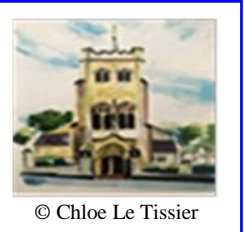




# OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

7<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025

23<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)



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Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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As schools return, and universities recommence, there is a sense of a new beginning, a new year. In parish life too, it is a time of new beginnings, or at least restarting, a time to look forward with hope, and also to reflect on how we can each play our part in the life we share as a community of faith.

In the second reading St Paul reminds us of the heart of Christian discipleship. Speaking of Jesus, he says: *"Though he was in the form of God, he did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but emptied himself... and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him."* These words show us that the pattern of Christ's life is one of self-giving service. It is through humility and offering ourselves to others that true glory is revealed.

As we begin this new 'year' in our parish life, we are invited to follow that same pattern. The parish is not simply a place where we "come to church," but a living family where each person's gifts matter. Christ's example teaches us that greatness is found not in being served but in serving. There are many opportunities for involvement: in worship, music, catechesis, visiting the sick, caring for the poor, welcoming newcomers, and in countless unseen acts of kindness. Each contribution, no matter how small it may seem, strengthens the body of Christ here among us.

This might be a moment to ask ourselves: how might I share more actively in parish life? How can I reflect Christ's humility and generosity in the way I serve? If each of us takes a step forward, our parish will grow ever more deeply into the community God calls us to be.

## NEW BEGINNINGS

During the year there are a number of new beginnings. This week has seen most of the schools reopening, and over the next few weeks some of our young people will be starting, or returning, to university. In the parish too, sacramental programs will be commencing, and many of our parish activities will be resuming. It's a time to start again, which reflects our life of faith. God, allowing us, again and again, to make a new beginning. God setting new opportunities before us. Hopefully many of you will have the opportunity for a holiday, or some rest, and are feeling energised. Energised to cope with your daily responsibilities, and to participate in the life and activities of our parish.

## A SAINT OF OUR TIME

Today, in Rome, Pope Leo will canonise Blessed Carlo Acutis, who was born in London on 3 May 1991, and Baptised in our Diocese, in the Servite Church, Fulham. From a young age he showed a deep love for God and a remarkable devotion to the Eucharist, which he called his "highway to heaven." Despite being an ordinary teenager who loved football, video games, and computers, Carlo lived his faith with extraordinary simplicity and joy.

Gifted with a talent for technology, he used his skills to spread the Gospel. At just eleven years old, he began working on a website cataloguing Eucharistic miracles from around the world, so that others could come to appreciate the real presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

Carlo's life was marked by kindness, charity, and a strong sense of justice. At the age of fifteen, he was diagnosed with an aggressive form of leukemia. Offering his suffering for the Church and for Pope

Benedict XVI, he died on 12 October 2006. He was beatified in Assisi in 2020. Today we rejoice as he is Canonised, and we can pray to him that his Canonisation, will inspire our young people.

## SEASON OF CREATION

The Season of Creation, runs from September 1<sup>st</sup> until October 4<sup>th</sup>, the feast of St Francis of Assisi. The Season of Creation, is a time of sustained prayer and action, lasting a month and four days. During this season we are encouraged to pray and engage in activities, that will deepen our relationship with God, our neighbour and the earth we share, being ever more attentive to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

## JOYCE JAY RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Joyce Jay who died recently. Joyce's Requiem Mass is on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 10.45am. We remember all her family in our prayers at this time.

## MONDAY'S MASS

Please note that there is no Mass at 9.15am on Monday morning.

## BECOME AN ALTAR SERVER

Boys and girls who have received their First Holy Communion are invited to serve at the altar during Mass. This special ministry is a meaningful way to grow in faith, responsibility, and service. Adults are also welcome to join.



✉ To volunteer, contact Canon Dwyer:  
[harpenden@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:harpenden@rcdow.org.uk)

## FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

Parish Office is open Monday to Thursday from 9.30am to 12.30pm. Any notices for the next Newsletter please email the Parish office by lunchtime on Wednesday. Thank you.



