



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

30TH APRIL 2023

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)



© Chloe Le Tissier

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Shepherds may not be as familiar to us, as they were at the time of Jesus. The language and images in the gospel may even seem a little strange to us, and may even be outside our experience altogether.

Today, we hear Jesus using the image of the shepherd to describe himself and his relationship with us. When Jesus uses the image and symbol of the shepherd, the people to whom he was speaking would have understood what he was talking about immediately. But what does the image of Jesus the shepherd mean for us today? While sheep all look the same to us, a shepherd knows each of them individually. When a shepherd calls a sheep, the sheep recognises the voice and responds. Just as the shepherd knows the sheep, the sheep knows and trusts the shepherd. The shepherd guides and protects the sheep. The sheep go where the shepherd leads them.

We are not sheep! But the Lord knows and loves each of us as individuals. We are not all the same to Jesus. He loves each of us personally and intimately. If a shepherd cares for his sheep with great love and devotion, how much more does Jesus love and care for each of us?

Jesus does not call and ask us to follow him just for the sake of it. He offers us not only the fullness of life; he offers us the fullness of his life. Jesus came so that each of us may have life and have it to the full. This fullness of life is offered to us here and now, not some time in the future.

As we continue our journey through Easter in preparation for the celebration of Pentecost, may each of us realise how deeply and personally Jesus loves us. When Jesus calls us by our name, may we answer in faith, gratitude and gratefulness. May we follow where he leads us.

PRIESTS TRAINING FUND

Today, the 4th Sunday of Easter, is also 'Good Shepherd' Sunday, when we are asked to especially pray for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. In our Diocese, the annual collection is also made for the training of those who will serve as priests. In other words, it is one of the few collections which you benefit from. Currently, there are 18 students preparing for ordination in our Diocese, at Allen Hall, and at colleges in Rome and Valladolid. The cost of training future priests is expensive, and there are no other funds available. The Diocese relies on the people of the parishes. Fr Javier Ruiz, Vice-Rector at Allen Hall, will be speaking at the Masses this Sunday morning about the work of Priestly formation, and asking for your help. Your contributions will be collected after Mass today, if you wish to 'gift-Aid' your contribution, please use one of the envelopes, that will be found in the porch.

CORONATION

The coronation of King Charles III will take place next Saturday, 6th May, in Westminster Abbey. The Bishops of England and Wales invite us to pray, from Wednesday 3rd May until Friday 5th May, for His Majesty the King as he assumes the fullness of the high office of monarch. We can do this in our daily prayer asking Almighty God to guide the King in his appointed tasks. We can also pray for him when we gather for prayer at Mass. Let us ask God's continuing blessing on our new King and Queen. Prayer cards have been produced by the Catholic Bishop's Conference and are available in the porch.



MASSES THIS WEEK

As tomorrow, Monday, is a bank holiday, Mass will be Celebrated at the later time of 10.00am. There is no Mass at 9.15am next Tuesday, as the funeral of the late James Neville O'Brien, will be taking place at 11.00am.

LIVESIMPLY FAMILY QUIZ NIGHT

Thank you to all who came last Saturday to support our first Family Quiz. It was indeed a fun evening thanks to our lovely Quiz-mistress. Thanks also go to Peter Metcalf for his

sound system and to Marva's marvellous team for their very appropriate Simple supper. It was especially lovely to see so many young families there. As an added bonus, we raised a total of £635.20 on behalf of CAFOD for its [FIX THE FOOD SYSTEM](#) campaign. In order to continue to build a closer Parish community and tailor events for families, we would welcome any feedback and suggestions from the evening. Please email us on: frenchbr747@gmail.com

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR

Join us every Wednesday after the 9.15am Mass for a Parishioner led Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour. Everyone is welcome.



JAMES NEVILLE-O'BRIEN RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of James Neville-O'Brien who died recently, James's funeral Mass will take place on Tuesday at 11.00am. We remember James's family in our prayers at this time.

LEWIS FIETTA RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Lewis Fietta who died recently, Lewis's funeral Mass will take place on 17th May at 11.00am. We remember Lewis's family in our prayers at this time.

REPOSITORY -

FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION

We are approaching the First Communion and Confirmation seasons and there is now a wide selection of cards and gifts in the Repository suitable for both occasions.



