



Contactless
Giving

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

2ND AUGUST 2026

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)



© Chloe Le Tissier

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The crowds who followed Jesus into the wilderness were searching for something they could not find anywhere else. They came with their hopes, fears, illnesses and questions, and they discovered that Christ had compassion on them. He taught them, healed them and, when evening came, fed them with five loaves and two fish. What seemed hopelessly inadequate became more than enough in the hands of Jesus.

That Gospel scene speaks powerfully to us today. We can sometimes feel that our own resources are limited—whether it is time, energy, patience or faith itself. Yet the miracle reminds us that God asks us not for abundance, but for generosity. When we place what we have into the Lord's hands, he is able to accomplish far more than we could ever imagine.

The first reading echoes the same invitation. Through the prophet Isaiah, God calls out, "Come to the water... Come, eat." God's gifts cannot be bought or earned; they are freely given to those who are willing to receive them. Every celebration of the Eucharist is a response to that invitation. Christ gathers us, nourishes us with his Word and feeds us with the Bread of Life before sending us out to share his love with others.

St Paul offers a final word of encouragement: nothing *"can separate us from the love of God."* In a world where many people experience uncertainty and loneliness, these are reassuring words to hold onto.

For many of us, our lives are hectic, with all manner of demands to respond to. In the coming weeks, hopefully, there is time to relax, and to reflect, whether, or not, we are going away. Hopefully the weeks ahead will provide us with some time to recognise God's generous blessings, renew our trust in his providence, and remember that, with Christ, there is always enough to share.

LOOKING FORWARD

Many of us will surely be breathing a sigh of relief at this time of year! With the prospect of holidays, or, at least, some time to step back from the normal routine and demands of life. There are few of us who won't recognise in ourselves, and be ready to admit that we are in need of rest and recreation, quite simply to only do the necessary!! Hopefully many of us, will have the opportunity, if not to get away, then, at least to have some time to ourselves. Whatever you are doing in the coming weeks, may it be a happy and peaceful time, a time when you can choose what you want to do.

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Now that we are well into Summer, many things, so it seems, are slowing down, and, no doubt, many of us will be hoping for some rest, or, at least, a gentler pace of life. Usually, for the month of August, a newsletter is not produced. This year, however, there will be two newsletters during August, one on Sunday 9th and the other on Sunday 23rd. They will be simple newsletters, with times etc for the coming fortnight, and brief information about any activities that may be happening during that time.

FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION 2027

Preparation for First Communion and Confirmation will be commencing in the autumn. Registration for both Sacraments has now closed. If you haven't already done so, please return the completed form to the Parish Office without delay.

CONFIRMATION CATECHIST'S NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers to join our Confirmation Catechist team. This is a wonderful opportunity to support and

encourage the young people of our parish as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

No previous experience is necessary – just a willingness to share your faith and be part of a friendly, supportive team. If you feel you may be able to help, or would like to find out more, please speak to Canon Dwyer. We would be delighted to hear from you.

ASSISTED SUICIDE

A Private Members' Bill on assisted suicide – so-called assisted dying – has been reintroduced to the House of Commons. The *Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill* will have its Second Reading and vote on Friday, 11 September 2026.

The Bishops are renewing their call to Catholics, and people of goodwill, to unite in prayer and compassionate action. Our Archbishop, Richard Moth, explains our strong opposition to this legislation. He writes:

"The *Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill* which aims to legalise assisted suicide has returned to the House of Commons, and Members of Parliament will vote on its Second Reading on 11 September. This bill is wrong in principle. It is also deeply flawed and, if passed, could lead to vulnerable people feeling pressured into ending their lives.

"The Bill has a serious lack of protection for health and social care staff and risks putting many wonderful hospices and care homes in the position of no longer being able to operate.

"I urge you to [write to your Members of Parliament](#) to petition them to vote against the Bill at Second Reading."

