



Contactless  
Giving

# OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

3<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2026

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)



© Chloe Le Tissier

Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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

Email: [anthonydwyer@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:anthonydwyer@rcdow.org.uk)

Office Administrator & Bookkeeper 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)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OLoLHarpenden>

Parish Safeguarding Representative Mrs Brigid Brennan

Email: [harpendensg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:harpendensg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) Tel: 07881 785 299

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

Communications Team: [comms@catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk](mailto:comms@catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk)

We hear lovely words from St Peter, in the second reading. *“Beloved, come to the Lord.”* And, like every word in the scriptures, they are intended for us, they are addressed to us. These words are both an invitation and a reminder of who we are. We are not strangers approaching someone distant; we are *beloved*—already known, already loved, already welcomed. The Christian life begins here: not with what we do, but with the simple act of coming to Christ.

To come to the Lord is not just a moment, but a habit of the heart. We come in prayer, in quiet trust, in times of need and in times of gratitude. We come as we are—sometimes confident, sometimes weary, sometimes unsure. And each time we come, we discover that he is the *“living stone,”* steady and faithful, the one on whom we can build our lives.

St Peter reminds us that, in coming to Christ, we are also being built into something greater. We are not isolated believers; we are *“living stones”* being formed into a spiritual house. Our faith is personal, but never private. Each of us has a place, a purpose, and a role in the life of the Church.

This also means that our coming to the Lord has an effect on others. When we draw close to him, we reflect his light, his mercy, and his love. We become, as the letter says, *“a chosen race, a royal priesthood,”* people called to proclaim what God has done for us.

So, the invitation remains simple and constant: come to the Lord. Come again this Sunday. Come in prayer each day. Come not out of obligation, but because you are beloved—and because in him, you will always find life.

## **PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS**

Vocations to the Priesthood are essential to the life of the Church. We all have a duty to promote Priestly Vocations, and that is particularly true for parents in families, and for all in the parish. From Good Shepherd Sunday (last Sunday) until Pentecost, the Archbishop invites each of us to pray for Vocations to the Priesthood. Below is the Diocesan Prayer for Vocations, which we can all make. We will be making this prayer at all Masses, during this time. You are also invited to make this prayer individually, as families, or in other gatherings. Copies of the prayer are available in the porch, if you haven't already done so, please take a copy.

### **WESTMINSTER PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS**

God our Father,  
you give us the Sacraments  
as signs and instruments  
of your love and mercy.

Draw from amongst your disciples  
men who are willing to serve  
your Church generously as priests in  
the Diocese of Westminster,  
to minister to your people  
and to proclaim the Gospel to all.

Send your Spirit to guide and  
strengthen them, to be their  
companion on the journey, as they  
discern your will for their lives.

This prayer we make through  
Christ our Lord.

Amen

Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Pray for  
us

St John Southworth Pray for us

## **PRIEST'S TRAINING FUND**

Last weekend we made the annual collection for the Priests Training Fund. Thank you to everyone who contributed, £1,255 was donated. If you haven't yet contributed, it is not too late to do so. Contributions can be left in the Parish Office. If you wish to 'Gift-Aid' your contribution please be sure to use, and complete, one of the collection envelopes. Gift-aiding does make a difference, at no cost to yourself increasing your donation by 25p for each pound donated. (If you are a UK Tax payer) Please note, it is necessary to complete the 'Gift-Aid' declaration on the collection envelope, even if you have already completed a declaration for your parish contributions.

## **MONDAY MASS**

As tomorrow, Monday, is a Bank Holiday, Mass will be at the later time of 10.00am

## **CAN YOU HELP?**

The present team of helpers who have been running the 'Youth Group' in recent years, have decided that the time has come to stand down. This means that, presently, there isn't anyone to continue with this important work for our young people. Many people, quite rightly, say 'what are we doing for our young people?' This is the right question to ask. If the parish is to provide for our young people, then the question might be reversed, and we can ask: what are you prepared to do for our young people? If you can assist, or would like more information about what is involved, please contact Canon Dwyer.

## **PARISH PICNIC – SUNDAY 28 JUNE**

After the 11:30am Mass, please join us for our Parish Picnic in Rothamsted Park. Bring your own food and drink, and a picnic blanket. Outdoor games are very

welcome! We'll walk across to the park together after Mass. Please say a prayer for sunshine. We look forward to a wonderful afternoon together.

