



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

5TH MARCH 2023
2ND SUNDAY OF LENT (A)



© Chloe Le Tissier

Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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

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

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In our gospel today, Jesus brings his disciples away from noise and busyness, and takes them up a mountain. This is not unusual in itself. We know from the gospels that Jesus himself often went to the mountain top to pray on his own. While they are on the mountain, something very strange and unusual happens. Jesus is changed in a very dramatic way; and Peter is able to proclaim: 'Lord it is wonderful for us to be here.'

As we continue our Lenten journey and Jesus continues his own, maybe this brief glimpse of Jesus in all his glory is also meant for us today. Perhaps like the disciples, we too experience fear, doubt and even a lack of faith. Perhaps we too need to be encouraged and strengthened by Jesus, especially as we continue our journey through Lent. We too need to know that our prayer, fasting and sharing with the poor is not an end in itself, or that it is all done in vain. We are heading towards the resurrection and the new life of Easter, but we have a distance to go yet. The experience of Jesus transformed offers each of us a taste of what lies ahead of us.

This is the hope in which we are asked to have faith as we make our way through Lent. When we are tempted to give up and give in, let us look to Jesus changed and transformed. We may see in him the future that is promised to us, not only at Easter but in the fullness of God's Kingdom. As we continue to make our way through Lent, let us do what the voice of God says to each of us: 'This is my Son, Listen to him.'



FRIDAYS IN LENT

Each Friday of Lent, Mass will be celebrated at 7.00pm, followed by the Stations of the Cross. Friday is the traditional day for 'making the Stations', so attending Mass, and the Stations of the Cross, during Lent, is a positive activity during this season.

LENT GROUPS

The Lent groups will be meeting throughout Lent to reflect, share ideas and pray. The sessions 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 meeting.

If you have not been part of a group previously, it's not too late to join. The groups are friendly and thought-provoking. There are opportunities for sharing ideas but no pressure to do so. Please email:- juliaandnigel057@gmail.com or phone 07891083251 for more information.

LENTEN ALMS

Traditionally, during Lent, anything that we save through self-denial is donated to the 'Lenten Alms'. Funds raised this year will be shared between the four pillars of the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal: Marriage & Family Life; Youth & Evangelisation; The Education Service and Caritas Westminster. You can place your contributions in the 'box' to the right of Our Lady's Altar, or, if you wish to 'Gift-Aid' your contribution, you can use one of the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal envelopes, which will be found in the porch, and return it to the Parish Office.

LENT DAY BY DAY BOOKS

Day by Day books for Lent and Easter 2023 are now available in the Repository. There are books for adults, juniors and infants and they each cost £1. They are an excellent way to prepare for the seasons of Lent and Easter.

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY

Last Friday was CAFOD Lent Fast Day, when we were asked to deny ourselves in some way, and donate what we saved, to help some of the poorest people in our world. Anything you were able to save will be collected as you leave Mass today. Envelopes are available, if you wish to 'Gift-Aid' your donation.

SYRIA-TURKEY EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the CAFOD Appeal for Syria and Turkey appeal over the last two weekends. A total of £1,825.90 has now been sent off to CAFOD. **You can still donate online at <https://cafod.org.uk/give>.**

WARM SPACES

A word of thanks to all those who assisted with the 'Warm Spaces', or volunteered to do so. Like other local churches, the take up has been extremely small, on some occasions just one or two coming in, and sometimes nobody at all. Based on that experience, it can only be assumed that there is no, obvious, need, in Harpenden. It has been good that we have been able to offer this service, for the past 11 weeks, a great team. But for now, at least, we will stop offering our undercroft as a 'Warm Space'. Again, a big 'thank you' to those who gave their time; perhaps we can look at other ways of offering support, to those who might appreciate some company. Suggestions welcome!

GOOD NEIGHBOURS'

As part of the Parish Renewal programme, and as you know from the recent requests seeking area volunteers, we have been working on, and are now ready to launch "Good Neighbours'.

This initiative answers the call to become a more open and welcoming parish, as highlighted in the feedback from the parish survey, exemplified by, *'The parish being a much stronger community, where everyone feels welcome, and not alone whatever their personal situation, and there is much more looking out for people including non-Catholics'*.

As shown on the map at the back of the church, you can see the parish has been divided into several small areas, each with its own representatives, who will keep contact with the parishioners in their own area.

The aim is to develop a local community in each area by :

- dropping a newsletter through a letter box to those unable to leave home
- welcome new catholic neighbours
- let the parish office know of any specific needs of parishioners in that area (for example a need for transport to go to Mass, request of a visit of a Eucharistic minister...)
- just say "hello" or keep telephone contact with parishioners who may not be well, or in need of a friendly chat.

