



OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

28TH SEPTEMBER 2025

26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)



© Chloe Le Tissier

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In today's gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, a story that starkly contrasts the lives of two individuals—one wealthy and oblivious to the suffering around him, the other poor and marginalized. The rich man lives in luxury, while Lazarus, a beggar, lies at his gate, hoping for even the scraps that fall from his table. Yet, in the afterlife, their roles are reversed. The rich man, who once had everything, is now in torment, while Lazarus is comforted in the embrace of Abraham.

This parable challenges us to reflect on how we use the resources and blessings God has given us. The rich man did not actively harm Lazarus, but his indifference to the suffering at his doorstep speaks volumes. He did not see Lazarus as a person in need, but as a mere inconvenience. Jesus calls us to not only avoid sin but to live with active compassion, responding to the needs of those around us with love and care.

Lazarus' suffering also reminds us that God is always aware of those who are marginalized, those who are ignored or dismissed by society. In God's eyes, every person has dignity and worth, and He calls us to honour that dignity by showing kindness and compassion.

The rich man's plight after death illustrates a sobering truth: our actions—or inactions—have consequences that stretch beyond this life. It is a reminder that our relationship with others, especially those who suffer, is central to our relationship with God. The choices we make today will shape our eternal destiny.

As we reflect on this passage, let us ask ourselves: Are we aware of those around us who suffer? Do we respond with love, generosity, and compassion, or do we turn a blind eye to their need?

PASTORAL LETTER

Today we have a Pastoral Letter from Cardinal Nichols, to mark the 175th anniversary of the founding of our Diocese. It is a moment to be thankful for the life and ministry of so many people, Bishops, Priests, Religious and Lay People, who, throughout these years have contributed to the building up of the Diocese. Copies of the Letter can be found on the Diocesan Website, as well as a history of the Diocese at: <https:rcdow.org.uk>

SECONDARY APPLICATIONS

Canon Dwyer will be available in the Church, on Monday 6th October, and Wednesday 15th October, between 5.30pm and 6.30pm, to discuss the possibility of signing references for applications to secondary school. Please note, the purpose of these forms is to confirm that the applicant, and their family, are practising Catholics.

FEAST OF ST FRANCIS

Next Saturday is the Feast of St Francis, which concludes the Season of Creation. To celebrate this feast there will be an extra Mass at 11.00am, everyone is very welcome. During this Season of Creation, we are called to make it a time of sustained prayer and action.

MISSION APPEAL

Thank you very much for your response to the Mission Appeal, last Sunday, by Fr Jude Burgers, on behalf of the Comboni Missionaries. £1,930 was donated. If you didn't have the opportunity to contribute, but would like to do so, it is not too late. Contributions can be left at the Parish Office.

TEA & COFFEE

For the first time, in quite a few years, tea and coffee was served after the 9.45am and 11.30am Masses last Sunday. It was very good to see the numbers who attended after both Masses. Thank you to those who served the refreshments, and it is hoped to continue this practise from time to time.

LOURDES

Our small pilgrimage to Lourdes returned on Saturday evening. Although a short pilgrimage, of just four nights, it was nonetheless a happy and fruitful time. It was a privilege to make a pilgrimage during the Holy Year of Hope, and those who participated, were encouraged by the great numbers of people, from various parts of the world, who journey to be renewed, and affirmed, in their faith. For those who participated, it was a moment of renewal and affirmation, and how good it would be if more parishioners were to take up this opportunity.



A better world needs all of us

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY APPEAL THIS HARVEST FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER

Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection to share God's abundant gifts with our global neighbours as they find lasting solutions to poverty and climate challenges. Your generosity offers "signs of hope" in this Jubilee Year, helping build more water tanks in communities like Waré's in Ethiopia where women have to walk for hours to get water. The Collection will take place after all Masses next weekend. Please use the CAFOD envelope which you will find in the porch of the church, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303

3030. You can also text CAFOD to 70560 to donate £10. The QR code will take you straight to CAFOD's virtual envelope where you can make a donation.



