



Contactless  
Giving

# OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026  
PALM SUNDAY (A)



© Chloe Le Tissier

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Today, Palm Sunday, we begin the holiest week of the Church's year, Holy Week. A week when we are invited to walk closely with Jesus on the path that leads from triumph to sacrifice, from being sentenced to death to the Cross, and ultimately to the joy of the Resurrection. Today's liturgy holds together two powerful moments: the joyful procession with palms, and the solemn reading of the Passion. Together, they remind us that following Christ is not only about moments of celebration, but also about faithfulness in times of suffering and uncertainty.

This week is unlike any other in the Church's year. It is a sacred journey, and we are not meant to stand at a distance, or just to be spectators, but to take part fully. Each liturgy—from the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, to the solemn remembrance of Good Friday, and the great Vigil of Easter—draws us more deeply into the mystery of God's love revealed in Jesus.

We journey through Holy week, when we try to participate as fully as we can in the different celebrations. We are not making the Holy Week journey by only attending Mass on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Momentous events take place between those two great days. Wherever possible, then, try to make space in your week to be present. Set aside time. Come and pray. Allow the words, gestures, and silence of these days to speak to your heart. Even a small step—attending one additional liturgy, spending time in quiet prayer—can open us more fully to grace.

Let this be a truly Holy Week: not simply something we observe, but something we enter. Walking with Jesus, we discover again the depth of his love for us, and we prepare to share more fully in the new life of Easter.



## **HOLY WEEK & EASTER**

Do try and make this coming week, a truly Holy Week. These coming days are a privileged time, when we have the opportunity to journey with Jesus, through the last great events of his earthly life. Details of everything happening, in the coming days, will be found in the Holy week/Easter leaflet. If you haven't already collected one, or had one delivered, do collect one from the church porch today.

## **PALM SUNDAY**

On Palm Sunday, we begin our Holy Week journey, a journey on which we accompany Jesus on his journey to Calvary. At each of the Palm Sunday Masses the palms will be blessed and distributed.

## **MASSES THIS WEEK**

Monday to Wednesday this week, Masses will be celebrated at 9.15am.

## **PENITENTIAL SERVICE**

Tomorrow, Monday, our Parish **Reconciliation Service, takes place at 7.30pm**. Although very few parishioners, now avail of this Sacrament, in our church, it doesn't mean that the need to be forgiven is any the less. If we are honest, and realistic, we will recognise the need, within ourselves, and turn to the Lord, and seek his mercy and forgiveness. We have the opportunity to do that tomorrow evening. So, do think about the opportunity that the Lord is giving to you.

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

The Mass of the Lord's Supper takes place on Thursday evening, with the washing of the feet. Following Mass there is the procession to the Altar of Repose, where watching continues until 10.45pm, when there is Night Prayer. It is a long established tradition, to spend some time in prayer at the Altar of Repose, heeding Jesus' words: 'Can you not spend one hour with me?' After Mass, the 'Stripping of the Altar' takes place, when we will be joined by the congregation of St Nicholas Church.

## **GOOD FRIDAY**

*- A day of fasting & abstinence.*

10.30am: We join some of the other Harpenden churches for the 'Walk of Witness'. Assemble at the gates of Rothamsted Park at 10.30am. Having processed through the High Street, the Walk concludes with a short service on Church Green.

11.30am: The children's Stations of the Cross, takes place at 11.30am.

3.00pm: Celebration of the Lord's Passion

*- A collection will be made for the Holy Places*

## **HOLY SATURDAY**

11.00am: Morning Prayer

8.00pm: Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter

## **EASTER SUNDAY**

Masses at 8.30am, 9.45am and 11.30am.

## **EASTER OFFERING**

The offering on Easter Sunday, is one of just two collections in the year that contributes to the stipend that priests in parishes receive, and assists in their personal upkeep. Diocesan guidance dictates that the contributions received on Easter Sunday, by standing order, cannot be included in the Easter offering. If you normally support the parish in this way, but wish to contribute to this collection, you can do so via the 'Easter Offering' envelopes, or the card machine QR code.

