Contactless Giving

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A
4TH OCTOBER 2026



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CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

As the Season of Creation draws to a close, the Church, today, celebrates the feast of St Francis of Assisi, a saint whose life reminds us of the beauty of creation and our responsibility to care for it. Francis had a remarkable ability to see God's presence in the world around him. He called the sun his "brother", the moon his "sister", and even spoke of the earth as "Sister Mother Earth". Creation was not something to be used simply for his own benefit; it was a gift from God to be received with gratitude and treated with respect.

Francis lived with a deep simplicity. He understood that when we recognise creation as God's gift, we begin to look at the world differently. We become more grateful for the food we eat, the water we drink, the beauty of the countryside, the changing seasons and the countless small signs of life that surround us each day.

The Season of Creation invites us to reflect on how we are treating this precious gift. It reminds us that care for our common home is not simply an environmental concern. It is also a matter of faith. How we treat the earth affects other people, particularly those who are most vulnerable and who often suffer most when the environment is damaged.

St Francis teaches us that caring for creation begins with a change of heart: learning to see the world not as something that belongs to us, but as something entrusted to us.

As this special season ends, may we carry its message with us throughout the year. Inspired by St Francis, may we give thanks for God's creation, use its gifts wisely, and do our part to protect and cherish our common home.
At the 11.30am Mass today, the close of the Season of Creation will be remembered and the Feast of St Francis

FOR THE YOUTH



The 'Youth Friendly' Mass, and the Parish Youth Group resume, this Saturday evening, at 6.00pm. Young people, age 13-18, are very welcome to attend, and are invited to participate in the different ministries, such as welcoming, collecting, reading or bringing up the gifts.

AFTER MASS: The Youth group, which is aimed at the youth of the parish, aged between 13 and 18, will be gathering in the Undercroft. This will include a faith sharing session, activities and pizza. And will finish at 8.30pm.

EPISCOPAL ORDINATION

Father Stephen Wang will be ordained as Bishop of Arundel and Brighton, on Monday 19th October, at 12noon. Obviously, this is a great day for him, his family and our parish. Ideally, he would have liked to invite parishioners, in addition to his family and friends. Arundel Cathedral is not large, so he is restricted as to how many he can invite. However, he has suggested that he will return to the parish to celebrate Mass. This Mass will take place on Sunday 8th November at 11.30am. After Mass there will be a celebration in St Dominic's School. The Ordination Mass will be live-streamed, and can be accessed at: www.arundelcathedral.uk or **https://www.churchservices.tv/arundel**

GIFT FOR FATHER STEPHEN

Father Stephen Wang, has, he recently said, been a member of our parish for over 40 years. It has been suggested that to mark his Ordination as a Bishop, the parish should present him with a gift. New Bishops require all manner of things, so I have asked him what would be useful for him. One the items he mentioned is a gold pectoral cross, which Bishop's wear when they are celebrating Mass, and which he will wear at his episcopal ordination. I have told him to go ahead and purchase that. Next Sunday then, there will be a collection for this gift.

ALTAR SERVERS



Thank you to those parents who have indicated that your children would like to begin to Serve at Mass. The first training session will be taking place this week. If there are any other children, or adults, who wish to Serve, or if you have already volunteered your child, and haven't received a message about the training please advise the Parish Office.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING – FACE TO FACE SESSIONS

As hopefully most of you will remember from a previous newsletter, to help keep everyone safe, the Diocese is requiring all parish volunteers to complete safeguarding training. This applies to every volunteer, whether or not your role requires a DBS check. 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. Many volunteers have completed an online safeguarding course during the past year but some have said they would prefer to attend in person training. Brigid will be presenting the second session at 10.30 am next Wednesday, October 7th, in the Undercroft. All are welcome to attend whether or not you volunteer.

