



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

4TH FEBRUARY 2024

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)



© Chloe Le Tissier

Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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Today we continue to read from Mark's Gospel, learning more about the ministry of Jesus. Jesus cured Simon's mother-in-law, just as he also cured, many others who were brought to him, healing their illnesses and driving out demons. As we will see throughout Mark's Gospel, Jesus did not permit the demons to speak, because they knew his identity and would have revealed it to those who were present.

On the morning after this busy day, Jesus retreated in prayer, but was pursued by Simon and others, who brought news, that many people were looking for him. At this point in Mark's Gospel, we begin to see a distinct role, for the inner circle of Jesus' disciples—they act as intermediaries between Jesus and the people. Jesus reports to his disciples, that they need to leave Capernaum to preach in other places.

Jesus' compassion and healing of the sick, is a sign of the Kingdom of God. The Church continues to extend Christ's healing presence, to others in its ministry, to the sick. In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, the Church prays for spiritual and physical healing, forgiveness of sins, and comfort for those who are suffering from illness.

In today's Gospel we also notice the importance of prayer in Jesus' daily life. Jesus rose early in the morning, removed himself from the crowds, and went to a deserted place to pray. When the disciples found him, he told them that it was time to move on. No doubt in his prayers Jesus found guidance and direction from God. For ourselves too, we can bring our decision-making to God in prayer, drawing him into our decision-making, asking for his guidance and direction in our lives.

PARISH FEAST DAY

Next Sunday, 11th February, is the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, our parish feast day. To mark this day there will be an additional Mass at 3.00pm, which will include the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. This Sacrament is for those who are of 'advanced age and are chronically unwell'.

Do think about coming to honour our patron. If you need help in getting to Church, or could offer a lift, please get in touch with the Parish Office.



FROM THE CARDINAL

Following a request from the Holy Family parish in Gaza City, and from the Latin Patriarch in Jerusalem, the Cardinal asks that a collection is made to assist those, who are suffering so terribly in the Holy Land. The Cardinal writes: 'In the last few days I have heard directly, via Zoom, from the Parish Priest of the Church of the Holy Family in Gaza City and from the CEO of the Latin Patriarchate. The situation they face is grave and most demanding. We were told that there are still 600 people sheltering and being cared for in the parish compound, together with over 50 seriously disabled and vulnerable children. Water and food can be bought in the local markets at much inflated prices. With the damage inflicted on this site some time ago now, cooking hot meals is only possible three times a week. The parish is also providing for 200 people in the Orthodox property as well as for local Muslim neighbours. Today, there will be a collection for this cause, after all the Masses.'

LENT 2024

FRIDAY MASS & STATIONS

Each Friday during Lent, there will be Mass at 7.00pm, followed by the Stations of the Cross. This could be a good Lenten Practise. Giving an hour each week, to attend an extra Mass, and to follow Jesus' journey to Calvary, by making the Stations of the Cross'.

LENT GROUPS 2024

These groups will meet for 5 weeks, beginning 19th February (Ash Wednesday is 14th Feb) The theme will be; further reflections on the Our Father, using the Diocesan resource; We Dare To Say. We offer a choice of day/time but, to assist with the formation of Groups, we ask you to state your preferences 1st/2nd/3rd

If you have been in a group previously you will be contacted by email, if not

PLEASE ADD YOUR NAME TO THE LIST IN THE PORCH OF THE CHURCH
OR email: juliaandnigel057@gmail.com
rachellee987@gmail.com

REPOSITORY DAY BY DAY BOOKS

We have received the DAY BY DAY Lent books for adults and children and these can be purchased from the Repository for £1 each. They are a lovely accompaniment for each day during Lent.

GOOD NEIGHBOURS - NEW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Last May, we launched our Good Neighbours initiative within the parish, with over 50 volunteers coming forward and being organised into teams to cover different areas of the parish, providing a friendly face and a point of contact for other parishioners in the area. Some examples of the types of things our volunteers have done: Made contact with the households in their area. Welcomed new parishioners in their area. Delivered Christmas leaflets. Kept in touch and checked in with older or vulnerable parishioners. Liaised with the Parish Office to organise assistance such as a Eucharist Minister visit. The role is not onerous but is central to putting our parish mission into practice and demonstrating that Our Lady of Lourdes, through its parishioners, is a warm and caring parish, and we are grateful for everything our volunteers do.