As the map highlights, the red sections show which areas are not yet covered by volunteers, and the yellow sections show areas where there are some, but not enough volunteers for the number of households, so we would be grateful if anyone could step forward to help cover these areas.

You can write your details on the sign-up sheet next to the map, or otherwise contact the parish office or email dr.harpendenolol@gmail.com if you have any questions. It is a very good and straightforward opportunity to become the missionary disciples we are all called to be.

ANN TURNER RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Ann Turner. Ann's Requiem Mass will be on Monday 20th March at 10.00am. We remember all Ann's family in our prayers at this time

Darren McKay RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Darren McKay. Darren's Requiem Mass will be on Tuesday 28th March at 11.00am. We remember all Daren's family in our prayers at this time

May their Souls and the Souls of all the Faithfully departed Rest in Peace

EASTER FLOWERS COLLECTION

The Parish Flower Arrangers will have their annual Easter Flower Collection after all Masses next weekend. In addition, a Lily may be purchased (at £5) in memory of a loved one.



Please write clearly the name of the loved one in **CAPITAL LETTERS** on an envelope, place the donation of £5 inside and hand it in with the flower collection after Mass, or post through the Presbytery letterbox or drop it into Melanie in the Parish Office. Their names will then be added to a remembrance book which will be displayed in the Church during the Easter season.



REPOSITORY NEW STOCK

The Repository has a new range of attractive colouring books for children, also gifts and cards for Birthdays, St Patrick's Day, Mother's Day Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation and much more. Everything is very reasonably priced, come and have a look.

The Universe Catholic Weekly Newspaper

Order your Digital 2 weeks FREE introductory offer by calling Michelle on 0743 661 7650 or email:

michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk

GETTING MARRIED?

Couples intending to get married, need to give at least six months' notice, as required by the Diocese. Pre-marriage preparation, provides an opportunity to reflect, not just on the wedding, which is for a day, but on the marriage, which is for life, as well as looking at the other necessary arrangements. Anyone getting married within the next year should be in contact with Canon Dwyer. If you know of couples hoping to marry in the coming year, please draw their attention to this notice.

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

ST DOMINIC NURSERY FOR ADMISSION SEPTEMBER 2023

For all Admission information please visit our website www.stdominic.herts.sch.uk

If you would like to apply for a place you are advised to return all the forms, CCP and a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate to the school no later than 3.15pm on Monday 6th March 2023.

ST. ALBANS AND DISTRICT FOODBANK

Milk and juice collections for the foodbank will take place this weekend. So please, if you can, bring a carton of UHT milk or long-life juice to the church this Saturday or Sunday.



ST PATRICK'S DAY LUNCH.

This very popular annual event will be on Friday 17th March at 12 noon in the Undercroft. Tickets will be on sale this weekend after all Masses and will cost £15 for a welcome drink, a traditional Irish lunch and an Irish coffee with barmbrack. Proceeds will go to Sister Margaret's Barcelona Settlement.

DATES 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.

STRAWBERRY SOCIAL

in the Presbytery Garden.
Sunday 18th June at 3pm



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 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 by 30th March.

BRENNAN SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCING

meet at the Lourdes hall every: Wed 5pm - 6.30pm
Saturday - 12 Noon - 1.30pm
From ages 4 upwards First lesson is a free trial
Contact Jenny Brennan 07867992509

**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:

harpendent@rcdow.org.uk

MASS INTENTIONS NEXT WEEK

Sat 4th March 6.00pm	Lent feria 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT (A) Special Intentions for The Ladies Group
Sun 5th March 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	2ND SUNDAY OF LENT (A) People of the Parish Prof. Henry Halliday RIP (Recently Deceased) Harry Davis RIP (Anniversary) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568.
Mon 6th March 9.15am	Lent feria Chanelle Pickford RIP (Recently Deceased)
Tue 7th March 9.15am	Lent feria Eric Rogan RIP (Recently Deceased)
Wed 8th March 9.15am	Lent feria Rita Ruane RIP (Recently Deceased)
Thur 9th March 11.00am	Lent feria Theresa Dooley (Special Intention)
Fri 10th March 7.00pm	Lent feria Gavin Sherman (Sick) Followed by Stations of the Cross
Sat 11th March 6.00pm	Lent feria 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT (A) Sr Loretta (Special Intention)
Sun 12th March 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	3RD SUNDAY OF LENT (A) People of the Parish Joan Tunnicliffe RIP (Recently Deceased) Nichola Davis RIP (1 st Anniversary) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568.
CONFESSIONS - SATURDAYS 10.30AM - 11.00AM & AFTER THE 6.00PM VIGIL MASS	