## LOST PROPERTY – LAST CHANCE TO COLLECT

Items left in the church are currently in the **repository lost property box**. Please take a moment to check if anything belongs to you. Unclaimed items will be **donated to charity soon**, so this is the final opportunity to collect them.

## CONFIRMATION PHOTOGRAPHS

As a follow-up to the email sent to Parents during the holidays the Confirmation photographs have arrived. They are available to be collected Monday - Thursday 9:30am -12.30pm from Melanie in the Parish Office or from the Repository Shop after weekend Masses.

## BEWARE SCAM EMAILS & TEXTS

We have been made aware that a **scam email** is circulating, **pretending to be from Canon Anthony**. These emails are **fraudulent** and are not being sent from the parish or Canon Anthony. Please remember:

- **Always check the sender's email address** carefully.
- Any genuine email from **Canon Anthony** or the **Parish Office** will **always end with: @rcdow.org.uk**
- If the email address is different — **do not reply, do not click any links, and do not provide any personal information.**

If you receive a suspicious email, please delete it immediately or contact the parish office for clarification. Thank you for your vigilance in helping us keep our parish community safe.

**TO REPORT A SCAM TEXT**, forward it to 7726 (SPAM), a free service that allows your mobile provider to investigate and take action. You should also report scams to [Action Fraud](#) by calling 0300 123 2040 or visiting their website, especially if you've lost money to a scam. Finally, if you received a scam link in a text, report the website to the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC).

1. Report to your mobile provider:

- **Forward the text:** to the number 7726.
- Your provider will send you a reply and ask for the scam text's number. Reply with the number, and they'll investigate.

What to do with the scam text:

- **Do not click:** on any links in the message.
- **Do not reply:** to the text message.
- **Delete:** the message after you have forwarded it.

## SING FOR 12 – NEW PROJECT

Join our next four-week singing project starting Tuesday 16th September, 7.30–9.00pm in the Undercroft, finishing with an informal concert on Saturday 11th October at 3pm. No experience needed—just come along for fun, friendship, and song! Cost: £40, supporting NOAH and Keystage Housing. To book, email Katie at: [katiemjack@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:katiemjack@yahoo.co.uk)

## LIVESIMPLY

### A REPAIR FAIR AT OLOL!

Did you know that per capita, the UK is the 2nd highest producer of e-waste in the world - an appalling statistic! But wait...

The LiveSimply team are excited to announce that they will be holding a

### Repair Fair on

### Saturday afternoon

**27th September from 2pm – 5pm at**

**Lourdes Hall**, in association with St Albans District Fixers. Parishioners and the public alike will be invited to bring their dead or dysfunctional portable electricals and electronics, and a team of skilled amateur fixers will attempt to save them from the grave. Nimble-fingered seamstresses will also be on hand to tackle minor repairs and alterations to clothing and fabric items. The Fixers would be very pleased to welcome anyone handy with a screwdriver and not fazed by electrics, who they would buddy with one of their own, or an additional seamstress or two to work with theirs. There may be other opportunities to be involved. For further information, contact Jon Newham

[jonathan.newham@googlemail.com](mailto:jonathan.newham@googlemail.com).



## FROM THE CATENIANS

**Wednesday Sept 10<sup>th</sup> – Dinner**

The next local Catenian meeting and dinner will be held at Harpenden Golf Club starting at 7-30pm. This is a ladies evening, and members of the parish are welcome to join us for this social occasion. The cost is £35 for a lovely two course meal and wine so do come along either as a single, couple or group and you will be made very welcome. Please email [denniscooper4@outlook.com](mailto:denniscooper4@outlook.com) to book.

## A TALK ABOUT A PILGRIMAGE TO NOTRE DAME AND LOURDES

Carole Cox a member of the Newman Association will give a talk on her experiences of pilgrimages to both Notre Dame and Lourdes on

**Thursday 25th September at 2.00pm in the Undercroft** of Our Lady of Lourdes . All are very welcome.

You are also invited to stay on to 'raise a glass to our own Doctor of the Church St. John Henry Newman.' Pope Leo has announced he will declare St. John Henry 38th Doctor of the Church.

## DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP- QUIZ

Join us on **Saturday October 18<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm for 7.30pm start**

at Lourdes Hall. The proceeds of this very popular annual Parish event will be in support of the projects of the Developing World Group. (please see the website for more information on their work)

Entrance is £20, including a Fish and Chips supper; come along and join a table of Parishioners or if you have a group of family/friends book a table for up to 8 people. Bring your own bottle and glasses and cash for the Raffle. **To secure a booking e mail Betty Hines:** [elizabeth.hines@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.hines@gmail.com).



## Quiz Night – Ticket Payment

Tickets may be paid by:

- **Bank Transfer** (DWG account details from Betty)
- **Cheque** (payable to *WRCDT Harpenden*)
- **Cash** (in an envelope with a note of everyone's name, handed into the Parish office)

Please ensure all payments are made by **14th October**.

Thank you for your continued support!

## JOIN OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHOIR!

Love to sing? Be part of something uplifting—whether you're experienced or just love music, there's a place for you.

### For Young Singers (8–18):

- Join after First Holy Communion
- Weekly rehearsals (Thursdays, 7–8pm, term time)
- Sing at Mass, Feast Days, services, and concerts
- Training, medals, and even paid opportunities at weddings!

### For Adults:

- No audition required
- Weekly rehearsals (Thursdays, 8–9pm)
- Sing at Mass, Feast Days, services, and parish events
- Support provided—dedication is what matters most!

To join, contact: [katiemjack@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:katiemjack@yahoo.co.uk)

## KEYSTAGE HOUSING APPEAL

They need SINGLE duvets, SINGLE duvet covers and fitted sheets, pillows and pillow cases please. These need to be in good condition with no stains.

Please email Cathy Seaton:

[cmann100@hotmail.com](mailto:cmann100@hotmail.com)

Please **DO NOT** put donations of bedding in the blue or yellow bins outside church.

Thank you for your continued support.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Saturday 27 September:

Live Simply's Tool Renovation at Lourdes Hall from 12pm – 6pm.

### Tuesday 14 October:

Soup and Reflection in the Undercroft from 12pm – 2pm.

Sister Regina will speak on the subject of 'Hope'.

### Saturday 18 October:

DWG Quiz at the Lourdes Hall at 7pm-7.30pm start

### Saturday 6 December:

Christmas Fair at the Lourdes Hall from 12pm – 2pm.

## 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.





MASS INTENTIONS	
<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September</b> 12.00 Noon  <b>Vigil Mass 6.00pm</b>  <b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September</b> 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	<b>Feria</b> Wedding <b>23<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> Josie Kealy RIP (Anniversary)  John Hobson RIP (Recently Deceased) People of the Parish Philip Porter RIP (Anniversary) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September</b>  10.45am	<b>The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b> <b>No 9.15am Mass</b> Requiem Mass Joyce Jay
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September</b> 9.15am	<b>Feria</b> Zofia & Ted Trusz (Golden Wedding Anniversary)
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September</b> 9.15am	<b>Feria</b> Maryanne & William Dowling RIP (Anniversary)
<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September</b> 11.00am	<b>Feria</b> Patrick O'Rourke RIP (Recently Deceased)
<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Feria</b>
<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September</b> 12.00 Noon  <b>Vigil Mass 6.00pm</b>  <b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September</b> 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	<b>St John Chrysostom, Bishop &amp; Doctor of the Church</b> Baptism Mower Family  <b>THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS</b> Yvonne Knight RIP (Recently Deceased)  People of the Parish Sylvia Walsh (Intentions) Sigrif Farr RIP Zoom Code 883 7014 5568
<b>CONFESSIONS</b> <b>SATURDAYS 10.30AM – 11.00AM &amp;</b> <b>AFTER THE 6.00PM VIGIL MASS</b>	