

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

8TH FEBRUARY 2026

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)



© Chloe Le Tissier

Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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In the Gospel, Jesus uses two very simple images to describe the life of a disciple: salt and light. They are ordinary things, easily overlooked, yet both are essential. Salt gives flavour and preserves; light allows us to see and find our way. With these images, Jesus reminds us that faith is not meant to be hidden or kept private, but lived openly and generously.

When Jesus says, “You are the salt of the earth,” he is speaking to ordinary people, not experts or heroes. Salt only works when it is mixed in, when it disappears into the food. In the same way, Christian faith is most convincing when it is quietly woven into daily life — in patience shown at home, integrity in the workplace, kindness offered without being noticed. A small pinch can make a real difference.

Jesus also says, “You are the light of the world.” Light does not draw attention to itself; it simply shines and dispels darkness. We are not asked to dazzle others, but to reflect something of God’s goodness so that others may see clearly and take hope. A word of encouragement, forgiveness offered, a willingness to stand up for what is right — these are ways light shines.

The challenge in this Gospel is gentle but demanding. Jesus warns against losing our flavour or hiding our light. He invites us instead to live our faith in a way that points beyond ourselves, so that “seeing your good works, people may give praise to your Father in heaven.” Our everyday lives become the place where God’s light is made visible.

NEW ARCHBISHOP OF WESTMINSTER

Next Saturday, 14th February, our new Archbishop, Richard Moth, will be formally installed and enthroned as the twelfth Archbishop of Westminster. This is a special moment not just for Archbishop-elect Richard, but also for the Diocese. Please pray for the Diocese and Archbishop-Elect Moth, as well as the retiring Archbishop, Cardinal Nichols, during this time of transition.

Admission to the Installation Mass is by ticket only. The Mass, which commences at 12noon, will be live-streamed via the Westminster Cathedral website:

www.westminstercathedral.org.uk.

MONDAY MASS

Tomorrow, Monday, the funeral of the late Georgie Josephine Penfold RIP, will be taking place at 11.00am. There is no Mass at 9.15am on Monday.

THIS SATURDAY



Our Lady of Lourdes is the Patron of our Parish, and her feast day is February 11th.

This year we will be celebrating the feast this Saturday, 7th February, with

mass, at 11.00am. During Mass the Anointing of the Sick will be administered. This Sacrament is 'for those who are chronically sick, and of advanced age'. Everyone is very welcome at this Mass, and we hope that many will come and honour Our Lady, on this special day for our parish, everyone is welcome.

SING FOR – 13 REHEARSAL DATES:
CONCERT DATE:

This Saturday 7th February at 3.00pm

LENT REFLECTION GROUPS 2026

As **ASH WEDNESDAY** is **18th FEBRUARY** this year, the groups will commence week **beginning Monday 23rd February**. This year we will be following the Diocesan booklet 'Enlarging the Space of Our Tent' More details will follow in due course but for the moment we are asking for volunteers to host 5/6 people once a week up to week beginning 30th March. As in past years, these will be friendly, faith sharing groups following a shared theme. Please do let either Teresa Newham or myself, Julia Roche, know if you feel you could do this. Even if you feel that you can't host, please think of joining a group and let us know your 1st/2nd/3rd choice of day and time.

[email:-juliaandnigel057@gmail.com](mailto:juliaandnigel057@gmail.com) OR
marbretherese@googlemail.com

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The 2026 Harpenden World Day of Prayer service will take place on Friday 6th March at 11am at St Nicholas's Church. This years' service is written by the Christian women of Nigeria with the theme "I will give you rest, come".

The Harpenden service will be live-streamed on Zoom for those unable to attend in person. Orders of service for anyone joining the live-stream will be available to collect from the High Street Methodist Church from 23rd February (Monday - Thursday 10am - 12 noon). The World Day of Prayer raises around £150,000 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 service and how to access the live-stream please see the postcards in the porch.

FOR THE YOUTH OF THE PARISH
The Next Youth Friendly Mass &
Youth Group will be on Saturday 28th
February at 6.00pm.



**ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR
THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY
WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL, SATURDAY
23RD MAY 2026 AT 2:30PM.**

The Archbishop is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2026. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your parish office the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and contact email (or telephone number, if no email), by 19th April. Closer to the time, the Agency for Evangelisation will send out an invitation from the Archbishop.



FAMILY MASS MUSIC

Children at the 9:45am Family Mass are invited to join the music group for the final hymn. After the **announcements**, **head to the back of the** church with your hymn book—helpers will hand out percussion instruments. First Holy Communion



children should stay with their catechists and sing extra loudly!
Singers and instrumentalists are always welcome—regularly or ad hoc. Speak to us after Mass or contact Catherine Roche:
catherine2.roche@gmail.com.

FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

Any notices for the Newsletter please email the Parish office by lunchtime on Wednesday
Thank You.



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.catholicchurchharpenden.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



GETTING MARRIED?

Couples intending to marry are required by the Diocese to give at least six months' notice. Pre-marriage preparation is an important opportunity to reflect on the lifelong commitment of marriage as well as practical arrangements. Anyone hoping to marry within the next year should contact Canon Dwyer as soon as possible, and please pass this notice on to any couples planning to marry.



**ST DOMINIC'S SCHOOL
NURSERY, YEAR 1 and YEAR2 -
PLACES AVAILABLE**

St Dominic Catholic Primary School has spaces available in the nursery, year 1 and year 2 Classes for the current academic year and welcomes enquiries from parents St Dominic's has recently been assessed by OFSTED and rated as OUTSTANDING.

NURSERY OPEN MORNINGS

Please contact the school office on 01582 760047, for more information or to book a place on the tours.

Nursey applications open on 15th January 2026 and close on the 2nd March 2026

For more information please contact 01582760047 email:

admissions@stdominic.herts.sch.uk

KEYSTAGE HOUSING APPEAL

Keystage Housing urgently need Single and Regular Double Duvets, in a good clean condition, no large stains or rips. Pillows, Sheets, Duvet Covers and Towels would be very welcome too.

Please contact Cathy Seaton cmann100@hotmail.com to arrange to drop off your donations.

NOAH APPEAL

Noah still need some winter coats, hats, & socks, please drop these donations off in the BLUE bin in the courtyard of the Church.

Thank you in advance for your generosity to supporting Noah & Keystage Housing.

NEWMAN ASSOCIATION TALKS

St. John Henry Newman pronounced Doctor of the Church 1st November 2025 has been enormously influential in the 20th and 21st centuries in theology. The Harpenden Circle of the Newman Association invites you to a series of talks on his theology which are being presented by the Mary Beaufort Institute. The first is entitled : "Prophet Priest and King: Christ and the Church" and will be shown at **2.30pm on Wednesday 11th February** at the Ss Alban and Stephen Parish Centre, St Albans AL1 2RB. All welcome . Contact Janet.evers1938@gmail.com if you need a lift.

SPACE SOUTHDOWN

SPACE is a Christian Performing Arts Centre in Southdown offering an affordable, inclusive, community space where you can explore life and faith through performing arts.

Some dates for your diary.

First Friday afternoons.

February 6th singing with the St. Albans U3A choir

March 6th, Andy Smith, performance poet Tickets £5 inc. tea and cake

27th February 7.30pm Jazz, Latin and Blues with the Berkeley Band

25th to 28th March The Stranger by Agatha Christie directed by Margaret Cox Tuesday

31st March 7.30pm

Three Marys. An Easter Reflection

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 7th February 11.00am 3.00pm Vigil Mass 6.00pm Sunday 8th February 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	Feria Mass with Anointing of the Sick Sing for 13 Concert 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Maria Pesez RIP (Anniversary) Patricia Foley RIP (Recently Deceased) People of the Parish Rita Jordan & Family (Special Intentions) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568	PLEASE PRAY FOR: Recently Deceased Patricia Foley RIP RIP Anniversaries Sean Gilroy RIP Maria Pesez RIP Walter Giles RIP Joan Ann Dawson RIP Prayer for the Faithful Departed Loving God, we remember those who have died. Grant them the peace of Christ, and let Your perpetual light shine upon them. Comfort all who mourn and strengthen our hope in the resurrection. Amen.
Monday 9th February 9.15am 11.00am	Feria NO MASS Requiem Mass Josey Penfold RIP	
Tuesday 10th February 9.15am	St Scholastica, Virgin Walter Giles RIP (Anniversary)	
Wednesday 11th February 9.15am	OUR LADY OF LOURDES Nicola Egan (Special Intentions)	
Thursday 12th February 11.00am	Feria Joan Ann Dawson RIP (Anniversary)	
Friday 13th February	Feria	
Saturday 14th February Vigil Mass 6.00pm Sunday 15th February 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	SS CYRIL, Monk & METHODIUS, Bishop 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Frank McConnachie RIP (Anniversary) Betty Dowling (Special Intention) People of the Parish Pat Butler RIP (Anniversary) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568	

CONFESSIONS

SATURDAYS 10.30AM – 11.00AM & AFTER THE 6.00PM VIGIL MASS