### **DEREK SAWARD RIP**

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Derek Saward who died recently. Derek's requiem Mass will be on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May at 11.00am.

### **PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO SPAIN**

Following the success of the Lourdes pilgrimage last year, we are planning another one, but this time to Spain, from 5<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> October 2026. Do consider being part of this potentially wonderful experience, by emailing [dennis@denniscooper.uk](mailto:dennis@denniscooper.uk)

#### **Brief outline of Schedule.**

Flight to Madrid & hotel check-in. The pilgrimage will include a visit to the English Collage at Valladolid, and an optional walking tour of Madrid. Visits to Avila (famous for being the home of St Teresa) and the magnificent 12<sup>th</sup> century Wall, A day visit to Segovia, renowned for its connection with the Spanish Mystic, St John of the Cross. The final, full day, will include a trip to Salamanca, famous for its two cathedrals, and two universities. The cost includes flights, 5 nights half board accommodation, airport duty and taxes, one 20kgs suitcase. Cost per person in a shared room is approx. £950 tbc subject to a minimum group size 20 and potential airline price increases due to external forces. Hence why a speedy response is encouraged.

### **THANK YOU**

Bill Hammond and his family wish to thank you for all your prayers, cards and Masses received during Mary's very long illness. Your kindness was a source of great comfort to Mary and ourselves. A Mass of Thanksgiving will be offered for you all on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July at 11.30am.

### **DIAMOND JUBLIEE**

#### **60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

We warmly invite all parishioners to join us in celebrating a very special milestone — the 60th Anniversary of Monsignor Harry Turner's Ordination to the Priesthood. This joyous occasion will be marked with a Special Mass on Sunday 7th June at 11:30am. Following the Mass, everyone is welcome to continue the celebration at a parish gathering in Lourdes Hall. Please come along to give thanks, share in the celebration, and honour Monsignor Harry Turner's many years of dedicated service. All are most welcome.

### **VISIT OF THE RELICS OF ST GERARD**

#### **MAJELLA**

On Friday 15 May at 7pm, St Alban and St Stephen (14 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RB) will be hosting the relics of St Gerard Majella on their tour around England and Wales to celebrate the saint's 300th anniversary. St Gerard was a Redemptorist lay-brother from the South of Italy, born in 1726. He died at only 29, but was known as a great wonder-worker even during his lifetime. He's popularly invoked as a patron of mothers, particularly expectant mothers, couples trying to conceive, and those looking for work. Come along to pray in front of his relics, participate in Mass, and receive a blessing with his relics.

## **SPRING CONCERT HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> APRIL FOR THE AT SOCIETY**

Many thanks to all who attended the Spring Concert. Special thanks to Katie Metcalfe and Alison Farr, for putting together such a wonderful selection of music. The concert has raised in excess of £1800 for The AT Society.

## **WELCOMERS FOR THE 9.45 MASS**

We are looking for additional helpers to welcome at the 9.45 Mass. If you aren't already busy volunteering and particularly if you are someone that is happy chatting to families and children and explaining the different ways in which they can help at Mass, then we really need you. We are a very friendly group and it's a great way to get to know people in the parish. Please come and chat to us if you think you might be interested.

## **SION COMMUNITY FAMILY AFTERNOON**

17 May at Holy Ghost Parish Centre in Luton

Come, gather, celebrate and be inspired with other Catholic families from across the diocese and beyond.

Will include Mass, worship music, input for adults and children, plus time to chat with and get to know other Catholic families. Streams will be available for children and teens, so they will have space to connect and grow.

2.15pm - about 5.30pm. Free of charge - donation only. Booking required:

<https://sioncommunity.org.uk/family-and-children/#FamilyDay>

## **CATENIAN UPDATE**

### **Catenian Dinner 13<sup>th</sup> May. Harpenden Golf Club**

Enjoy a two-course meal looking over the best views in Harpenden. Parishioners are welcome to join in this social gathering by arriving from 7-15pm for an evening of relaxation, good food and fun.

You will be amongst friends so reserve places at £35 per head, including wine by emailing [dennis@denniscooper.uk](mailto:dennis@denniscooper.uk)

### **Two New Catenians**

Parishioners Michael Gallagher and Chris O'Loughlin, Luton & District Circle, were enrolled as members of the Catenian Association at its last meeting of Harpenden.

Catenians are a UK wide and increasingly international group of Catholic men and families who meet regularly to discuss matters of faith, support the Catholic Church and our young people, organise social events and maintain close friendships.

