



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

7TH MAY 2023

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)



© Chloe Le Tissier

Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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Such was the spirit of the early church, that they strived not to overlook anyone. We heard that the Hellenists complained that their widows were not getting a fair share of the church's care. The apostles propose a solution to the problem.

The solution shows two important dimensions of church life: prayer and service; and that living our Christian vocation requires a balance between the two. Each of us is personally called to prayer, to a dialogue of worship with God; and we are also called to service. We are to be of service to our neighbours; and provided we have an attitude of respect; no task is too menial. Prayer and preaching the word was of primary importance to the apostles; but service to the widows and the needy in the community was also vital, so they appointed, and instituted, seven trusted men.

As a result, the disciples in Jerusalem increased in numbers. We may wonder how this kind of growth in the church could be revived in our day? Is the word of the Lord still spreading or the number of disciples increasing? In St Peter's letter, the church is imagined as a spiritual temple, with ourselves as living stones making up a living house of God. Every time we say the Lord's Prayer we say 'thy kingdom come.' This implies taking some responsibility for spreading the word and doing something to build up the church? We can work for God's kingdom by our daily conduct and attitudes.

The cornerstone of the church is Christ himself, who shows us what God is like. He shows us that the Father is: concerned for all, interested in all, respecting everyone, calling sinners back home. This welcoming God is the one that our church worships, and we renew our trust in Him.

PRIESTS TRAINING FUND

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Priests Training Fund, last weekend, £1694.00 was donated. This is a very important collection, as the proceeds are used to train those who will serve as priests, in our Diocese, in the future. In other words, it is one of the few collections that you can experience the fruits of. The fund will remain open for another few weeks, so if you haven't had the opportunity to do so, you can still give your support, contributions can be dropped into the Parish Office. If you wish to 'gift-Aid' your contribution, please use one of the envelopes, that will be found in the porch.

CORONATION

This weekend we celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. The Bishops of England and Wales invite us to pray, for His Majesty the King as he assumes this high office of monarch. We can do this in our daily prayer asking Almighty God to guide the King in his appointed tasks. We can also pray for him when we gather for prayer at Mass. Let us continue to ask God's continuing blessing on our new King and Queen.

Prayer cards have been produced by the Catholic Bishop's Conference and are available in the porch.



FIRST COMMUNION

Next Saturday, we have the first of our two First Communion celebrations, when 48 of our children, will receive Jesus, in Holy Communion, for the first time. This is such a special day for the children, their families and catechists, and the whole parish community. Let us keep the children in our prayers, as they receive the gift of the Eucharist.



MONDAY MASS

As we have another Bank holiday tomorrow, Monday, Mass will be at the later time of 10.00am.

SING FOR PROJECT NO 5 CONCERT SUNDAY 14TH MAY AT 3.00PM

Entrance is by donation of hygiene products, toiletries, clothing etc. this is then given to Noah & Keystage housing. Refreshments will be served after the concert, everyone is welcome.



LEWIS FIETTA RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Lewis Fietta who died recently, Lewis's funeral Mass will take place on 17th May at 11.00am. We remember Lewis's family in our prayers at this time.

MARY'S MONTH HONOURING MARY



By tradition, during May, we honour Mary, our Beloved Lady. And it's good to honour Mary, perhaps to pray the Rosary alone, after Mass, or as a family.

REPOSITORY -

FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION

We are approaching the First Communion and Confirmation seasons and there is now a wide selection of cards and gifts in the Repository suitable for both occasions. These are all very reasonably priced and make lovely presents to mark these celebrations.



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 today. Thank you.



LiveSimply group

PARISH WALK WEDNESDAY 10TH MAY

This Wednesday meeting at the car park in Rothamstead Park the one opposite the Fowden Hall where the cafe is located. Any problems contact me : janet.evers1938@gmail.com
01582 621960

FROM THE REGISTERS:

BAPTISM

We welcomed the following children into God's family since January 2023;

Sophie Walker
Louis Hutton,
Benjamin Bonwick
Ann Cash
Isla Logan
Grace Noonan
Teyana Jordan



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.



DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

May

14th May at 3pm Sing for... 5 Concert

June

10th June DWG Open Garden Day *more details to follow*

18th June Strawberry Social

24th June at 3pm Choir Summer Concert

LOST PROPERTY

We have quite a few items in the lost property box at the back of the Church near the Repository. Among the items are a children's water bottles some toys and children's clothes. Please have a look through and see if any of the items belong to you.

Any items remaining, will be taken to a charity shop at the end of the month.
Thank you!

MASS INTENTIONS

<p>Saturday 6th May</p> <p style="text-align: right;">6.00pm</p>	<p>Easter Feria</p> <p>5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)</p> <p>Anne Holttum RIP</p>
<p>Sunday 7th May</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8.30am</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9.45am</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11.30am</p>	<p>5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)</p> <p>Ann Turner RIP</p> <p>People of the Parish</p> <p>SG (Private Intentions)</p> <p>Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</p>
<p>Bank Holiday</p> <p>Monday 8th May</p> <p style="text-align: right;">10.00am</p>	<p>Easter feria</p> <p>Sr Francis (Special Intention)</p>
<p>Tuesday 9th May</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9.15am</p>	<p>Easter feria</p> <p>Jacqueline Dodds RIP (1st Anniversary)</p>
<p>Wednesday 10th May</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9.15am</p>	<p>Easter feria</p> <p>Followed by Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour</p>
<p>Thursday 11th May</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11.00am</p>	<p>Easter feria</p> <p>Martin Stears-Handscomb (Special Intention)</p>
<p>Friday 12th May</p>	<p>Easter feria</p>
<p>Saturday 13th May</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11.00am</p> <p style="text-align: right;">6.00pm</p>	<p>Easter Feria</p> <p>First Holy Communion Mass - Group 1</p> <p>6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)</p> <p>Jacqueline Dodds RIP (1st Anniversary)</p>
<p>Sunday 14th May</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8.30am</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9.45am</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11.30am</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3.00pm</p>	<p>6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)</p> <p>People of the Parish</p> <p>Frank Taylor RIP (Anniversary)</p> <p>Vincent Nathan RIP (Anniversary)</p> <p>Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</p> <p>Sing for 5 Concert</p>

CONFESSIONS - SATURDAYS

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