



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

20TH NOVEMBER 2022
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
KING OF THE UNIVERSE



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Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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On this last Sunday of the Church's year we celebrate the feast of Christ the King. We celebrate the Kingship of Christ, but what sort of Kingship is it that we're celebrating? Our Gospel reading gives us a vivid picture to reflect on.

The picture is certainly not what we would expect to see illustrating kingship, power and authority. Here are no fine robes but a naked and scarred body. His crown has no jewels, only vicious thorns. On his hands there are no rings of power, just the nails which fix him to a wooden cross - no golden throne. There are no courtiers or servants around him - just two criminals sharing his fate and an assorted crowd of soldiers and ghoulish spectators who taunt and mock him.

In Jesus, we have a king, not like an earthly king, but a king who comes close to us, who shares, and identifies with, our lives. Here is a King who is prepared to suffer alongside us. This is not a King who holds himself aloof from ordinary folk. This is a King who experiences betrayal, savage injustice, brutal cruelty and utter humiliation and yet maintains his dignity and integrity. This is a King who has lived life as we live it, who has died as we must die, but who now lives a new resurrection life. He reassures us and welcomes us into that same resurrection life in his Kingdom where we will know the peace and healing for which we have longed.

Today we celebrate the eternal presence of Christ the King in bread and wine. May his spirit make a difference in our lives bringing us refreshment, peace, the power of love and whatever else our hearts need for the journey that lies ahead.

ADVENT CAROLS

Next Sunday we commence the season of Advent. Despite the busyness of the coming weeks, it is a time for reflection, and prayer, on the Lord's coming. To help us enter into this season there is the Advent Carol Service at 6.00pm. A beautiful service of music and readings to put us in touch, once again, with this holy time.



ALTAR SERVERS

Many of you will be aware that since the Pandemic there has been a big drop in the numbers exercising the ministry of Altar Serving. Altar Servers carry out an important ministry, during Mass, and contribute to the dignified celebration of the Liturgy. More offers, from boys and girls, who have made their First Communion, would be most welcome, as indeed would offers from any of our young people. If you would like your child to serve, please send their details to the Parish Office.



STAYING IN TOUCH

It's very good that since the start of the Pandemic the newsletter has, largely, been distributed by email, and just a few are sent by post. It's also good that a lot of paper is saved by using this method. If you are not receiving the Newsletter by email, and would like to do so, please send your details to the parish office. A few copies are left in the porch, each week, these are for those who don't have an email address. If you receive the Newsletter by email please do not take a hard copy from the porch.

SICK & RETIRED

Thank you for your contributions for the Sick and Retired Priests of our Diocese. £2,214.80 has now been donated, and will contribute to providing for the needs, and care, of the 66 retired priests of our Diocese. If you haven't yet made a contribution, it is not too late to do so, as the Fund will remain



open for a few more weeks. By making a donation you can ensure that these priests, after a lifetime of service, are cared for. Donation envelopes are you available, which need to be completed if you want to 'Gift-Aid' your donation, and you can also contribute via the card machine.

MAKING PREPARATIONS

During November the faithful departed are particularly in our thoughts and prayers. It can also be a time when we contemplate the certainty that one day our lives will come to an end. For those left to make arrangements, it can be helpful if they are aware of what someone's wishes might be, particularly if they are of a different faith, or are unfamiliar with the practices of the Church. If you would like to indicate your wishes, forms are available from the Parish Office. When complete they can be left with one, or more, of the following: Family, Executor or Parish.

HOLY SOULS

During November we continue to pray for, and assist, the Holy Souls with our prayers. During the month, a number of Masses will be offered for the Holy Souls. If you would like anyone to be included in these Masses, please send their names to the presbytery, and they will be added to the Book of Remembrance.

PARISH CHRISTMAS FAIR

The parish Christmas Fair will be on **Saturday 10th December at the new time of 12 noon to 3pm**. We would be grateful for donations of bottles, books, gifts, toys, raffle and tombola prizes, bric-a-brac which can be left in the church porch or the parish office, and nearer the time, cakes. Raffle tickets will be on sale after all of the Masses from this weekend. Any offers of help to set up Friday evening, 'man' a stall on the day or clear up afterwards would be gratefully received. Contact Marva@cpoauk.com or phone 07943 837277.



CHRISTMAS CAROLS

On Sunday 18th December at 6pm, we have Parish Carol Service. A traditional service of carols and readings, by candlelight, followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Undercroft.



