



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

5TH FEBRUARY 2023

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)



© Chloe Le Tissier

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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With the images of salt and light, Jesus says what he expects from his followers. They don't need to be always thinking about their own interests, their own prestige, their own power. Even though they are a small group in the huge Roman Empire, they are the "salt" and the "light", that the world needs. "You are the salt of the world." The simple people of Galilee spontaneously knew what he meant. They knew what salt is good for: giving food flavour and preserving it from spoiling. Just so, we need to contribute to helping people find the savour in life. "You are the light of the world." Without sunlight, our world would stay dark and gloomy. Jesus' disciples can shine a light to probe the meaning of life, to walk with hope.

These metaphors have something vital in common. If the salt stays in the shaker, it doesn't do its proper work. Only when it dissolves in the food can it give flavour to what we eat. The same thing happens with light. If it stays closed up and hidden away, it can't enlighten anyone. Only when it shines out in the dark can it illuminate and guide. A church isolated from the world can be neither salt nor light.

Pope Francis calls on the Church today to "go out to the margins." He prefers a church that is "bruised and dirty because it has been out on the streets" to one that is "clinging to its own security, caught up in a web of procedures." We can't allow ourselves to be buried in our structures with passive hope. The Gospel invites us to run the risk of meeting face to face with others. It wants to promote culture of encounter, and in so doing to heal wounds and to warm hearts.

PARISH FEAST DAY

Next Saturday, 11th February, is the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, our parish feast day. To mark this day there will be Mass at 11.30am, 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. After Mass there will be refreshments in the undercroft. If you need help in getting to Church, or could offer a lift, please get in touch with the Parish Office.



The book will be brought up, at those Masses, where there is an offertory procession, and placed on the Altar.

NEWSLETTER

Most parishioners are now receiving the weekly newsletter by email, and this seems to be working well, saving a lot of paper, and expense to. A few copies are placed in the porch each week, for those who may not have email, and these copies are for those people. **So, if you have a computer please do not take a copy of the newsletter.** If you don't presently receive the newsletter by email, but would like to do so, please email your details to the Parish Office.

A JOB WELL DONE



As in every parish, there are many tasks that contribute to its smooth running; some of which are unseen. 22 years ago, Nick Morris kindly agreed to keep the books for just three months, but things

lasted, a little, longer than was planned! Having diligently kept the parish accounts over these years, Nick has now decided that it is time to hand over to someone else.

We owe Nick a big debt of gratitude for all that he has done over the years, and for voluntarily giving his time and talents, for the good of the parish in this way.

WARM SPACES

Our 'Warm Space' has now been running for six weeks, and although numbers are not great, the volunteers, are keen that we continue to offer this service. From this week, there is a change of time and day. The warm space, will be available each Monday between 12noon and 2.00pm. So, again, if you know anyone who might appreciate some warmth, refreshments and company, please tell them about our warm space. Thank you to the volunteers who signed up so quickly, to cover the slots during February.

PRAYER REQUESTS

From time to time, there may be a person, or intention, you would like to pray for. If so, there is now a book available, on the table with the gifts, for you write down the prayer intention.

LENT 2023

LENT GROUPS 2023

As in previous years there will be groups meeting throughout Lent to reflect, share ideas and pray. The sessions this Lent will be based on Praying the Our Father, by Carl E. Olson which is described by one theologian as "the best collection of Lenten reflections she has seen." The booklet is available from CTS Books £3.50 or at the first meeting.

If you have not been part of a group previously, please do consider joining in this year. The groups are friendly and thought-provoking. There are opportunities for sharing ideas but no pressure to do so. There will be groups meeting on some mornings/afternoon and evenings depending on the demand. Please email:- juliaandnigel057@gmail.com or phone 07891083251 with your choice of day, time and contact details.

PARISH AREA COORDINATORS

Following the recent email to parishioners who receive the newsletter, we have received 27 acceptances from people willing to get involved in contacting Catholics in or close to their location.