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/2023/05/LOL-Database-New-Parishioner-Form-May-2023.pdf> Completed forms can be emailed or posted into the Parish Office. harpenden@rcdow.org.uk



FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

Any notices for the next Newsletter please email the Parish office by lunchtime on Wednesday. Thank you.

SOUP AND REFLECTION

With Sr Regina on the subject of Hope. **Tuesday 14th October, 12 noon** in the Undercroft. Free of charge but donations to Gaza welcome. Everyone is very welcome to attend but to assist with catering, please contact marva@cpoauk.com (07943 837277).

PLACES AVAILABLE AT ST DOMINIC'S

St Dominic Catholic Primary School has spaces available in Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 classes for current academic year and welcomes enquiries from parents of children who are interested in a rounded catholic education that includes academic, religious and social skills. St Dominic's has recently been assessed by OFSTED and **rated as OUTSTANDING. Please contact**

school office on 01582 760047 to arrange visit.

HELP NEEDED FOR THE CHRISTMAS FAIR (SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER)

For many decades the parish has organised a Christmas Fair, in Lourdes Hall, which has raised tens of thousands of pounds for the parish, and for other good causes. For the last 25 years, this event has been organised by Marva Hall and she has decided that this will be her last year in charge. **We urgently need one or more of you to step up to work with her this year with a view to taking over in 2026.** Please contact Marva (07943 837277) or the Parish Office for more information. Without new leadership, this will be our last Christmas Fair.



FOR THE YOUTH OF THE PARISH

✿ **Hertfordshire Youth Summit** ✿
If you are aged 14–17 — this event is for you! You're invited to the Hertfordshire Summit at *Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Welwyn Garden City.*

Come and spend the afternoon with other young people from across the region for games, workshops, social time, and prayer. We'll have Adoration and Mass, we'll have fun, and together we'll take inspiration from Saint Carlo Acutis on how we can strive for holiness as teenagers today.

📅 Date: Saturday, 22 November 2025

🕒 Time: 13:00-19:00

🍴 Bring a packed lunch or snacks (no nuts). Parish social after Mass!

👉 To register your interest, please contact the parish office. Don't miss out — and don't forget to invite your friends!

<https://youth.rcdow.org.uk/events/big-hertfordshire-summit/>

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - OPEN DOOR HOMELESS NIGHT SHELTER ST ALBANS

Open Door night shelter in St Albans have a rota of volunteers who cook the evening meals for residents.

Sister Shelia of the Dominican Sisters in Harpenden had managed a rota of parishioners until she sadly died in 2020. We are hoping to revive her rota and her legacy to potentially cover Wednesday and Sunday evenings. Shifts are usually 2 to 3 volunteers catering for up to 12 residents. The hours are between 5.30pm and 8.30pm depending on how much clearing up is required (food is provided by Open Door). The commitment would be flexible and will depend on the number of volunteers. Potentially we are aiming for 1 evening a month per volunteer, this could be more or less depending on personal circumstances. For more details please contact Andrew Belderbos on andrew.belderbos@googlemail.com or 07985 503 527

CONFIRMATION PHOTOGRAPHS

Confirmation photographs are available to be collected from the Repository Shop after weekend Masses.

DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP- QUIZ

Join us on **Saturday October 18th 7.00pm**

for 7.30pm start at Lourdes Hall. The proceeds of this very popular annual Parish event will be in support of the projects of the

Developing World Group. (please see the website for more information on their work) **Tickets are still available!**



Entrance is £20, including a Fish and Chips supper; come along and join a table of Parishioners or if you have a group of family/friends book a table for up to 8 people. Bring your own bottle and glasses and cash for the Raffle. **To secure a booking e mail Betty Hines:**

elizabeth.hines@gmail.com.

Quiz Night – Ticket Payment

Tickets may be paid by:

- **Bank Transfer** (DWG account details from Betty)
- **Cheque** (payable to *WRCDT Harpenden*)
- **Cash** (in an envelope with a note of everyone's name, handed into the Parish office)
- Please ensure all payments are made by **14th October**.

Thank you for your continued support!

