



OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

9TH NOVEMBER 2025 THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA (C)



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Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

Presbytery: 1, Kirkwick Avenue, Harpenden AL5 2QH Tel: 01582 712245

Email: anthonydwyer@rcdow.org.uk

Office Administrator & Bookkeeper Mrs Melanie Armitage

The Parish Office is open Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 12.30pm.

Telephone: 01582 712245 or email: harpenden@rcdow.org.uk

Website: www.catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OLoLHarpenden>

Parish Safeguarding Representative Mrs Brigid Brennan

Email: harpdensg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk Tel: 07881 785 299

Parish Pastoral Council ppc@catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk

Communications Team: comms@catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome — the cathedral church of the Pope, the Bishop of Rome. It may seem strange that we celebrate the dedication of a building, but this feast reminds us of something much deeper: that the Church is not merely a structure of stone, but a living temple, built of living people — you and me.

The Lateran Basilica, dedicated in the fourth century, is called *“the mother and head of all churches.”* It stands as a visible sign of the unity of all Christians with the successor of Peter. When we honour this church, we are really honouring the Church herself, the Body of Christ, through which God’s presence dwells in the world.

The readings for today speak of the Temple as the dwelling place of God — where His glory fills the space and where people come to be renewed. Yet in the New Testament, Jesus identifies His own body as the true temple. By His death and resurrection, He makes us part of that living temple. St Paul reminds us: *“You are God’s building... God’s temple is holy, and you are that temple.”*

This feast, then, is an invitation to look at our own parish church with fresh eyes — as a sacred space where heaven touches earth. But it also calls us to look within ourselves and our community. Are we a place where God’s love and mercy dwell? Do our words and actions help to build up this living temple of faith?

As we celebrate this feast, may we renew our commitment to be the Church — a holy people, united in Christ, through whom God’s presence is made visible in the world.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Today is Remembrance Sunday, when we remember, and pray for, all those who died in the two world wars, and other conflicts since. The Harpenden Churches will be having their service on Church Green, starting at 10.50am.



ALL SOULS

During November, we continue to remember, and pray for, all those still on their journey to God. During November a number of Masses will be offered for the Holy Souls. If you would like anyone to be included in these Masses, please collect a sheet and envelope, from the church porch, note the names of those you wish to be prayed for, and return to the Parish Office or post through the Presbytery letterbox.

SWITCH OFF!

Fortunately, we're not too often distracted by telephones ringing during Mass, most people, so it seems, remember to switch off before they arrive in church, which is appreciated by everyone. However, what is also distracting is when a telephone rings, the person being called, leaves the church, takes the call, and then returns to Mass. The message seems to be that the caller is more important, than God whom we have come to worship! Mass is less than an hour a week, we need to get our priorities right!

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND COLLECTION

Next weekend is the annual collection for sick and retired priests in the Diocese. Last year, the Diocese of Westminster provided care to **73** retired priests, at a cost of

£1,270,000. The number of our priests over the age of 65 is steadily increasing. The Diocese depends on your generosity to ensure the needs of our sick and retired Priests are met. If you can, **please take a donation envelope, and return it next weekend.** Alternatively, you can scan the QR code, either on the envelopes or posters at the back of the church and give online.

FOR THE YOUTH OF THE PARISH

The next YOUTH FRIENDLY MASS will be this evening Saturday 8th November at 6.00pm.

Young people from Year 7 to Year 13 and beyond are all very welcome to join and take an active role in this mass: Readers, Welcomers, Musicians, Altar Servants, please join us to make it as youth friendly as possible. Contact the Parish Office if you would like to be involved.



LOL YOUTH GROUP

The next Youth Group for those in the Confirmation Group and those young people in Year 10 and beyond will be this evening Saturday 8th November after the Youth Friendly Mass. Join us for some food, fun and faith sharing.

Date for your diary the December Youth Mass & Youth group will be on Saturday 13th December

ADVENT GROUPS

As in previous years there will be groups meeting during Advent to read, reflect and pray together. The material will be based on 'A Feast for All Peoples - Pathways to Synodality' produced by the Diocesan Agency for Evangelisation in collaboration with the School for Synodality. The Groups are friendly, faith sharing opportunities and held in members' homes. Please consider joining a group and reply, stating your 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice of day and time (morning/afternoon/evening) Please contact:- juliaandnigel057@gmail.com OR marbrethere@googlemail.com We look forward to seeing you beginning the last week of November.

