



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

5TH NOVEMBER 2023

31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)



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Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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The Parish Office is open Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 12.30pm.

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twitter: https://twitter.com/rc_olol?lang=en

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

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The gospel today speaks about leaders. It is about what they say and what they do. It is about what sort of example they are, for the people they are trying to lead and guide. At the time of Jesus, the religious leaders of the Jewish people, were the Scribes and Pharisees. In front of the people gathered, Jesus makes a very public condemnation and criticism of these religious leaders. Jesus clearly says for everyone to hear, 'do not be guided by what they do, since they do not practice what they preach.'

Jesus is warning us, also, not to think of ourselves as being better than other people. We have to live what we say, and not speak or act in ways, so that people will notice us and tell us how wonderful we are. The Pharisees knew the Law of Moses, but, their actions did not match their words. They expected others to follow the law, and to be perfect, although they were far from perfect.

God does not expect us to be perfect. However, we are asked to be genuine, honest and authentic with ourselves, others and God. Love of God, and neighbour, are at the heart of the Jewish Law, and at the heart of Jesus' message. We are called, to follow Jesus who came to serve and not to be served. This is the example, we are asked to follow, and live by. This gospel calls to us ask ourselves, whether we do and say things, so that people will notice us. As Jesus challenged the scribes and pharisees, so he puts the same question, to each of us today.

As I strive to follow Jesus, can I also follow his example, of what it means to lead? Can I serve others and not just expect to be served?

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Next Sunday is Remembrance Sunday, when we remember, those who died in the two world wars, as well as the victims of other more recent conflicts. On Sunday there will be the annual remembrance at the War Memorial, on Church Green, starting at 10.45am, and including the two minutes silence, and the last post.



WHY RUSH?

Each Sunday, the celebrant at Mass, processes to the porch, to greet those who have attended Mass. It can be disappointing, when a few people make a dash for the door, and don't wait for the celebrant to get there first! Please wait in your places until the celebrant has processed out. Similarly, when there is a recessional hymn this is the final prayer of the Mass, we leave the church when the final prayer, the hymn, is concluded.

JUBILEE 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 2nd 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. 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



ALL SOULS

During November, a number of Masses will be offered for the Holy Souls. If you would like anyone to be included in these Masses, please send their names to the Parish Office, and they will be added to the Book of Remembrance.

THE SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' COLLECTION IS THIS WEEKEND

This weekend there is the annual collection for the sick and retired priests of our Diocese. There are 82 sick and retired priests who receive support after a lifetime of service in their parishes. By 2025 the number of priests in retirement is set to double. At this time, they are dependent on the Diocese for their care - for essentials like housing, any health needs and other essentials. By giving to the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund, you can ensure that these priests, after a lifetime of service, are cared for. Donation envelopes are available, which need to be completed if you want to 'Gift-Aid' your donation. Your donations will be collected after all Masses this weekend. You may also wish to consider becoming a Patron of our Sick & Retired Priest's Fund. If so please take a leaflet home from the porch.



CHRISTMAS IN THE REPOSITORY

You will have seen that Christmas has arrived on the High St. Not to be outdone, the Repository now has its Christmas stock on display. Come and see our range of Christmas cards both traditional and modern, together with Cribs 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.



DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP

Grateful thanks to all who supported our latest Quiz. We made a wonderful profit of £1200; this with the proceeds of the upcoming "Lolly in the Loft" Auction is to be donated to building two boreholes bringing clean water to the village of Kyangala, Kenya. You are warmly invited to drop off any items your family doesn't need; eg: Grandpa's pocket watch, Mum's pearl necklace on Wednesday Nov 8th between 10.30 and 8.00* at 10 Holly Bush Lane, Harpenden AL5 4AT. Tea and cake provided too! For more information email louisamvphillips@googlemail.com or phone 07734190488 * Or any other day by arrangement.



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 on Saturday or Sunday.



ST DOMINIC'S SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

It's that time of year again. Reception Admissions for children starting in September 2024.

Applications open 1st November and close 15th January 2024.

Reception Open mornings for September 2024.