The online option is still available if you would prefer.
NB If your role requires a DBS certificate then you will need to do the online training as the in-person sessions will not satisfy the Diocesan requirements. You are still most welcome to come to the in-person sessions of course.
If you help out in the Parish in any way but have not heard from Brigid can you please contact her – her details are on the front of the newsletter

DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP
QUIZ NIGHT

Join our QUIZ Night on Saturday 17th October at Lourdes Hall. 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. The proceeds of this very popular annual Parish event will help a community in Eastern Uganda become more self-sufficient by providing five 'Village Savings & Loan Schemes' and a 'Regenerative Agricultural Training' programme. Come along and join a table or make-up a table of 8.
For tickets and payment details email Austen O'Hare at dwgquiz@gmail.com
Entrance is £25 per person including a Fish & Chips supper.
Bring your own drink and glasses and CASH for the Raffle!
Places are limited so book early.
We are pleased to bring you our latest 'Developing World Group Project Report for 2025' that shows how your generous donations continue to help improve the lives of, and empower, people in the Developing World. **The Meeting with our Charity Partner 'Just Small Change' next Wednesday evening, 7th October, in the Undercroft has been postponed.**
Also, If you're coming along to our Quiz Night on Saturday 17th October, there will be a Special Round on the information contained in this Report...so now you can be prepared!

LIVESIMPLY QUOTE
May the Lord grant us the courage to walk along this path, so that in our time swords may indeed be beaten into ploughshares and the peace of Christ may reign over all of creation.
Pope Leo XIV

CONFIRMATION 2027
Confirmation preparation will be starting shortly.

CONFIRMATION CATECHISTS NEEDED
Volunteers are needed 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 our more, please speak to Canon Dwyer. We would be delighted to hear from you.

CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY
Last Friday was CAFOD Harvest Fast Day. This year CAFOD asks you to help children stay in school by providing the food and safe water they need. On the CAFOD Fast Days we are asked to show solidarity with those in some of the poorest parts of the world. We show solidarity by denying ourselves in some way, perhaps reducing our shopping budget, so that we have to make choices as to what we eat, or what we deny ourselves from, and what we save we donate to CAFOD. Envelopes for

your contributions, which will be collected after Mass, will be found in the church porch, and should be used if you wish to 'Gift-Aid' your donation.

SCHOOL FORMS

It's that time of year when applications are being made for places in secondary schools. Parents who require the Certificate of Catholic Practise to be signed, or other confirmation of Mass attendance, can meet Canon Dwyer, in church on **Wednesday 14th October or Tuesday 20th October, between 5.30pm and 6.30pm, on both days.**

Once the secondary forms are signed, dates will be available for the Reception forms.

SING FOR 15 CONCERT

Join us next Saturday 10th October at 3pm in Church for the Sing for 15 Concert, everyone is welcome.

EAGERLY SOUGHT



Every week since the Covid lockdown we have broadcast this 11:30am mass on Zoom and YouTube, and we could really do with an additional person or two, willing to help, either on the occasional Sunday, or perhaps on a rota, to ensure it continues giving the housebound and others access to our Masses. **If you are able to help, please contact John Saliot. 07980537791 or at 11:30 Mass. Thank You!**

BE INSPIRED ON WEDNESDAY, 14TH OCTOBER.

All men of the parish are invited to attend dinner to listen and speak with Fr Brendan Seery, Parish Priest of Our Lady Help of Christians, Luton. Fr Brendan, who grew up in Luton, is an inspiring priest who in addition to his parish duties is studying for a PHD in Canon Law.

He has a longstanding connection with Catenians and will speak to us about the Universality of Faith, relative to men (on this occasion).

This promises to be a relaxed, enjoyable, and thought-provoking evening which is open to all men in the parish. The evening starts at 7pm and after a short meeting which includes time for prayer, we will listen to Fr Brendan over dinner. Cost per person is £35 including wine. Please email dennis@denniscooper.uk to reserve your place, by Thursday 8th October.

LIVESIMPLY - Advance Notice
A REPAIR FAIR AT OLOL!

Did you know that per capita, the UK is the 2nd highest producer of e-waste in the world - an appalling statistic! But wait... The LiveSimply team are excited to announce that they will be holding a Repair Fair on Saturday afternoon 24th October in association with St Albans District Fixers at Lourdes Hall. Parishioners and the public alike will be invited to bring their dead or dysfunctional portable electricals and electronics, and a team of skilled amateur fixers will attempt to save them from the grave. Nimble-fingered seamstresses will also be on hand to tackle minor repairs and alterations to clothing and fabric items. The Fixers would be very pleased to welcome anyone handy with a screwdriver and not fazed by electrics, who they would buddy with one of their own, or an additional seamstress

or two to work with theirs. There may be other opportunities to be involved. For further information, contact Jon Newham jonathan.newham@googlemail.com.