Contributions given by Easter envelopes, as well as the 'loose' collection, are



included in the Easter Offering.

## **ALTAR SERVERS**

In order to celebrate the Easter Liturgies, in as appropriate a way as possible, we are dependent on our Altar Servers to assist, and we are still low in number for Maundy Thursday. Thank you to those who have already indicated their availability. Those who haven't yet done so are asked to sign the lists in the sacristy as soon as possible. Details of the practises will also be found in the sacristy, so please take note.

## **CHRISM MASS**

The Mass of Chrism takes place at Westminster Cathedral at 12 Noon on Tuesday. The Mass is concelebrated by the Archbishop, Bishops and Priests of the Diocese. During this Mass the oils of Chrism, Catechumens and of the Sick, are blessed for use in the Parishes during the coming year. Everyone is very welcome at this Mass.

## **GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION**

On Good Friday, the Church takes up a collection for the Holy Places in the Holy Land. Your generosity helps preserve these sacred sites and supports the local Christian communities.

## **GOOD FRIDAY CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS 2026**

Children's Stations of the Cross will take place at 11:30am on Good Friday (3rd April) and last 45 minutes. We are looking for around 12 children (Years 3–6) to take part in non-speaking tableau roles. Participants will need to be in church from 9:30am for rehearsal before the performance.

This timing allows families to join the town's Walk of Witness and then attend the service.

If your child would like to take part, please contact Ginny ([ginny.sjg@gmail.com](mailto:ginny.sjg@gmail.com) / 01582 620322) by Monday 30th March. Places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

## **WALK OF WITNESS**

Every year we join with members of other churches, on Good Friday, to publicly remember Christ's journey to Calvary, and to witness to him. Members of our parish act as marshals to simply guide the procession and ensure safe road crossing at various points. It would be good to recruit two or three new members to the team. We meet at 10am and finish just over an hour later. Full instructions are available so if you can help in this way, please contact Dennis [dennis@denniscooper.uk](mailto:dennis@denniscooper.uk)

## PRAY FOR PEACE

Operation Epic Fury and the Iranian fight-back are truly disturbing. As ever in the Middle East, events can easily spiral out of control, with more and more countries becoming involved. At his recent Angelus address, Pope Leo said: "Stability and peace are not built with mutual threats, nor with weapons, which sow destruction, pain, and death, but only through a reasonable, authentic, and responsible dialogue." Lent is a time of prayer, self-denial and charity. This week, let us pray to the Holy Spirit, yes, for peace, but especially that as many innocent people as possible are spared and that there will grow up a renewed desire for diplomacy and dialogue.

### RECENTLY DECEASED

We remember Mary Hammond, David Mercer and Betty Young who have gone home to the Lord

### MARY HAMMOND RIP

Details of Mary's Funeral to follow.

### DAVID MERCER RIP

David's Funeral Mass will be on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April at 12.00 Noon.

### ELIZABETH 'BETTY' YOUNG RIP

Details of Betty's Funeral to follow.

We keep their families in our prayers, May they Rest In Peace.

## EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA!

Keystage Housing in Luton are collecting chocolate eggs for homeless individuals they support to give at Easter. Donations very much appreciated. Please leave

Easter Egg donations in the yellow bin outside the church at weekends. During the week please leave with the Parish Office. We will stop collecting Easter Eggs on: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2026.



## AT SOCIETY CONCERT

There will be a fundraising concert held on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April at St Dominic's School by the AT Society. The choirs involved are the choristers, the adult choir, the Sing For choir and some singers from John F Kennedy School. Each choir will sing two/three pieces and then there will be some combined items.

The AT Society was founded by a Harpenden family who lost two children to AT. They were both at St Dominic's School which is why this is our venue for the concert. There is a website with details of their work: <https://atsociety.org.uk/> There are tickets on sale for family and friends to purchase in order to come and hear the concert.

<https://atsociety.org.uk/product/spring-concert/>

## DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP AND LIVE SIMPLY 'SPRING CLEAN'

### 'Tool and Equipment Collection'

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April

At Lourdes Hall Between

12 Noon And 4.30pm.

Enjoy A 'Spring Clean' And Help to Empower Young People in Africa.