OPALS FREE EVENT

(Older Persons Activity Learning & Safety) Join us on **Friday 3rd October 2025, 10am–2pm** at the **Eric Morecombe Centre** for talks from Herts Fire & Rescue, Police, Trading Standards, Neighbourhood Watch and more. Free hot lunch and refreshments included! If you would like to attend please contact Terry Morris terry.morris@hertfordshire.gov.uk or call 07740670642

SOUTHDOWN PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE (SPACE)

FRIDAY AFTERNOONS IN SPACE

Why not join us on the first Friday of each month at 2.30pm for tea and cake, and an afternoon of entertainment brought to you by local singers, musicians and entertainers.

November 19th to 22nd High Street Players Autumn production for more details visit www.hsplayers.org.uk

November 28th Southdown Christmas Lights Switch on. SPACe will be open so do come along in for a mince pie and hear about our plans for the development of our building.

Our aim at SPACe is to be a Christian performing arts centre offering an affordable and inclusive community space with events which explore life and faith.

For more details please contact office@southdownspace.org

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 27 September:

Live Simply's Tool Renovation at Lourdes Hall from 12pm – 6pm.

Saturday 11th October

3pm Sing for 12 Concert in Church everyone welcome

Tuesday 14 October:

Soup and Reflection in the Undercroft from 12pm – 2pm.
Sister Regina will speak about 'Hope'.

Thursday 16th October

Chorister's Concert in Church at 7pm

Saturday 18 October:

DWG Quiz at the Lourdes Hall
at 7pm-7.30pm start

Saturday 22nd November

DWG 'Thanksgiving' Barn Dance
at St Dominic School

Doors open at 7.00pm for 7.30pm start.

For more info contact Noel on nfj.whittle@gmail.com

Sunday 23rd November

Newman Musical

Afternoon with Alison Langer, Sunday 23rd November in Lourdes Hall

Sunday 30th November

Advent Service at 6pm Venue TBC

Saturday 6 December:

Christmas Fair at the Lourdes Hall from 12pm – 2pm.

MASS INTENTIONS

<p>Sat 27th Sept 12.00 Noon Vigil Mass 6.00pm</p>	<p>St Vincent de Paul, Priest Baptism Rose Family 26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Duncan Gallagher RIP (Anniversary)</p>	<p>PLEASE PRAY FOR:</p> <p>Prayer for the Newly Baptised Father, may they grow in faith, hope, and love, guided always by the light of Christ. Surround their parents, godparents, and families with wisdom and joy as they nurture them in the faith.</p> <p>Newly Baptised Albert</p> <p>Recently Departed: Mark RIP</p> <p>Anniversaries: Duncan Gallagher RIP Diane Clark RIP Sarah Cullinane</p> <p>Loving God, we remember in prayer all those whose who have recently died and those whose anniversaries occur this week. Grant them eternal rest, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen. Comfort and strengthen their families and friends, and may the hope of the Resurrection bring them peace.</p>
<p>Sun 28th Sept 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p>Diane Clark RIP (Anniversary) Sarah Cullinane RIP (Anniversary) People of the Parish Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</p>	
<p>Mon 29th Sept 9.15am</p>	<p>Saints Michael, Gabriel, & Raphael, Archangels Mark RIP (Recently Deceased)</p>	
<p>Tues 30th Sept 9.15am</p>	<p>St Jerome, Priest & Doctor of the Church Private Intentions</p>	
<p>Wed 1st Oct 9.15am</p>	<p>St Therese of the Child Jesus Gillian Scarlett (Special Intentions)</p>	
<p>Thur 2nd Oct 11.00am</p>	<p>Holy Guardian Angels Elizabeth Castor RIP</p>	
<p>Fri 3rd Oct</p>	<p>Feria</p>	
<p>Sat 4th Oct 11.00am 1.00pm Vigil Mass 6.00pm</p>	<p>St Francis of Assisi Season of Creation Wedding 27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Ben & Sophie (Special Intentions)</p>	
<p>Sun 5th Oct 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p>People of the Parish Elizabeth Wang RIP (Anniversary) Teresa Metcalfe RIP Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</p>	

CONFESSIONS

SATURDAYS 10.30AM – 11.00AM & AFTER THE 6.00PM VIGIL MASS