Wed 15th November 9.30am to 10.30am

Wed 22nd November 1.30pm to 2.30pm

Please book on the school website to reserve a place. [St Dominic Catholic Primary School - Admissions](#)



Dates when Canon Dwyer will be available in the church, to discuss the possibility of signing Certificate of Catholic Practice (CCP), will be announced shortly. 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.

FOR THE YOUTH OF THE PARISH

The next Youth friendly mass will be next **Saturday 11th November at 6pm**. 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.

OLOL YOUTH GROUP:

Year 9 Confirmation Candidates & Year 10 and beyond Save the date:

Saturday 11th November 7.00pm to 8.30pm

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

9th December, 13th January, 10th February, 17th March 10am - 3pm, 13th April, 11th May, 8th June & 13th July.



CAFOD WORLD GIFTS

CAFOD have delivered the World Gifts Catalogues and they are in the porch for you to take home a copy. World Gifts are a wonderful way for the Parish Community to share the hope and joy of Christmas with our global family.

SING FOR CHRISTMAS!

The Sing for Christmas is a singing project designed to raise funds for Keystage Housing and NOAH while learning new pieces and having some respite from the norm! All rehearsals and, extremely informal, concert at Our Lady of Lourdes.

REHEARSALS:

Sun 19th Nov 3.00-5.00pm OLOL Undercroft
Tues 21st Nov 7.30-9.00pm OLOL Undercroft
Please email Katie: katiemjack@yahoo.co.uk to book a place.

PERFORMANCES:

Thursday 23rd November 4.30-5.30pm
Wheathampstead Christmas Market - details to follow.

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

Wednesday 13th December - Catenians Christmas Dinner we are the entertainment in return for a donation to Keystage Housing and NOAH time and venue t.b.c. but will be local and 8pm ish .

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDARS
You are all warmly invited to join us for..



Advent Service -
Sunday 3rd December 6pm



Parish Christmas Fair - Lourdes Hall
Saturday 2nd December 12pm - 3pm



Choristers Christmas Concert -
Thursday 7th December 7.30pm



Carols by Candlelight -
Friday 22nd December 6pm

VERITAS CATHOLIC LECTURE

Advent Special by Fr John Deehan (NT professor at Allen Hall), Gospels of Masses and Christmas Missal, Holy Family and Christology.

When: 11th November 2023

Where: Parish Centre SS Mary and Joseph RC (Hemel West) Church, HP1 1NR

Time: Start 10 am, end approx 3pm.

Recommended pre reading -

An Adult Christ at Christmas by Raymond Brown
Donations for the lecturer and lunch to share are gratefully received!

All including A-level students are welcome to attend the whole or part of the day.

THE HARPENDEN TRUST

The Harpenden Trust is looking for volunteers to help with its Annual Christmas Appeal collection. If you can spare a few hours this winter then please contact the office: 01582 460457 / email admin@theharpendentrust.org.uk

LOURDES HALL

SOUTHDOWN ROAD HARPENDEN

Available for Hire, and for one off Parties for more details contact Caretaker: Mr Simon Lowe
Mobile: 07859 943 348 Email: harpendenct@rcdow.org.uk

MASS INTENTIONS

<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday 4th November</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Vigil Mass 6.00pm</p>	<p>St Charles Borromeo, Bishop</p> <p>31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Alan Mackie RIP (Recently Deceased)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 5th November</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p>31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)</p> <p>People of the Parish Holy Souls Theresa McHugh RIP (Recently Deceased) Deceased Members of the Choir Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Monday 6th November</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9.15am</p>	<p>feria Bridget Doran (Speical Intention)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday 7th November</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9.15am</p>	<p>feria Holy Souls</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday 8th November</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9.15am</p>	<p>feria Luke Kealy RIP (Anniversary)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday 9th November</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11.00am</p>	<p>THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA Holy Souls</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Friday 10th November</p>	<p>St Leo the Great, Pope & Doctor</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday 11th November</p> <p>Youth Friendly Mass Vigil Mass 6.00pm</p>	<p>St Martin of Tours, Bishop</p> <p>32nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Peter Trueland RIP (Anniversary)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 12th November</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8.30am 9.45am 11.30am</p>	<p>32nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)</p> <p>Johanna Gregory RIP People of the Parish & Holy Souls Tony Mileham RIP (Anniversary) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</p>

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