



Parish Website

# OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 2023

1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)



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## Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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

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## 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](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: [harpensg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:harpensg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) Tel: 07881 785 299

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

Today we begin the great Season of Advent. There are two messages that we will hear over the next four weeks. One message and set of values will come to us from the media and the shops. We will be told that we will have to stay busy, queue longer, and spend more money on those 'must have' presents so that we will have the 'perfect' Christmas, as if such a thing exists. This most definitely is 'fake news.' However, there is a very different message and set of values that will be offered to us through the gospels. We are being asked, to prepare a way for the Lord, to stay awake, to make a straight path for the Lord, and to get ourselves ready, to celebrate the birth of Jesus. This is most definitely is 'Good News!'

The message of Advent, is an invitation and it is also a challenge to us. We are called to be looking forward, to be ready, to be prepared and we are asked to wait in joyful hope. During these sacred days of preparation, we are being asked to take some time, to be still and silent as we prepare ourselves deeply, for Christmas, to heed the words and message of Jesus in today's gospel; 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come... what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

While we can't simply ignore the shops, the media and the advertisements over the next few weeks, we need to be careful, not to get caught up in the shopping and spending, and then miss what Advent is really about. As Advent begins, we might ask ourselves in what ways can I prepare a way for the Lord, as I get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas?

## SEASON OF ADVENT



### STARTING WELL

Today, as we begin the season of Advent, we mark the start of this special time with our Advent Carol Service, at 6.00pm, when we will be joined by the congregation and choir from St John the Baptist Church. As this special season begins, do think about joining in this time of prayer, a lovely opportunity to focus on the messages of Advent through the scriptures, and sacred music. Afterwards there will be refreshments in the Undercroft.



### WAITING IN JOYFUL HOPE

Advent Reflection, led by Sr. Regina at the convent, 18 Kirkdale Road on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2.00pm - 3.30pm



### ADVENT CALENDAR

Once again, we have our Advent Calendar in the courtyard of the Church, please stop and take a look. Each day during Advent a new door will be opened, revealing, reflections, information on active groups within the Parish, and donation items needed for Noah, Keystage Housing, the Hygiene Bank & the Food Bank.

### CHORISTERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT -

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm

You are invited to come and listen to our wonderful Choristers perform in their Christmas Concert.

### SING FOR .... CHRISTMAS!

#### PERFORMANCES:

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 7.00-9.00pm OLOL extra rehearsal/ fundraising performance

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December - Catenians Christmas Dinner.



### CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT -

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 6pm



# Travelling Crib

## ***Could you offer Mary and Joseph a room for the night?***

During Advent, the Travelling Crib will be making its way around the parish, beginning with a blessing in church at the 9.45am mass on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

It will then be taken home by a family who plays host to the nativity characters for the night, sharing a short act of worship together during which a candle is lit to signify that our travellers have a home for the night.

If you would like the Travelling Crib to come into your home, please contact Anne Meehan on 07790 417685 or email [comms@catholicchurchharpندن.org.uk](mailto:comms@catholicchurchharpندن.org.uk)  
More information can be found on the Parish website. [catholicchurchharpندن.org.uk](http://catholicchurchharpندن.org.uk)



## **FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

Mass will be celebrated for this special feast at 9.15am.



## **SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS**

Thank you for all your contributions, for the Sick and Retired Priests of our Diocese. £2,210.00 has been donated, and will soon be forwarded to the Diocese. Your donations are much appreciated, as they will benefit our 82 sick and retired priests.

## **CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**

This weekend there will be a collection for flowers so that the church can be decorated for the Christmas season.

The collection will be at the end of each Mass, you can also donate by using the Card Machine, select Christmas Flowers. Thank you as always for your generosity.



## **IF YOU ARE SICK**

For parishioners who are unwell, and unable to attend Mass, we are very happy to arrange for Holy Communion to be taken to you. Anyone who would like to receive Holy Communion, at home, should contact Canon Dwyer, in the first instance, via the Parish Office.

## **THINKING AHEAD**

Although November is now over, it is the time when we remember our departed family and friends. Inevitably too, it may prompt us to think about how we would like the end of our earthly life to be marked. Sometimes, very sadly, those left to make arrangements, do not do so in a way that is in keeping with the way the deceased has lived their life, respecting their faith and religious practice. If you would like to indicate your wishes, forms are available from the Parish Office, these can be left with family, executor or parish, or even all three.

