



Contactless
Giving

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

6TH SEPTEMBER 2026

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)



© Chloe Le Tissier

Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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As we gather again after the summer holidays, September brings a familiar sense of new beginnings. Schools have reopened, routines are being established once more, and many families are settling back into the rhythm of work, school and parish life. For some of our young people, however, the coming weeks will mark the beginning of something much bigger, as they prepare to leave home for university and a new chapter of life.

The Gospel for this Sunday, from Matthew, speaks about our responsibility towards one another. Jesus reminds us that we are not simply individuals making our own way through life. We belong to a community, and we have a responsibility to care for one another, to speak honestly when necessary, and, above all, to seek what is good for those around us.

That message is particularly appropriate as we begin another year together. Our children and young people need the encouragement and support of their families, teachers and parish community. Those leaving for university will take with them many things: their education, friendships, memories and hopes for the future. They will also take something of the faith they have encountered at home and in our parish.

For all of us, September is an opportunity to begin again. Perhaps we can make a fresh commitment to Sunday Mass, to prayer, and to being more attentive to those around us. A parish is strongest when people know that they belong and that others care about them.

As we begin this new season, let us pray especially for our schoolchildren, teachers, parents and university students. May God guide them, protect them and give them courage for all that lies ahead. And may our parish continue to be a place where everyone knows that they are welcomed, valued and loved.

WELCOME BACK

Most of us will find that holidays, although long looked forward to, quickly become a distant memory! That may well be what many of us are feeling right now. St Dominic's, and many other local schools, returned during the week, and within a couple of weeks young people will be returning to, or starting, at university. There is a sense that everything is returning to normal. To those returning to, or beginning a new stage of education, it is to be hoped that it will be a fruitful and positive time for them. As schools return, there is a sense of a new year, a new beginning. Wherever you are in life may the coming months be a positive time, a time of growth, and opportunities to be both ceased and used.



HAVE YOU WRITTEN?

Next Friday, 11 September 2026, a Private Members' Bill on assisted suicide – so-called assisted dying – will be reintroduced to the House of Commons, The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill will have its Second Reading. The Bishops are renewing their call to Catholics, and people of goodwill, to unite in prayer and compassionate action. Our Archbishop, Richard Moth, explains our strong opposition to this legislation. He writes: "The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill which aims to legalise assisted suicide has returned to the House of Commons, and Members of Parliament will vote on its Second Reading on 11 September. This bill is wrong in principle. It is also deeply flawed and, if passed, could lead to vulnerable people feeling pressured into ending their lives.

Hopefully many of you have already written to your MP, if not we have a duty to do so, a duty to protect the sacred gift

of life. The charity Right to Life UK (<https://righttolife.org.uk/>) has a simple online mechanism to do this. It takes little more than a few minutes to enter your postcode, make sure the suggested text suits your viewpoint and submit your message to ask your MP to stop this flawed Bill progressing through parliament.

ALTAR SERVERS

Some of you will have noticed that we are in need of more Altar Servers. Our servers carry out a very important role in assisting with the celebration of Mass. Boy and girls who have made their First Holy Communion are welcome to come and be trained, and there is no upper age limit. Anyone interested in taking on this role, please contact Canon Dwyer.



ST CARLO ACUTIS MISSION

Our neighbouring Hemel Hempstead parishes have a St Carlo Acutis Mission next week, from Monday 14 to Friday 18 September 2026. The mission will be led by Monsignor Anthony Figueirido and Gwen Wiseman. They bring with them the Primary Relic of St Carlo, a portion of his heart, from Assisi.

For more information, please visit the Hemel West website:

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempssteadwest/events/st-carlo-acutis-mission-week-mon-14-fri-18-september/>

A lovely opportunity to find out some more about this inspiring young saint of the Church.

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 fcl 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

FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION 2027

Preparation for First Communion and Confirmation will be commencing in the next few weeks. Registering is now closed. Information about this year's preparation will be sent shortly.

CONFIRMATION CATECHIST'S 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 out more, please speak to Canon Dwyer. We would be delighted to hear from you.

EAGERLY SOUGHT

A brain of a mildly technical bent, with attached anatomical configuration, to undertake the occasional task of running the Sunday Zoom/YouTube session at the 11:30 mass. Full enlightenment in the everyday and the unexpected foibles of the system for any interested parties. Please contact John Saliot on 07980537791 or at 11:30 mass.

LIVESIMPLY

Quote (Leo XIV):

Without this inner transformation, peace will remain fragile and short-lived. But where hearts are renewed, new possibilities begin to open. What has been used for destruction can be redirected toward life, toward the care of the poor, the nourishment of the hungry, and the safeguarding of creation. This is the path of authentic ecological conversion, where the effects of our encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in our relationship with the world around us. Peace, then, begins in the heart and flows outward to our relationships, communities and the broader world.

