Contactless Giving

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A
8TH NOVEMBER 2026



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Jesus today tells the parable of the ten bridesmaids who are waiting for the bridegroom to arrive. Five are wise and bring extra oil for their lamps, while the other five are foolish and make no such preparation. When the bridegroom is delayed, all ten fall asleep. But when the announcement finally comes that he is approaching, only those who have brought extra oil are ready to welcome him.

Jesus ends the parable with a simple but challenging message: *"Stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour."*

What does this parable say to us today? Perhaps it is a reminder that faith cannot simply be taken for granted. It needs to be nurtured and kept alive. Like the oil in the lamps, our faith needs replenishing. We cannot depend entirely on the faith of others, or assume that yesterday's prayer, yesterday's kindness or yesterday's good intentions are enough for today.

The oil in our lamps is found in the ordinary things of life: our prayer, our Sunday Eucharist, our willingness to forgive, our care for those in need, and the love and kindness we show to one another. These are the things that keep the light of Christ burning within us.

We do not know when the Lord will call us to meet him. But perhaps the important question is not when he will come, but whether we are living in such a way that we are ready to welcome him.

Being ready does not mean living in fear or constantly looking towards the future. It means living each day with faith, hope and love, recognising Christ's presence in the people and circumstances of our everyday lives.

May we keep the lamps of our faith burning brightly, ready to welcome the Lord whenever he comes.



WELCOME

Today, we welcome Bishop Stephen Wang to the parish, the newly-ordained Bishop of Arundel and Brighton. In one sense, Bishop Stephen doesn't need any welcome to the parish, as he has been a part of the parish getting on for 50 years. Nonetheless it is a great joy for us to celebrate, with him, his Ordination to the Episcopate. We look forward to celebrating the 11.30am Mass with him, and then continuing our celebrations afterwards at St Dominic's school. Everyone, of course, is welcome at both the Mass and celebration afterwards.

REFRESHMENTS FOR THE CELEBRATION

If you are bringing refreshments to share for the celebration next Sunday, these can be **dropped off on the day at the 9.45am Mass,** where members of the Ladies' Group will kindly transport them to St Dominic's School.

Alternatively, **St Dominic's School will be open from 10.45am** for you to drop off your contributions directly.

Please bear in mind that there may be road closures due to the Remembrance Service on Church Green, so allow extra time for your journey.

Many thanks for your generosity and support!

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Today is Remembrance Sunday, when we recall those who gave their lives in the First and Second World wars, and other conflicts since then. The Remembrance Service will be taking place on Church Green beginning at 10.45am, and including the 'two-minute' silence at 11.00am.

MISSION APPEAL

Next Sunday we welcome Fr Jude Duruaku, who will be making the annual Mission Appeal on behalf of the Spiritans (Holy Ghost Fathers). He will be speaking at each Mass, and asking for your support.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the Repose of Thomas Parrott who died recently. Thomas's Requiem Mass will be held on Tuesday 10th November at 10.30am and a memorial service will follow at 1.30pm.

NB There will be no 9.15am Mass on Tuesday.

We remember Thomas's family in our prayers at this time.

MONTH OF NOVEMBER – PRAYING FOR THE HOLY SOULS

During the month of November, we especially remember and pray for all our deceased loved ones — the Holy Souls. Parishioners are invited to collect a Holy Souls sheet and envelope from the porch of the Church. Please write the names of your deceased family members and friends on the sheet, place it in the envelope provided, and return it with your offering to the Parish Office, by posting it through the **Presbytery Letterbox** or handing it in to the **Parish Office**. All names received will be included in the

Masses offered for the Holy Souls during November.

MISSION APPEAL – NEXT WEEKEND
The second collection next weekend will be for the Mission Appeal

YOUTH MATTERS
This Saturday the Youth Friendly Mass takes place at 6pm. After Mass the Youth Group meets in the Undercroft for fun, pizza and faith sharing.

FLAME 2027
Westminster Youth Ministry is joining 10,000 young people in the OVO Arena, Wembley, on the **6th of March 2027** for the return of the CYMFed Flame Congress!
Taking place in the same year as World Youth Day, Flame 2027 theme reflects the call to TAKE COURAGE!
To 'Take Courage' is a call to Hope and Courage rooted in our faith of the resurrection- not a passive optimism but a bold confidence grounded in the living presence of Christ!
Featuring epic testimonies, inspiring young talent, music, and so much more, this is not something to miss out on.
Bring your heart saying YES to God's amazing plan to turn us all into saints who can change this world into one of HOPE.
If you would like to attend Flame and join our Confirmation candidates, please contact the Parish Office as soon as possible. We will do our best to secure a ticket for you, subject to availability, as tickets often sell out quickly.
Tickets cost £31 each, and the approximate cost of the coach is £20 per person.