## ST DOMINIC'S SCHOOL ADMISSIONS



It's that time of year again.  
Reception Admissions for children  
starting in September 2024.  
Applications close 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024.  
For more details [St Dominic](#)

### [Catholic Primary School - Admissions](#)

Canon Dwyer will be available in the church,  
tomorrow, Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December between  
5.30pm & 6.30pm to discuss the possibility of  
signing Certificate of Catholic Practice (CCP).  
Please note, the purpose of the CCP is to confirm  
that the applicant, and their family, are  
practising Catholics, that is, attend Mass every  
Sunday and on holydays of obligation.

## CHRISTMAS IN THE REPOSITORY

Come and see our range of Christmas cards both  
traditional and modern, together with Cribbs and  
figures, again traditional and modern and some  
which are especially for children to play with.  
We also have Christmas candles, tree  
decorations, and children's books, together with  
Advent calendars. All are very reasonably priced.  
**DAY by DAY Advent books for Adults and  
children are available in the Repository.**



## THE NOODLE BOX

From Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November "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 . This is just a start to  
the project and we can place boxes where needed  
as we go along !



## FOR THE YOUTH OF THE PARISH

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm will be the next  
Youth friendly mass for Young people from  
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. Contact the parish office if you'd  
like to take part.

### LOLOL YOUTH GROUP:

Year 9 Confirmation Candidates & Year 10  
and beyond Save the date:  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 7.00pm to 8.30pm

**'WEAR YOUR CHRISTMAS JUMPER OR  
ACCESSORIES FOR A FESTIVE YOUTH  
GROUP ON SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER'**



Join us for our Parish Youth Group at 7pm in  
the Undercroft, and pizzas are on the menu!  
Once a month, we will meet after the 6pm  
Youth Friendly Mass for some food, some fun  
and some faith sharing time together.

### FUTURE DATES

13<sup>th</sup> January, 10<sup>th</sup> February, 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. ALBANS AND DISTRICT FOODBANK

Milk and juice collections for the foodbank will be  
taken up this weekend. So please, if you can, bring  
a carton of UHT milk or long-life juice to the  
church..



## MISSIO RED BOXES

Please bring your Red mission boxes to Mass for emptying. Either take to the Sacristy or alternatively take to the Parish Office. Boxes will be emptied and then left at the back of the church for collection. Thank you

## CHILDREN'S NATIVITY SERVICE - CHRISTMAS EVE 2023



We are pleased to say that we will be having a Children's Nativity again this year. The service will be at 5.00pm on Christmas Eve, and is a lovely reminder to the children about the reasons for celebrating this great feast. This year we are dramatising the story "The Not-So-Wise Man" which will be read by an adult, but we do need a cast of many - (shepherds, angels, wisemen, townsfolk etc.) So, if you would like your child to take part please come to the rehearsal in church on Saturday 23rd December at 10:00am to 12.30pm, when we will be reading the story to the children and asking for them to take various parts (There are no speaking parts!) Your child does need to be at this rehearsal to take part on Christmas Eve. We have some costumes, but if you have anything suitable then they would be most useful.

The children need to be primary school age and if they are taking part in the nativity they will need to be in church at 4.30pm on Christmas Eve. Please let me know as soon as possible if they would like to take part, in the Nativity Service

(contact Ginny St John Glew, 01582 620322 or email [ginny.sjg@gmail.com](mailto:ginny.sjg@gmail.com))

## CHRISTMAS DINNER 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, SUPPORTING NOAH & KEYSTAGE HOUSING

You, your family and friends are invited to the Harpenden, Luton & District Catenian, Christmas dinner, to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> December at Harpenden Golf Club 6-15pm for a 7pm sit down.

Tickets are person £35 per head for two course Christmas fare including wine.

As a special treat we will be entertained by

**Our Lady of Lourdes 'Sing for' Group directed by Katie Metcalfe.**

They will sing a selection of seasonal favourites and lead us in frivolity and carol singing. The Sing For project runs three times a year with money raised going to Keystage Housing and Noah, so please, help fill the dining room by booking your tickets today via email to

[john.williams58@btinternet.com](mailto:john.williams58@btinternet.com)

Dress is smart casual preferably with a Christmas theme. The deadline for booking is December 6<sup>th</sup> but don't wait until then, please book now. Raffle takings and a Catenian donation will be given to the charities for Christmas.

## CHRISTMAS GIFT PACKS

Keystage Housing are organising Christmas gift packs for their service users. They need 100



Chocolate oranges and Matchmaker chocolate boxes and new Men's socks!

Please could we help them achieve this.