Details of the wanted items are listed in our church entrance and attached to last weekend's Newsletter email.

These items will be refurbished by WORKAID and sent to Africa to help with the vocational training of young people.

If an item is too large for you to transport we can come and collect it. Please email [Elizabeth.hines@gmail.com](mailto:Elizabeth.hines@gmail.com) or phone/text: 07905 797729



*Or live simply*

<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](mailto:harpenden@rcdow.org.uk)

### **MARRIAGE THANKSGIVING MASS**

**Takes place at Westminster Cathedral, on Saturday 23rd May 2026 at 2:30pm.**

The Archbishop is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2026. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your parish office the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and contact email (or telephone number, if no email), by 19<sup>th</sup> April. Closer to the time, the Agency for Evangelisation will send out an invitation from the Archbishop.



**CLOCKS GO FORWARD  
ONE HOUR THIS  
WEEKEND**



### **FROM THE PARISH OFFICE**

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

**MASS INTENTIONS  
HOLY WEEK**

<p><b>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March</b></p> <p><b>Vigil Mass 6.00pm</b> <b>*Clocks go forward*</b></p> <p><b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March</b></p> <p><b>8.30am</b></p> <p><b>9.30am</b></p> <p><b>9.45am</b></p> <p><b>11.30am</b></p>	<p><b>Lent Feria</b> <b>PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (A)</b> Mary Thomas RIP (Recently Deceased)</p> <p>Margaret Hughes RIP</p> <p>Meet at Church Green for Blessing of the Palms People of the Parish</p> <p>Michael Philippou (Sp Int) <b>Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</b></p>	<p><b>PLEASE PRAY FOR:</b></p> <p><b>Recently Deceased</b> Mary Hammond RIP Mary Thomas RIP Mark O’Hara RIP Betty Young RIP</p>
<p><b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March</b></p> <p><b>9.15am</b></p>	<p><b>Monday of Holy Week</b> William Dooley RIP (Anniversary)</p>	<p><b>RIP Anniversaries</b> William Dooley RIP</p>
<p><b>Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March</b></p> <p><b>9.15am</b></p> <p><b>12.00 Noon</b></p>	<p><b>Tuesday of Holy Week</b> Mark O’Hara RIP (Recently Deceased) Mass of Chrism Westminster Cathedral</p>	
<p><b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April</b></p> <p><b>9.15am</b></p>	<p><b>Wednesday of Holy Week</b></p>	<p><b>Prayer for the Faithful Departed</b></p>
<p align="center"><b>THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM</b></p>		
<p><b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b></p> <p><b>8.00pm</b></p> <p><b>10.45pm</b></p>	<p><b>Thursday of THE LORD’S SUPPER (MAUNDY THURSDAY)</b> Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper <b>Zoom Code 835 6413 5560</b> Watching at the Altar of Repose until Night Prayer</p>	<p>Lord Jesus, in your Passion, Death and Resurrection, you conquered sin and opened</p>
<p><b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April</b></p> <p><b>9.30am</b></p> <p><b>11.30am</b></p> <p><b>3.00pm</b></p>	<p><b>FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (GOOD FRIDAY)</b> Children’s Stations of the Cross Rehearsal Children’s Stations of the Cross The Celebration of the Passion of the Lord <b>Zoom Code 821 3899 5836</b></p>	<p>the gates of eternal life. We commend to you our departed brothers and sisters;</p>
<p><b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April</b></p> <p><b>11.00am</b></p> <p><b>EASTER VIGIL</b></p> <p><b>8.00pm</b></p> <p><b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April</b></p> <p><b>8.30am</b></p> <p><b>9.45am</b></p> <p><b>11.30am</b></p>	<p><b>HOLY SATURDAY</b> Morning Prayer <b>EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD</b> People of the Parish <b>Zoom Code 896 1132 8335</b></p> <p>People of the Parish</p> <p>People of the Parish</p> <p>People of the Parish <b>Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</b></p>	<p>grant them rest in your peace and bring them to the joy of your Resurrection. <b>Amen.</b></p>