Catenians consider it important for likeminded people to belong to a specific 'Catholic' group, as a means of mutual support in the journey through life.

Interested in finding out more? Email Simon at [simon-davies9@sky.com](mailto:simon-davies9@sky.com)

## **KEYSTAGE HOUSING REQUEST**

We have heard from Keystage Housing and they are in need of a working Hoover, any plants, plant pots, garden furniture and a working BBQ for their garden at Cherrywoods. Please contact Cathy if you are able to help

[Cmann100@hotmail.com](mailto:Cmann100@hotmail.com)

## **STRAWBERRY SOCIAL**

Save the date for this very popular annual event. It will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> July in the Presbytery garden. More details will be available in the coming weeks.

## **REPOSITORY**

We are now entering the seasons of First Communion and Confirmation, and the repository has been restocked with a beautiful selection of cards and gifts to mark these very special occasions. Do come in and choose something meaningful to celebrate an important moment in a young person's life. We also have a lovely range of Baptism and Wedding gifts, along with cards for all occasions. Pop in and have a look — you're always very welcome!

## **FROM THE PARISH OFFICE**

The Parish Office will be closed on Bank Holiday Monday and will re-open on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 9.30am. 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-](https://www.catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Parishioners-Registration-Form-2025.pdf)

[content/uploads/2025/11/Parishioners-Registration-Form-2025.pdf](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)

## **GIFT AID 2025/2026**

As the 2025/2026 tax year ended on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2026, we will soon be submitting our Parish Gift Aid claim.

If you are a UK taxpayer, Gift Aid is a simple way to make your donations go further—at no extra cost to you. For every £1 you give, the Parish can claim an additional 25p from HM Revenue & Customs, significantly increasing the value of your support.

Whether you donate through the card machine or by standing order, you can include your contributions in Gift Aid. All it takes is completing a short Gift Aid declaration form.

By signing up, you are helping the Parish continue its mission, maintain the church, and support our community. If you haven't yet joined the Gift Aid scheme, we warmly encourage you to do so.

Forms are available in the church porch, and completed forms can be returned to the Parish Office. If you would like more information or wish to set up a standing order with Gift Aid, please contact the Parish Office—we will be happy to assist you.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

## MASS INTENTIONS

<p><b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May</b></p> <p><b>Vigil Mass 6.00pm</b></p> <p><b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>  <b>8.30am</b>  <b>9.45am</b>  <b>11.30am</b></p>	<p><b>St Athanasius, Bishop &amp; Doctor of the Church</b></p> <p><b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>  Tom Sexton RIP (Recently Deceased)</p> <p>Fr Robert Dudley RIP (Anniversary)  People of the Parish  Mary Hammond RIP</p> <p><b>Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</b></p>	<p><b>PLEASE PRAY FOR:</b></p> <p><b>Recently Deceased</b>  Tom Sexton RIP</p> <p><b>RIP Anniversaries</b>  Fr Robert Dudley RIP</p> <p><b>Prayer for the Faithful Departed</b>  Lord Jesus,  in your Passion, Death and Resurrection,  you conquered sin and opened the gates of eternal life.  We commend to you our departed brothers and sisters;  grant them rest in your peace  and bring them to the joy of your Resurrection. <b>Amen.</b></p>
<p><b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May</b>  <b>Bank Holiday</b>  <b>10.00am</b></p>	<p><b>THE ENGLISH MARTYRS</b></p>	
<p><b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May</b>  <b>9.15am</b></p>	<p><b>Easter Feria</b>  Private Intentions</p>	
<p><b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May</b>  <b>9.15am</b></p>	<p><b>Easter Feria</b></p>	
<p><b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May</b>  <b>11.00am</b>   <b>4.30pm</b></p>	<p><b>Easter Feria</b></p> <p>First Holy Communion Group 1 Rehearsal</p>	
<p><b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May</b></p>	<p><b>Easter Feria</b></p>	
<p><b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May</b>  <b>11.00am</b></p> <p><b>Vigil Mass 6.00pm</b></p> <p><b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May</b>  <b>8.30am</b>  <b>9.45am</b>  <b>11.30am</b></p>	<p><b>Easter Feria</b>  First Holy Communion Mass (Group 1)</p> <p><b>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>  Irene Quinn RIP (Anniversary)</p> <p>People of the Parish  Private Intentions  Patsy Nolan RIP (Recently Deceased)</p> <p><b>Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</b></p>	