All donations can be placed in the Yellow Collection bin located in front of the Church

## CHRISTMAS VOLUNTEERING 2023 AT NOAH

Christmas is an incredibly busy period at the Welfare Centre, and we work hard to provide a warm and welcome space for our clients to spend the holiday. Each year, we are blessed to receive a number of requests for volunteering over the Christmas period. This year, we are unable to accept any requests for the 24th-26th December, however anyone wishing to volunteer is very welcome to join us between 2pm and 4pm, from the 18th - 22nd December at our Christmas volunteering sessions! Roles will include greeting and hosting clients, organising kind donations of gifts, clothing and food, supporting the kitchen staff to meet the increased need, and keeping the Welfare Centre a clean and safe place to be. There will be hot drinks and Christmas goodies to keep you in high spirits 🎄

You will need to attend ONE induction day prior to your volunteering session, which are organised for Tuesday 12th (2pm-3pm) and Wednesday 13th (3pm-4pm) at our Welfare Centre, LU1 3HG. If you are interested in getting involved, please email [grace.galbraith@noahenterprise.org](mailto:grace.galbraith@noahenterprise.org) with your availability 📅 deadline for registering interest is 8th December.

## SVP VINNIE PACKS

"The SVP are distributing over 10,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.20 per pack? Donations can be sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237 . Thank you so much for your support."

## JUBILIEE YEAR

Pope Francis has declared that the year 2025 will be a Jubilee Year, about which there will be more information, as we approach this time. Amongst other activities, in preparation, are an invitation to reflect, again, on the main documents of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vatican Council. There will be two online talks, 'the Year of the Council', the first on 7th November, on 'Lumen Gentium': How the Church Looks at Herself, and the second on 28th

November 'Gaudium et Spes': How the Church Looks at the World. The talks are on Tuesday Evenings, 7.30-8.30pm, given by Fr Brian O'Mahony, and will be delivered via Zoom. To register: Please contact Warren Brown [catadmin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:catadmin@rcdow.org.uk). Participants are invited to make a donation of £5 per talk: <https://rcdow.org.uk/donations/agency-for-evangelisation/> by adding 'Year of the Council' in the optional message box. For further information contact Anna, [annadupelycz@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:annadupelycz@rcdow.org.uk)

## CAFOD ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CRISIS APPEAL

CAFOD are working with local partners in Gaza and Israel to provide urgent humanitarian aid to those in need. We are supporting families with cash vouchers, essential supplies and counselling. Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at [cafod.org.uk/ipc](https://cafod.org.uk/ipc) or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers.

## HARDYNGE CHOIR

Invite you to join them at St John's Church, Harpenden on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 8pm for Christmas in Blue, Festive Jazz and Christmas Close Harmony. Supporting the Hospice of St Francis. Tickets are £16, Students £8 and under 16 are free. Seasonal Refreshments are included in the ticket price. book online: [www.hardyngechoir.org](http://www.hardyngechoir.org) or call 0845 475 1644

## MASS INTENTIONS

<p><b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Vigil Mass 6.00pm</b></p>	<p><b>feria</b></p> <p><b>1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)</b> Derek Grimshaw RIP (Anniversary)</p>
<p><b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">8.30am 9.45am 11.30am  6.00pm</p>	<p><b>1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)</b></p> <p>Jacqui Shanahan RIP (Recently Deceased) People of the Parish Cornelius Dennehy RIP (Anniversary) <b>Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</b> Advent Service</p>
<p><b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">9.15am</p>	<p><b>Advent feria</b> Chris Kennedy RIP (Recently Deceased)</p>
<p><b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">9.15am</p>	<p><b>Advent feria</b> Paul Murphy RIP (Anniversary)</p>
<p><b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">9.15am</p>	<p><b>Advent feria</b> Holy Souls</p>
<p><b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">11.00am 7.30pm</p>	<p><b>St Ambrose, Bishop &amp; Doctor</b> Oscar &amp; George (Special Intentions) Choristers Christmas Concert</p>
<p><b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">9.15am</p>	<p><b>THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b> Mr O C Raphael RIP (Anniversary)</p>
<p><b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">12.00 Noon</p> <p><b>Confirmation Enrolment Mass</b> <b>Youth Friendly Mass</b> <b>Vigil Mass 6.00pm</b></p>	<p><b>Advent feria</b> Baptism Martins Family</p> <p><b>2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)</b> Walter Nicholls RIP (Anniversary)</p>
<p><b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p><b>2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)</b></p> <p>Maureen Bannon RIP (Recently Deceased) People of the Parish Kathleen Callinan RIP (Anniversary) <b>Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</b></p>



### CONFESSIONS - SATURDAYS

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