ADOREMUS

In recent years major Eucharistic events have taken place in Liverpool and Birmingham. This year the Adoremus Eucharistic Festival will take place in London, and will include Mass in Southwark Cathedral, a keynote address, a procession of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction and an all-night vigil in Westminster Cathedral. This 2026 National Eucharistic Congress is the Bishops' invitation to renew our devotion to the Eucharistic Lord. For more information visit: Adoremus 2026 - Catholic Bishops' Conference

FOR THE YOUTH AT ADOREMUS

An Adoremus Vigil will take place on Friday 9 October, 7-9pm, at the Church of the Most Holy Trinity, 39 Dockhead, London SE1 2BS. Organised by Westminster and Southwark Youth Ministries with CYMFed, the vigil will be a time for young adults to pray together before the Blessed Sacrament.
On Saturday 10 October, join overnight Adoration at Westminster Cathedral from 8pm. The Holy Hours at 8pm, 9pm and 10pm will include reflections on Eucharistic saints, prayer led by youth ministry teams and music from *One Hope Project*. Teenagers and Confirmation groups are especially welcome. Mass will be celebrated at 6pm before the Holy Hours.

MAGNIFICA HUMANITATIS

Do you want to find out more about Pope Leo's recent letter to the church? If so, there is an opportunity to do so on Saturday 17th October when Sr MaryAnne Francalanza fcJ will lead a day of reflection, prayer and discussion centred on the themes raised in Magnifica Humanitatis. Time: 11am-4.45pm. Venue: St Alban & St Stephen, 14 Beaconsfield Road, AL1 3RB. Cost: Donations welcome. Refreshments available: tea, coffee, soup & roll. To register: Please email stalbans@rcdow.org.uk

FROM THE PARISH OFFICE



The Parish Office will be open Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 12.30pm. Any notices for the Newsletter during this time please email the Parish office by lunchtime on Wednesdays.

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.
https://www.catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk/category/welcome/

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

MASS INTENTIONS		
Saturday 3rd October	**Feria**	**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**
	27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)	**Prayer for the Newly Baptised** Heavenly Father, bless this newly baptised child and guide them always in Your love. May they grow in faith, hope and love, surrounded by the care of family and friends. May they always know the joy of being Your beloved children. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
Vigil Mass 6.00pm	Irene Peak (Special Intention)	
Sunday 4th October		
8.30am	Chris (Special Intentions)	
9.45am	People of the Parish	
	Mass for the Feast of St Francis of Assisi	
11.30am	Phillip Porter RIP (Anniversary)	
	Zoom Code 883 7014 5568	
1.00pm	McIntyre Family Baptism	
Monday 5th October	**Feria**	**Anniversaries** Phillip Porter RIP
9.15am	Private Intentions	
Tuesday 6th October	**Feria**	
9.15am		
Wednesday 7th October	**Our Lady of the Rosary**	
9.15am	Little Sisters of Mary (MSM) (Special Intentions)	
Thursday 8th October	**Feria**	**Recently Deceased** Tom Cassidy RIP
11.00am	Tom Cassidy RIP (Recently Deceased)	
Friday 9th October	**ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN, Priest & Doctor of the Church**	**Prayer for the Faithful Departed** Loving Father, welcome those who have gone before us into Your peace. Comfort all who mourn, and keep us united in faith and hope until we meet again in Your heavenly kingdom. **Amen.**
Saturday 10th October	**Feria**	
12.00 Noon	Michael Family Baptisms	
3.00pm	Sing for 15 Concert	
	28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)	
Vigil Mass 6.00pm	Eileen Swan RIP	
Sunday 11th October		
8.30am	Special Intentions R & A	
9.45am	People of the Parish	
11.30am	Frank Flanagan RIP (Anniversary)	
	Zoom Code 883 7014 5568	