We are currently looking for a person or persons to take on covering the Roundwood area, and an additional person to assist the current volunteer covering the Townsend Lane-Moreton End Lane area. You can see a map of the streets covered by each area in the map here:

<https://www.scribblemaps.com/maps/view/Harpenden-Areas/nJeCdSHTMk>

If you would be interested in getting involved with these, or any other areas, please email goodneighbours@catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk.

If you are unsure who your area Good Neighbours representative is, you can email us at the address above, or contact the parish office who will pass your query on to us.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY FRIDAY 23 FEBRUARY

As a LiveSimply Parish, we have committed to share the gifts of creation with all our neighbours. This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. Please give today using the envelope which can be found in the porch or online at cafod.org.uk and please join us in praying with James that our sisters and brothers around the world are enabled to feed their families.

HOMES FOR UKRAINE

Caritas Social Action Network (CSANO) are working with St John of God Hospitaller Services, to coordinate a Homes for Ukraine programme, which provides temporary housing and support for Ukrainians displaced individuals as they adjust to life in the UK. The programme is dedicated to providing refuge to those fleeing the conflict in Ukraine and safeguarding the well-being of Ukrainians already residing in the UK. The programme continues until March 2024. For more information please visit <http://sjog-homesforukraine.uk>, or email: info@homesforukraine.uk. Prayer cards, for Ukraine, will be found in the porch, please collect one.

FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

- The Parish Office will be closed on Wednesday 7th until Tuesday 13th February. Any urgent matters please email or phone the Parish Office and leave a message. The office will re-open as normal on Wednesday 14th February.
- The deadline for notices for the Newsletter is 2pm on Wednesdays. Thank you.



THE NOODLE BOX

"The Noodle Box" continues to 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.



ST DOMINIC NURSERY FOR ADMISSION SEPTEMBER 2024

On the 30th January 2024, the application process for Nursery places opened for children born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021.

Our Early Years provision enables parents to access 30 hours free childcare with Nursery morning sessions running Monday- Friday, 8.45am - 11.45am and an optional Lunch Club run by school and an afternoon Pre-School run by *Friends Together* running from after lunch club until 3.30pm. Wrap around care offered by *Friends Together* also means that care for children is available between 7.50am and 6pm, should this be required. For further information please visit our website www.stdominic.herts.sch.uk

Applications close at 3.30pm on 6th March.

SING FOR SEVEN

Sing For Seven - Performance

SATURDAY 10th FEBRUARY at 3pm.



FOR THE YOUTH OF THE PARISH

The Next Youth Mass will be next Saturday 10th February at 6pm for young people in 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 Servers, please join us to make it as youth friendly as possible.

OLOL YOUTH GROUP:

Year 9 Confirmation Candidates & Year 10 and beyond next

**Saturday 10th February
7.00pm to 8.30pm
in the Undercroft**

Come and be part of this exciting project!

Future dates 17th March 10am - 3pm, 13th April, 11th May, 8th June & 13th July.

LIVESIMPLY QUOTE

The Bible tells us: "God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good" (Gen 1:31). His is "the earth with all that is in it" (Deut 10:14). For this reason, he tells us that, "the land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine; with me you are but aliens and tenants" (Lev 25:23). Hence, responsibility for God's earth means that human beings, endowed with intelligence, must respect the laws of nature and the delicate equilibria existing between the creatures of this world.

Pope Francis, Laudato Deum 62

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 3rd February 12.00 Noon	SS Laurence, Dunstan & Theodore, Archbishops of Canterbury Le Tissier Family & Bellas Family Baptism
Vigil Mass 6.00pm	5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Deceased Members of the O'Hare Family RIP
Sun 4th February 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	People of the Parish Bernard St John Glew RIP (Anniv) Frank Ducasse RIP (Anniversary) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568
Mon 5th February 9.15am	St Agatha, Virgin & Martyr Julian Greenwood RIP (Anniversary)
Tues 6th February 9.15am	St Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs Patrick Ward RIP
Wed 7th February 9.15am	Feria Alan Young RIP (Anniversary)
Thur 8th February 11.00am	Feria Special Intention AH
Fri 9th February	Feria
Sat 10th February 12.00 Noon	St Scholastica, Virgin Baptism Brautigam & Silvey Families
Youth Friendly Mass Vigil Mass 6.00pm	6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Piers Slinn RIP (Recently Deceased)
Sun 11th February 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	People of the Parish Bruno Burgazzi RIP Maureen Jack RIP Zoom Code 883 7014 5568
3.00pm	Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes Mass with Anointing of the Sick

CONFESSIONS - SATURDAYS

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