SING FOR FIFTEEN IS STARTING THIS SEPTEMBER

Four Tuesday evenings 7.30pm - 9.00pm in the Undercroft - **starting Tuesday 15th September. Everyone welcome** and no previous singing experience needed. Concert on Saturday 10th October at 3pm. All money raised goes to NOAH charity supporting homelessness in Luton and KeyStage Housing. The fee for the whole course is £40 and payment details will be given once you are signed up and ready to start! If you have not tried this before then please give it a go. Bring a friend! It is a short commitment and great for your wellbeing and especially for those who benefit from our fundraising - over £8000 so far since Sing For One started a few years ago.

Please email Katie Metcalfe katiemjack@yahoo.co.uk to sign up and we look forward to seeing you .



CHORISTERS AND ADULT CHOIR

Choristers - Year 4 to Year 13 are welcome to join from September. There is a schedule of rehearsals and Masses published each term and full training is given. Serving as a chorister is a commitment so please consider this carefully as attendance at Thursday rehearsals and Sunday 11.30am Masses is required as per the schedule. Extra Masses such as First Holy Communion and Confirmation are also part of the life of a chorister and all dates are given in advance to help the family diary. It is a choral experience that develops many skills and our choristers go on to continue their musical journey at university and conservatoires at the highest levels. More, and most, importantly it fosters a space of community, faith-sharing and lifelong friendships. **Please email Katie Metcalfe or ask at the parish office .**

ADULT CHOIR - SATB, non-auditioned choir. Meets every Thursday 8-9pm during term time and full training given. Many opportunities for singing at Mass, at weddings, funerals and in concerts performing some epic choral works - most recently Mozart's Requiem, Hayden's Nelson Mass, Vivaldi's Gloria and Unconditional Love , a cantata by Howard Goodall. Please **email Katie Metcalfe for details** and to chat if considering joining.

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.



FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be Closed from 14th – 23rd September for annual leave. **Any notices for the Newsletter during this time please email the Parish office by lunchtime on Wednesday 9th September**
Thank You.



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.

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.catholicchurchharpندن.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

CLIMATE CHANGE FILM

Peoples Emergency Briefing Film
Harpenden Quaker Meeting have arranged for a showing of this film about climate change at 7pm on Friday 16th October in Park Hall. Free tickets can be booked at [Select tickets – People's Emergency Briefing – Park Hall Community Hall](#). We have invited community leaders to join us in a discussion after the film.

BEDS & HERTS BIKE 'N' HIKE

This annual sponsored Bike 'n' Hike takes place next Saturday 12th September from 9am to 5pm.

Have fun visiting over 600 churches and chapels, raise funds for our Church and help save other churches in Beds and Herts. For more information and sponsor packs please scan the QR code on the poster on the noticeboard in Church.

THIS HARVEST, HELP A LOCAL NEIGHBOUR FIND HOPE

St Albans & District Foodbank is asking the local community to come together to support neighbours facing difficult times. Many people who come to the foodbank never imagined they would be in the situation they are in. It can take just one unexpected event – ill health, job loss, a relationship breakdown – for someone to find themselves unable to afford the essentials.

In 2025, St Albans & District Foodbank provided over 13,000 food parcels to local people, with almost 40% going to children. There were over 600 new households

referred to the foodbank for emergency food and additional help.

This Harvest, your support can provide more than food. It can give someone the welcome, connections and help they need to move forward.

Together, we can help ensure no one in the community faces hunger alone.

To support St Albans & District Foodbank, visit the website or scan the QR code, or for more information email

info@stalbandsdistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Website:

stalbandsdistrict.foodbank.org.uk/support-us/

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 5th Sept Vigil Mass 6.00pm Sunday 6th Sept 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	Feria Wedding Anna Kerr & Simeon Jenkin 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME(A) People of the Parish Fr Peter Dwyer RIP (Recently Deceased) Josie Kealy RIP (Anniversary) Elizabeth Wang RIP (Anniversary) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568	PLEASE PRAY FOR: Newly Married Heavenly Father, bless this newly married couple with a lifetime of love, faith and joy. May their marriage be strengthened by Your grace, their home filled with peace, and their hearts always open to one another. Amen.
Monday 7th Sept 9.15am	Feria Patsy Whelan RIP (Recently Deceased)	
Tuesday 8th Sept 9.15am	THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	
Wednesday 9th Sept 9.15am	Feria	
Thursday 10th Sept 11.00am	Feria Mary Hammond RIP	
Friday 11th Sept	Feria	Anniversaries Josie Kealy RIP Elizabeth Wang RIP 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 12th Sept 12.00 Noon Vigil Mass 6.00pm	Feria Baptisms Munday & Dark Families 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Mary Kilner RIP (Recently Deceased)	
Sunday 13th Sept 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	Craig (Special Intentions) People of the Parish Mary McGarry RIP (Anniversary) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568	