CHECK FIRST
Most of you will be aware that space on our notice boards is very limited! Choices have to be made as to what is displayed. If you have a poster that you want to be displayed, please hand it in to the parish office. Do not display it, without checking first.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY
We are looking for a volunteer who could spare a little time each week to help our Parish. It is not an arduous task and would be a lovely way to offer a little of your time in service to our Parish community. If you feel you might be able to help, please have a word with Canon Anthony after Mass. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

TUTOR NEEDED
A tutor is being sought for a young person, preparing for the Cambridge English exams. If you can assist please contact Canon Dwyer.



PARISH CHRISTMAS FAIR
The Parish Christmas Fair will be in **Saturday 5th December from 12 noon – 3pm at Lourdes Hall.**
We would be grateful for donations of bottles, books, gifts, toys, red and white items, jewellery, raffle prizes and bric-a-brac which can be left in the church porch or parish office.
Nearer the time we will be collecting cakes. Raffle tickets will be on sale after all the masses from today.
Lots of volunteers are needed to set up on Friday 4th December from 4-6pm, run the stalls and clear up on Saturday 5th

November. Please contact Pauline (07803 710 637, pmlmann@hotmail.com) if you are able to help, even if just for an hour or two. All volunteers are welcome.

REPOSITORY
CHRISTMAS
The repository now has a wide range of Christmas items including Advent calendars, cards, cribs, books and candles, all reasonably priced at below that charged in the High Street.

ORDINATION CARDS
There is a selection of "Congratulation on your Ordination" cards for sale in the repository, suitable to be given to Bishop Stephen when he comes to celebrate the 11.30am Mass this Sunday 11th November**.**

EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

ADVENT SERVICE
Sunday 29th November at 6pm followed by refreshments in the Undercroft everyone is very welcome.

REFRESHMENTS –
SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER
Everyone is warmly invited to join us for refreshments in the Undercroft after both the 9.45am and 11.30am Masses on Sunday 6th December. We look forward to seeing you there!

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
Sunday 20th December at 6pm followed by Mulled Wine & refreshments in the Undercroft everyone is very welcome

CONFIRMATION PHOTOS.
Due to our Christmas stock there is limited space in the repository so the unclaimed Confirmation photographs are now available from the parish office.

RECEPTION SCHOOL FORMS
It's that time of year when applications are being made for places in Reception. Parents who require the Certificate of Catholic Practise to be signed, or other confirmation of Mass attendance, can meet with Canon Dwyer on **Wednesday 2nd December in Church from 5.30pm – 6.30pm.**

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING
As part of its commitment to promoting a culture of safeguarding in all that we do, the Diocese requires every volunteer to do online safeguarding training although if you are in a DBS role you should do the online version for DBS volunteers.
We have held two in person sessions so far, attended by 30 non-DBS volunteers: many more have done the online version, thank you all very much.
To accommodate as many of you as possible, Brigid will hold a third in person session in the Undercroft, this time at a weekend during the day and this will be at 2.30 pm on the 13th December. This is designed for volunteers who don't need a DBS for their role but all are welcome and there is no need to pre book, just come along. If you would like to do the online version but haven't had an email from Brigid or can't find what she sent you, please email her at the address at the front of the newsletter; or follow the links from our website.
Thank you again to all our volunteers without whom we could not function: your commitment and support is very much appreciated. If anyone is interested in taking up a role in the parish, do please speak to Canon Anthony.

WAITROSE SHOPPERS – ST DOMINIC'S



St Dominic's School is now in the Community Matters Boxes at the checkouts of Waitrose Harpenden. If you shop there, please pick up a few green tokens at the checkout and pop them in the St Dom's pot. This show of support will enable the school to buy valuable new resources, namely library books & IT equipment. Every token counts so thank you!

CATENIAN NEWS

Upcoming Catenian Events

The **next men's meeting is on 11th Nov** at Harpenden Golf Club. There will be Mass at 7pm, celebrated by Canon Anthony to remember deceased members and friends and families of all those present. There is something very special about holding Mass in a small room. This will be followed by a convivial dinner. All men of the parish are welcome to attend, subject to numbers. The meal cost including wine is £35. Please email dennis@denniscooper.uk by the 4th Nov to book your place.

Our Christmas gathering is on the 9th December and is open to all members of the parish, family, and friends. In addition to enjoying dinner and singing carols, the CEO of Friends of the Holy Land will speak to us about life in this part of the world, which seems entirely appropriate in this season of Christmas. Please make a note in your diaries and begin to think about who will make up your table of 8's or 10's.

