> Deceased Members of the O'Hare Family RIP  People of the Parish Bernard St John Glew RIP (Anniv) Frank Ducasse RIP (Anniversary) Zoom Code <b>883 7014 5568</b>
<b>CONFESSIONS - SATURDAYS</b> <b>10.30AM - 11.00AM &amp; AFTER THE 6.00PM VIGIL MASS</b>	