PILGRIMS OF HOPE MASS

A celebration for all who have completed the Westminster Way walking Pilgrimage, and any other form of pilgrimage, during the Holy Year. Mass will be celebrated at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 22nd November at 2pm and refreshments will follow Mass in the Cathedral Hall everyone is welcome to attend.

PARISH CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Parish Christmas Fair will be on Saturday 6th December from 12 noon to 3 pm. **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, and nearer the time, cakes.** Raffle tickets will be on sale after all the Masses from next weekend. Lots of helpers are needed to set up on Friday, 'man' the stalls on Saturday and clear up afterwards. Please contact Marva (07943 [837277](tel:837277) or marva@cpoauk.com) if you are able to help, even for just a couple of hours. All volunteers welcome.

CHRISTMAS IN THE REPOSITORY

The repository is now stocked with a wide selection of Christmas cards, cribs and candles, together with Advent calendars and candles. These are in both traditional and modern designs to suit all tastes. There are also Christmas cards for children to colour and send to relatives together with a selection of Christmas books. Before you go to the High Street, come and see what we have to offer.



PARISH ADVENT SERVICE INVITATION

The choir will lead our Advent Service on Sunday 30th November at 6pm

We are inviting children from Year 3 to Year 13 to come and join with the choristers and adult choir for this service which will include part of Handel's Messiah arranged for young voices. The commitment is four Thursday rehearsals and times as follows:
Thursday 13th November 7pm-8pm
Thursday 20th & 27th November 7pm-8.30pm
Sunday 30th November 4pm-5pm Rehearsal, followed by supervised tea
6pm Advent Service, to last around one hour.

This short choral 'project' is for anyone from Year 3 to Year 13 - to experience singing with the choristers and to explore the world of choral music. No experience needed. Please email Katie Metcalfe to sign up: katiemjack@yahoo.co.uk

ST DOMINIC'S RECEPTION ADMISSIONS

The Admissions process for Reception places for September 2026 will opened soon. If you would like a tour of the school for entry into Reception 2026, please contact the school office on 01582 760047. School Tours will take place on Wednesday 12th November at 9.30am and Wednesday 26th November at 1.30pm For more information please see the school website

<https://www.stdominic.herts.sch.uk>

Canon Dwyer will be available to discuss the possibility of signing form on Tuesday 25th November and Monday 8th December. Please call the Parish Office to book an appointment.

PLACES AVAILABLE AT ST DOMINIC'S

St Dominic Catholic Primary School has spaces available in Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 classes for current academic year and welcomes enquiries from parents of children who are interested in a rounded catholic education that includes academic, religious and social skills. St Dominic's has recently been assessed by OFSTED and rated as OUTSTANDING. Please contact school office on 01582 760047 to arrange visit.

GROWING IN OUR FAITH

There are many ways in which we can grow in our faith, and we all have a duty to ensure we are doing that. The Agency for Evangelisation, of our Diocese, have a number of events such as 'A Week of Accompanied Prayer' and 'How to converse with God', coming up, which help us to do that. In the porch you will find leaflets with more information, or you can email evangelisation@rcdow.org.uk.

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/2023/05/OLOL-Database-New-Parishioner-Form-May-2023.pdf> Completed forms can be emailed or posted into the Parish Office. harpenden@rcdow.org.uk


FROM THE PARISH OFFICE


Any notices for the next Newsletter please email the Parish office by lunchtime on Wednesday. **The Parish Office will be open next week from 9.30am to 12 noon.** Thank you.





FOR THE YOUTH OF THE PARISH HERTFORDSHIRE YOUTH SUMMIT

If you are aged 14–17 — this event is for you! You're invited to the Hertfordshire Summit at *Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Welwyn Garden City*.

 Date: Saturday, 22 November 2025

 Time: 13:00-19:00

 Bring a packed lunch or snacks (no nuts). Parish social after Mass!

 To register your interest, please contact the parish office. Don't miss out — and don't forget to invite your friends! <https://youth.rcdow.org.uk/events/big-hertfordshire-summit/>

NEWMAN ASSOCIATION

Musical Afternoon – All welcome on Sunday 23rd November at 1.30pm for 2pm at Lourdes Hall, to a performance by soprano Alison Langer of classical and popular songs, followed by afternoon tea, Tickets cost £15 to book and for more details please email Madeleine Hopkins at maderic@btinternet.com

CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING

Join us in the Undercroft and enjoy making a beautiful Christmas wreath. There will be three workshops with ten places in each one:

Tuesday 9th December 10am -12 noon

Tuesday 9th December 2pm - 4 pm

Wednesday 10th December 7pm - 9 pm.