MASS WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION TO CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Welwyn Garden City, invites you to a Mass with special attention to children and adults with additional needs, to be celebrated by Fr. Norbert Fernandes on Saturday, 21 November 2026 at 6:00pm, followed by refreshments, Bingo, Raffles, Quiz and Karaoke in the Trinity hall after Mass .
All are most welcome, particularly parishioners and visitors with additional needs, together with their families, friends and carers.

PART-TIME SITE SUPERVISOR VACANCY

The parish of St Alban & St Stephen (next to St Albans's City Station) are looking for a part-time site supervisor to work Monday-Friday 8am - 11am. The successful candidate will play a key role in the care and upkeep of the parish complex. Working independently, as well as with volunteers and contractors, you will help ensure that the site is maintained to a high standard and that health and safety requirements are met. An application form and full job description can be found at https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/site-supervisor-job-ref-895-stals/ Closing date for applications is 11th November. Interviews on 17th November.

FROM THE PARISH OFFICE



The Parish Office is open Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 12.30pm. Any notices for the Newsletter please email the Parish office by lunchtime on Wednesdays.

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.
https://www.catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk/category/welcome/

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

NATIVITY JOURNEY AT WINTERSHALL
Will be performed from the 15th to the 20th of December 2026. Attendees can discover the true meaning of Christmas with an unforgettable immersive event for all the family. They stand with the shepherds, walk with Mary, Joseph and the donkey, journey with Roman soldiers and enter the stable to watch the miracle unfold. Tickets can be booked here:
https://www.wintershall.org.uk/event/the-nativity-journey/
A short introductory video is available here:
https://youtu.be/xoAFCjrJC88?si=ocGQrvQq3dylr5CN

A DAY WITH MARY is taking place at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 7th November 2026 (9.45am to 5.00pm). The Most Reverend Richard Moth, Archbishop of Westminster will be the Celebrant & Preacher at 10.30am Cathedral Mass on that day. Further information is available at https://www.adaywithmary.org/

HARPENDEN EVENING FLORAL GROUP
You are invited to a special floral demonstration with Coral Gardiner, 'Tree-mendous Christmas' on Thursday 12th November, doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm start. Place: Katherine Warington School. Tickets are £18 in advance by email or payable on the door. For more information email:
harpendeneveningfloralgroup@outlook.com

SPACe
Have you been to SPACe? That's Southdown Performing Arts Centre. www.southdownspace.org It is open again after stage 1 of refurbishing and now has an extra toilet and disabled access via a ramp. There is a full programme of events including popular First Friday entertainment with tea and cakes; Jazz; Gilbert and Sullivan; Jeckyll and Hyde and Christmas Carol. Find further details and tickets on the website, flyers at the back of church or through Margaret Cox. SPACe is also seeking to employ a Performing Arts Pioneer.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 7th November **12.00 Noon** **Youth Friendly Mass** **Vigil Mass 6.00pm** **Sunday 8th November** **8.30am** **9.45am** **10.45am** **11.30am**	**Feria** Baptism **32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)** People of the Parish Holy Souls Luke Kealy RIP (Anniversary) Church Green Remembrance Service Deceased of 2 World Ward & Other Conflicts **Zoom Code 883 7014 5568**	**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** **Prayer for the Newly Baptised** Heavenly Father, bless these newly baptised children and guide them always in Your love. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.** **Anniversaries** Luke Kealy RIP Peter Trueland RIP **Prayer for the Holy Souls** Heavenly Father, during this month of November, we remember in a special way all the faithful departed, especially our family members, friends and those who have no one to pray for them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace and rise in glory. **Amen.**
Monday 9th November **9.15am**	**THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA** Peter Trueland RIP (Anniversary)	
Tuesday 10th November **9.15am** **10.30am** **1.30pm**	**St Leo the Great, Pope & Doctor of the Church** **NO MASS** Requiem Mass Thomas Parrott Memorial Service Thomas Parrott	
Wednesday 11th Nov **9.15am**	**St Martin of Tours, Bishop** Rasad Wadge RIP	
Thursday 12th November **11.00am**	**St Josaphat, Bishop & Martyr** Holy Souls	
Friday 13th November	**Feria**	
Saturday 14th November **12 Noon** **Vigil Mass 6.00pm** **Sunday 15th November** **8.30am** **9.45am** **11.30am**	**Feria** Baptism Dennett Family **33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)** Bernice Tominey RIP (1st Anniversary) People of the Parish Tony Mileham RIP (Anniversary) Paul Murphy RIP (Anniversary) **Zoom Code 883 7014 5568**	