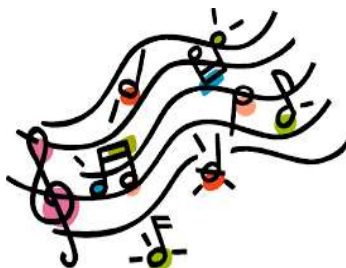
It's a great start but we need many more. This will not be an onerous task but simply to say 'hello', perhaps make the occasional telephone call to check on well-



being, knock on a door, or just pop a parish newsletter through the letter box, it's all part of our parish mission. Please consider joining the team and help to get to know your neighbour by emailing: dr.harpendenolol@gmail.com

SING FOR 4 , CONCERT ! TODAY, 5TH FEBRUARY AT 3.15PM

The groups have been singing their hearts out on Tuesday evenings and Sunday afternoons throughout January and will be delighted to perform



their new repertoire to a packed audience on Sunday 5th February at 3.15pm. Entry is by donation of items for Keystage Housing and for NOAH . Toiletries for men and women, Men's underwear

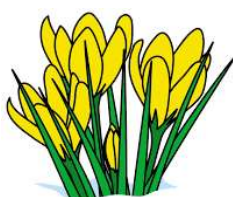
(new) , socks ... please look on their websites for further ideas. Cash donations also welcome and will be sent directly to the charities.

REFRESHMENTS

The concert will be followed by a cup of tea in the Undercroft. Please come and support this wonderful team of volunteers as they take to the stage to support two local charities.

PARISH WALK

Our next walk (the first of 2023) will take place, weather permitting, on Wednesday, February 8th, beginning at 10.00 am after Morning Mass. we will start off from our Lady of Lourdes and walk through the park for about half an hour or so before looking for signs of Spring and new growth we retire for coffee at a local coffee shop for a good chat and catch up. If the weather is inclement it's straight to coffee! Do try to join us : we welcome new walkers and it is a good way of getting to know some of our fellow parishioners. Enquiries to Janet Evers
janet.evers1938@gmail.com ; Tel 01582 621960



DATE FOR THE DIARY : EASTER CONCERT

Performance of a new cantata, written in the wake of the pandemic and in gratitude to the NHS this will be held on

SATURDAY 25TH MARCH at 3PM

Tickets will be available for this concert in due course but please save the date. It is in the afternoon to encourage a large audience - to include children, families and those unable to attend evening concerts so readily. It will last for approximately 1.5 hours with refreshments served afterwards.

ST ALBANS AND DISTRICT FOODBANK Milk and juice collections for the foodbank

If you can, bring a carton of UHT milk or long life fruit juice to the church this weekend.

ST DOMINIC NURSERY FOR ADMISSION SEPTEMBER 2023

On the 30th January 2023, the application process for Nursery places opened for children born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020. 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 to book an appointment to attend to one of our online visit mornings on Wednesday 18th January at 9.30pm or Monday 30th Jan at 9.30am or Wednesday 22nd February at 9.30am. Applications close at 3.30pm on 6th March. **Canon Dwyer, will be available to meet parents, to discuss the possibility of signing the Certificate of Catholic Practise (CCP), on Tuesday 21st February, between 5.30pm and 6.30pm, in the church. Please note that the CCP can only be signed if parents and children have attended Mass, every Sunday, for the past two years.**



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2023

This year's World Day of Prayer will take place on Friday 3rd March. The main Harpenden service will take place at 10.30am at All Saints, Station Road, and there will be a service on Zoom at 7.45pm. This year's service is written by the women of Taiwan with the theme "I have heard about your faith."

The World Day of Prayer raises around £250,000 each year in the UK for distribution to charity - visit www.wwdp.org.uk for details or to make a donation. For more information on the Harpenden services please see the postcards in the porch.



ANNUAL MASS FOR MATRIMONY

The annual Mass for Matrimony at the Cathedral will be celebrated by the Cardinal on Saturday 13th May at 2.30pm for all couples celebrating a significant Wedding Anniversaries. If you would like to attend please send your details into the Parish Office, please include the date you were married, and contact details.

LiveSimply Quote:

"We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental."
Pope Francis, Laudato Si

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 NEXT WEEK

Sat 4th Feb 12.00 Noon 6.00pm	feria Baptism Hutton Family 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Catenians President's Mass
Sun 5th Feb 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am 3.15pm	5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) People of the Parish Bernard St John Glew RIP (Anniv) Julian Greenwood RIP (Anniv) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568. Sing for 4 Concert
Mon 6th Feb 9.15am	St Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs Sr Lorentia Roche RIP (Recently Deceased)
Tues 7th Feb 9.15am	feria
Wed 8th Feb 9.15am	feria
Thur 9th Feb 11.00am	feria Alan Young RIP (Anniv)
Fri 10th Feb	St Scholastica, Virgin
Sat 11th Feb 11.30am 6.00pm	OUR LADY OF LOURDES Mass for the Sick 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Joseph Bradley RIP (Recently Deceased)
Sun 12th Feb 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Sarah Byrne RIP People of the Parish Ita Long RIP Zoom Code 883 7014 5568.
CONFESSIONS - SATURDAYS 10.30AM - 11.00AM & AFTER THE 6.00PM VIGIL MASS	