Tickets cost £35 and include all materials and refreshments. To secure a place in advance, e-mail

julie_moroney@yahoo.co.uk. Payment can be made by bank transfer (Julie will give you the DWG account details), cheques made payable to WRC DT Harpenden, or cash. Please write your name and 'Wreath Making' on the envelope and hand it into the parish office. All proceeds will go to the ongoing work of the Developing World Group.



HARDYNGE CHOIR

Saturday 15th November at 7.30pm in St Albans Abbey. The Hardyng Choir will join others in the St Albans St Cecilia Festival Society in a concert, conducted by Bill Carslake, of works by Howells (Magnificat), Dvorak (Stabat Mater) and Mendelssohn (Hear My Prayer).

SOUTHDOWN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB (SSCDC)

Looking for fun, fitness, and friendship? Join us for lively evenings of Scottish Country Dancing!



Thursdays, 8–10pm



Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road,

No experience needed – just bring your enthusiasm and enjoy the music, movement, and great company.

For more information, please call

01582 761008.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 22nd November

Hertfordshire Youth Summit

Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Welwyn
Garden City. 1pm – 7pm

Sunday 23rd November

Newman Musical

Afternoon with Alison Langer, in
Lourdes Hall

Sunday 30th November

Advent Service at 6pm in Church

Saturday 6 December:

Christmas Fair at the Lourdes Hall
from 12pm – 3pm.

Sunday 7th December

5pm in Church

The Harpenden Music Foundation,
featuring Alison Langer, presents the
gift of Music at Christmas

**DWG Christmas Wreath Making in the
Undercroft**

Tuesday 9th December

Wednesday 10th December

Saturday 13th December 6pm

Youth Friendly Mass & Youth Group

Sunday 21st December 6pm

Carols by Candlelight

MASS INTENTIONS		
<div>Sat 8th Nov</div> <div>Youth Friendly Vigil Mass</div> <div>6.00pm</div>	<div>Feria</div> <div>THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA</div> <div>Luke Kealy RIP (Anniversary)</div>	<div>PLEASE PRAY FOR:</div> <div>Remembrance Sunday</div> <div>Whispers of Poppies</div> <div>Red whispers sway in the morning light, Soft as memories, strong as the fight. Each bloom a story, each petal a name, Of courage and sacrifice, honor and flame. Through fields they bow, in silence they stay, Reminding us of the price we pay. Yet in their beauty, hope softly grows, Peace blooms eternal where remembrance flows.</div>
<div>Sun 9th Nov</div> <div>8.30am</div> <div>9.45am</div> <div>11.30am</div>	<div>Remembrance Sunday</div> <div>Peter Trueland RIP (Anniversary)</div> <div>People of the Parish</div> <div>Deceased of 2 World Wars & Other Conflicts</div> <div>Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</div>	
<div>Mon 10th Nov</div> <div>9.15am</div>	<div>St Leo the Great, Pope & Doctor of the Church</div> <div>Ignatius Nathan RIP (Anniversary)</div>	
<div>Tues 11th Nov</div> <div>9.15am</div>	<div>St Martin of Tours, Bishop</div> <div>Rasad Wadge RIP</div>	
<div>Wed 12th Nov</div> <div>9.15am</div>	<div>St Josaphat, Bishop & Martyr</div> <div>Holy Souls</div>	
<div>Thur 13th Nov</div> <div>11.00am</div>	<div>Feria</div> <div>Holy Souls</div>	<div>Prayer for the Holy Souls</div> <div>Merciful Father, we remember all the faithful departed. Grant them rest, ease their suffering, and bring them into Your light. May our prayers and love help them on their journey to You, and lead us to rejoice with them in eternal life. Amen.</div>
<div>Fri 14th Nov</div>	<div>Feria</div>	
<div>Sat 15th Nov</div> <div>12.00 Noon</div>	<div>Feria</div> <div>Baptism Nguyen Family</div>	
<div>Vigil Mass</div> <div>6.00pm</div>	<div>33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)</div> <div>Bernice Tominey RIP (Anniversary)</div>	
<div>Sun 16th Nov</div> <div>8.30am</div> <div>9.45am</div> <div>11.30am</div>	<div>People of the Parish</div> <div>Paul Murphy RIP (Anniversary)</div> <div>Holy Souls</div> <div>Zoom Code 883 7014 5568</div>	
<div>CONFESIONS</div> <div>SATURDAYS 10.30AM – 11.00AM & AFTER THE 6.00PM VIGIL MASS</div>		
<div>RIP Anniversaries</div> <div>Luke Kealy RIP</div> <div>Peter Trueland RIP</div> <div>Ignatius Nathan RIP</div>		