ACT NOW – Contact your MP

You can support the Archbishop's call and contact your MP now as a matter of urgency. Even if you have already done so

in the past, please speak up and voice your opposition. The charity Right to Life UK (<https://righttolife.org.uk/>) has a simple online mechanism to do this. It takes little more than a few minutes to enter your postcode, make sure the suggested text suits your viewpoint and submit your message to ask your MP to stop this flawed Bill progressing through parliament.

PATRICK JOYCE RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Patrick Joyce who died recently. Patrick's Funeral Mass will take place on Wednesday 5th August at 1.00pm.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to everyone who gives their time to support parish life. We are very grateful for all you do — our parish simply could not run without you.

To help keep everyone safe, **the Diocese is asking all parish volunteers to complete safeguarding training. This applies to every volunteer, whether or not your role requires a DBS check.**

If you work with children or vulnerable adults, you will already have completed the Safer Recruitment process with Brigid, our Parish Safeguarding Representative. Many volunteers have also completed an online safeguarding course during the past year. The Diocese now asks that all volunteers complete this training, even if you have had similar training elsewhere. The training can be completed online or attended in person.

Over the next few weeks, Brigid will email the volunteers who need to complete the training and explain the available options. **Please be reassured that this does not mean all volunteers are being asked to have a DBS check. The aim is**

simply to raise safeguarding awareness across the whole parish community.

If you volunteer but do not hear from Brigid, please contact her or the parish office so she can send you the details. If you have any concerns or questions, please get in touch with Brigid. Her contact details are on the front of the newsletter.



“ . . the quality of [human] development is measured by the ability to integrate justice toward people and the care of our common home, and to promote dignified living conditions, access to necessary goods, just social relations, care of creation and consideration for future generations.”

Pope Leo XIV, Magnifica Humanitas

The Big Butterfly Count takes place from 17th July – 9th August. We will be hosting a Butterfly Walk this Sunday August 2nd at 2.30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come along and see how many different species of butterfly we can spot! We will be meeting at Roundwood Halt on the Nickey Line.

A DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP SAVE THE DATE DWG QUIZ NIGHT

The very popular DWG annual quiz will be held on **17th October** in Lourdes Hall. Tickets will go on sale during September.



FROM THE PARISH OFFICE The parish office remains open during the Summer 9.30am to 12.30pm Monday to Thursday.

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

<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

BEDS & HERTS BIKE 'N' HIKE

This annual sponsored Bike 'n' Hike takes place on Saturday 12th September from 9am to 5pm.

Have fun visiting over 600 churches and chapels, raise funds for our Church and help save other churches in Beds and Herts. For more information and sponsor packs please scan the QR code on the poster on the noticeboard in Church.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 1st August Vigil Mass 6.00pm Sunday 2nd August 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	St Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop & Doctor of the Church 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) People of the Parish Tom Cafferty RIP Special Intention PF Mary Hammond RIP Zoom Code 883 7014 5568	PLEASE PRAY FOR: People of the Parish Heavenly Father, Bless all the people of our parish family. Keep us safe, especially those travelling during the summer holidays, and bring them home safely. Strengthen our faith, fill our hearts with Your peace, and help us to share Your love with everyone we meet. Through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes, may we continue to grow in faith, hope, and love. Amen.
Monday 3rd August 9.15am	Feria	
Tuesday 4th August 9.15am	St John Vianney, Priest	
Wednesday 5th August 9.15am 1.00pm	Feria Requiem Mass Paul Joyce	
Thursday 6th August 11.00am	THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD Judith Saul (Special Intentions)	
Friday 7th August	Feria	
Saturday 8th August Vigil Mass 6.00pm Sunday 9th August 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	St Dominic, Priest 19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Canon Bennie Noonan (Special Intentions) Connie Malone RIP (Recently Deceased) People of the Parish Gerry, Maureen & Geraldine Martin RIP (Anniversary) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568	