These are all very reasonably priced and make lovely presents to mark these celebrations.

ST. ALBANS AND DISTRICT FOODBANK

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



BLUEBELL WALK 29TH APRIL 10.30AM

On Saturday 29th April all parishioners, young and old are invited to Live Simply and deepen their love and respect for God's creation by enjoying the natural beauty of the woodland bluebells in Spring.

We will meet at 10.30 in the Heartwood Forest car park (at Sandridge) and take a leisurely stroll through areas of the new woodland to reach three of the ancient woodlands where bluebells proliferate.

The walk will take about 1 - 1 ½ hours and if the weather is kind there are picnic tables. Walking boots or Wellington boots are advisable.

There are lots of alternative paths available should anyone wish to return early to their car



PARISH WALK WEDNESDAY 10TH MAY

Dear Friends,

Last time we met we discussed a few changes to our walking pattern and thought the first Wednesday in the month would be better. However I shall be away in May on this day but suggest we do the second Wednesday instead and try the first in June. We also suggested meeting in the car park in Rothamstead Park and this, I think, is a very good idea: in the one opposite the Fowden Hall

where the cafe is located. Any problems contact me : janet.evers1938@gmail.com

01582 621960

JOIN THE PILGRIMAGE TO ROME & PALAZZOLA 17-20TH OCT 2023

Local Catenians are organising a trip to Rome led by Mgr Harry Turner. Staying at Palazzola visits are being planned to the Scavi under St Peter's. A tour of the Venerable English College (VEC), guided by Fr Stephen Wang and a visit to Castel Gondolfo which is currently accessible. All tours with the exception of the VEC are subject to ticket availability. Parishioners are welcome to join this pilgrimage so for more information please email denniscooper4@outlook.com

HARPENDEN TRUST

The Harpenden Trust are having an open day on 8th May from 10am to 1pm 130 Southdown Road (above the Co-op) You are invited to come and look around the new halls and to discover more about the halls they have available to hire. Funded by the people of Harpenden the Trust provides support for individuals, families and young people and financial support to community projects. Look forward to seeing you on 8th May everyone is welcome, for more information see the poster on the noticeboard.

Quote

"An awareness of the gravity of today's cultural and ecological crisis must be translated into new habits. Many people know that our current progress and the mere amassing of things and pleasures are not enough to give meaning and joy to the human heart." Laudato Si'

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

May

14th May at 3pm Sing for... 5 Concert

June

10th June DWG Open Garden Day *more details to follow*

18th June Strawberry Social

24th June at 3pm Choir Summer Concert

MASS INTENTIONS

<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday 29th April</p> <p style="text-align: right; padding-right: 10px;">6.00pm</p>	<p>ST CATHERINE OF SIENA Virgin, Doctor, Patron of Europe</p> <p>4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A) (GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY) People of the Parish</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 30th April</p> <p style="text-align: right; padding-right: 10px;">8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p>4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A) (GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY)</p> <p>Tim & Margaret Gaynor RIP (Anniversary) John Ramswell RIP (Anniversary) Stephen Pang RIP (Recently Deceased) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Monday 1st May</p> <p style="text-align: right; padding-right: 10px;">10.00am</p>	<p>Easter feria Carmen Ochoa RIP</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday 2nd May</p> <p style="text-align: right; padding-right: 10px;">11.00am</p>	<p>St Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor Funeral Mass James Neville-O'Brien</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday 3rd May</p> <p style="text-align: right; padding-right: 10px;">9.15am</p>	<p>SS PHILIP & JAMES APOSTLES Fr Robert Dudley RIP (4th Anniversary) Followed by Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday 4th May</p> <p style="text-align: right; padding-right: 10px;">11.00am</p>	<p>THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Terry Mahabir RIP (Anniversary)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Friday 5th May</p>	<p>Easter feria</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday 6th May</p> <p style="text-align: right; padding-right: 10px;">6.00pm</p>	<p>Easter Feria</p> <p>5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A) Anne Holttum RIP</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 7th May</p> <p style="text-align: right; padding-right: 10px;">8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p>5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)</p> <p>Ann Turner RIP People of the Parish SG (Private Intentions) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</p>

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