



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

29TH JANUARY 2023

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (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

Today's reading is the beginning of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, which is found in Matthew's Gospel. The form of the Beatitudes found here is not unique to Jesus. Beatitudes are found in the Old Testament, in the psalms, and in wisdom literature, for example. They are a way to teach about who will find favour with God.

What the beatitudes offer is a summary of Jesus' teaching. They are the condensed gospel, and need some teasing out to apply them to life. We are aware of political manifestos, statements of what a party stands for, what they intend to achieve if you elect them. This gospel is Jesus' manifesto. It is a manifesto that he promises will bring us near to God.

What we may note, in this reading, is that the people whom Jesus calls "blessed" and "happy" are not necessarily those we might think of as blessed or happy . . . the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, the persecuted. This Gospel is one of reversals. Jesus' blueprint for happiness reflects little of what the world might call happiness.

"Blessed" is sometimes translated as *happy*, *fortunate*, or *favoured*. In other words, Jesus is saying that divine favour is upon those who are poor, those who mourn, those who are persecuted. This news might have been welcome—and surprising—to the crowds who heard Jesus that day.

The Beatitudes can be understood as a framework for Christian living. Our vocation as Christians is not to be first in this world, but rather to be first in the eyes of God. By referring to the good things that the faithful will experience, Matthew reminds us that those who act in the manner described in the Beatitudes will find their reward with God.

OUR FEAST DAY

In two weeks' time on Saturday 11th February, we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, our parish feast day. To mark this day there will be Mass at 11.30am, 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. After Mass there will be refreshments in the Undercroft. If you need help in getting to Church, or could offer a lift, please get in touch with the Parish Office.



WARM SPACES

Our 'Warm Space' has now been running for six weeks, and although numbers are not great, the volunteers, are keen that we continue to offer this service. However, we are changing our opening time to Mondays, between 12noon and 2.00pm. This will commence on Monday 6th February. So, again, if you know anyone who might appreciate some warmth, refreshments and company, please tell them about our warm space. **Volunteers**, please sign the sheet, in the porch, for February.

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.

YOUTH OF THE PARISH FLAME 2023 - SATURDAY 4TH MARCH 2023 - 12PM TO 5.40PM RISE UP

<https://cymfed.org.uk/flame/>

This year's confirmation candidates will be joining thousands of other young catholic people at the OVO Wembley Arena on Saturday 4th March 2023 for an inspiring day of prayer, adoration, catechesis, reflection, celebration and praise. Everyone else aged School Year 9 (and not already on the confirmation course) through to University age are invited to join them for the day to experience this UK's largest catholic youth conference.

Tickets are £20 plus travel.

Please contact the parish office, or Anne Pesez anne.pesez@gmail.com as soon as possible if your child is interested.

PARISH AREA COORDINATORS

Following the recent email to parishioners who receive the newsletter, we have received 27 acceptances from people willing to get involved in contacting Catholics in or close to their location. **It's a great start but we need many more.** This will not be an onerous task but simply to say 'hello', perhaps make the occasional telephone call to check on well-being, knock on a door, or just pop a parishes newsletter through the letter box, it's all part of our parish mission. Please consider joining the team and help to get to know your neighbour by emailing: dr@harpendenlol@gmail.com

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday Tuesday and Wednesday this week. Normal opening hours from Thursday.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (S.V.P.)

The parish members of the S.V.P. offer practical help to the people of the Parish; so if you know someone who is need of a lift to Mass , help with the shopping or perhaps just a friendly chat please inform the parish office.



SING FOR 4 , CONCERT ! NEXT SUNDAY 5TH FEBRUARY AT 3.15PM

The groups have been singing their hearts out on Tuesday evenings and Sunday afternoons throughout January and will be delighted to perform their new repertoire to a packed audience on Sunday 5th February at 3.15pm. Entry is by donation of items for Keystage Housing and for NOAH . Toiletries for men and women, Men's underwear (new) , socks ... please look on their websites for further ideas. Cash donations also welcome and will be sent directly to the charities.

REFRESHMENTS

The concert will be followed by a cup of tea in the Undercroft. Please come and support this wonderful team of volunteers as they take to the stage to support two local charities.

DATE 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.

ST ALBANS AND DISTRICT FOODBANK

Milk and juice collections for the foodbank are resuming after the Christmas break.

So please, if you can, bring a carton of UHT milk or long life fruit juice to the church next Saturday or Sunday.



ST DOMINIC NURSERY

FOR ADMISSION SEPTEMBER 2023

On the 30th January 2023, the application process for Nursery places will open 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 to book an appointment to attend to one of our online visit mornings on Wednesday 18th January at 9.30pm or Monday 30th Jan at 9.30am or Wednesday 22nd February at 9.30am. Applications close at 3.30pm on 6th March.



**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

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.

**VERITAS
CATHOLIC LECTURE SERIES**

Roman Catholic Parish of Hemel West (St Mary & St Joseph Church HP1 1NR) will be hosting the Catholic Theology lecture series starting in February. We are inviting expert theologians as lecturers to look at Catholicism holistically. Let's know God so we can truly love Him! The lecture is free to attend but we would appreciate a pot of food to share and a donation for the lecturers. Any help on the day will be received gratefully.

The registration will be set up soon. Please check the Hemel West website for more details.

MASS INTENTIONS NEXT WEEK

Sat 28th Jan 12.00 Noon	St Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor Baptism Walker Family
6.00pm	4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Bernard McGarry RIP (Anniv)
Sun 29th Jan	4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)
8.30am	People of the Parish
9.45am	Bridie Carey RIP (Recently Deceased)
11.30am	Pat Marshall RIP Zoom Code 883 7014 5568.
Mon 30th Jan 9.15am	feria Sandra Gemson RIP (Recently Deceased)
Tues 31st Jan 9.15am	St John Bosco, Priest Gordon Lewis RIP (Recently Deceased)
Wed 1st Feb 9.15am	feria
Thur 2nd Feb 11.00am	THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD Dylan Williams (Sp Ints)
Fri 3rd Feb	Ss Laurence, Dunstan & Theodore, Archbishops of Canterbury
Sat 4th Feb 12.00 Noon	feria Baptism Hutton Family
6.00pm	5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Catenians President's Mass
Sun 5th Feb	5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)
8.30am	People of the Parish
9.45am	Bernard St John Glew RIP (Anniv)
11.30am	Julian Greenwood RIP (Anniv) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568.

CONFESSIONS - SATURDAYS

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