CHRISTMAS IN THE REPOSITORY

The repository now has a wide selection of Christmas items, including Cribs, Christmas Tree decorations, Christmas candles, children's Christmas books, Advent calendars, and a selection of Christmas cards, both traditional and modern. Tony Field spoke recently on the importance of including children in the church. This is an opportunity for them to come and view the Christmas stock and choose an Advent calendar or decorations for their tree. Come in and take a look after Mass.



ADVENT DAY TO DAY BOOKS

Advent Day to Day books for adults and children are now available for sale in the repository at a charge of £1 each. These books are an excellent guide to the Advent season.

LINOCUT CHRISTMAS CARDS

Hand printed linocut Christmas cards by Teresa Newham are now available at a cost of £2 each or three for £5. All proceeds to Our Lady of Lourdes Building Fund. Eight designs to choose from. For further details please call Teresa on (01582) 766403 or email marbretherese@googlemail.com.



ST DOMINIC'S SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

It's that time of year again. Reception Admissions for children starting in September 2023. Applications open on 1st November and close on 15th January 2023. Open mornings at St Dominic's school 9.30am -10.30am on 17th November and 22nd November. for more information please see the website



<https://www.stdominic.herts.sch.uk/Our-School/Admissions/> Canon Dwyer will be available in the church, to discuss the possibility of signing Certificate of Catholic Practice (CCP), from 5.30pm to 6.30pm, on Tuesday 22nd November, and Monday 28th November. Please note, the purpose of the CCP is to confirm that the applicant, and their family, are practising Catholics, that is, attend Mass every Sunday and on holydays of obligation.



CAFOD'S WORLD GIFTS
Give a gift of hope this Christmas

In Advent, let's share the promise of hope that has been made to us with our sisters and brothers around the world. You can buy CAFOD's World Gifts for family and friends this Christmas online at <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/> or pick up a catalogue in church. World Gifts such as "super soup kitchens", "trees for life", or "water for a family" will help transform lives in a world filled with challenges.



HOMELESSNESS SUPPORT GROUP

We have now agreed with both NOAH and Keystage to house one each of their donation bins which will soon be delivered and which will be found in the forecourt at the front of the Church.

For NOAH, they ask for clothing (no undergarments, unless they are brand new and packaged); coats and jackets; shoes; toys; and bric-a-brac. You can also Gift Aid your donations for them by filling out a Gift Aid form, copies of which will be kept at the back of church and also in a plastic pocket attached to the bin. The donations will either go directly to those in need, or will be sold in their charity shops to raise income and continue to fund their services.

Keystage have asked for tinned foods and non-perishable foods e.g. cereals, biscuits, chocolate; and socks, gloves, scarves and toiletries.

Thank you all so much for your ongoing support which is much appreciated by both NOAH and Keystage. If anyone is interested in becoming



more involved with the group, please contact Monika Westgate at monikamoko@hotmail.com.

SING FOR - CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR

For those who fancy a sing to continue our fundraising for NOAH and Keystage Housing, and to add sparkle to a community event ... for family and friends to take part too, no joining fees but there will be bucket collections at the event itself.



Next Friday 25th November 7pm -8.30pm
Rehearsal in the Undercroft
Saturday 26th November 4.30pm-5.15pm
Christmas Singing at the Engineer Pub, St John's Road as part of their Christmas Market.
Please email Katie Metcalfe katiemjack@yahoo.co.uk so I know how many copies of the music I need!

COME FOR A DRINK

Some parishioners who are also Catenians are meeting for an hour for a social drink in The Old Cock Inn, Harpenden, at 6-45/7pm this coming Tuesday. You are welcome to join us , so just turn up to join fellow Catholics simply enjoying a drink together.

START CHRISTMAS WITH A CRACKER

Looking forward to a lockdown free Christmas this year, then start with a party. Join the Catenian family and friends Christmas dinner at Harpenden Golf Club at 7pm on 7thDecember. Local Catenians are predominantly from our parish so you will know virtually everyone present. Good food, good company, with entertainment on top. Tickets are priced at less than cost at £35 per head to include a three-course meal and wine. So come on, join in, have some fun.



There will be a seating plan, so you can book a single ticket, any multiple or even your own table of eight or ten . Don't let the past drag you down, break out and book with John Williams now at john.williams58@btinternet.com before you forget.

THE HARPENDEN TRUST

Is looking for volunteers to help with its annual Christmas appeal collection. If you can spare a few hours this Dec/Jan then please contact the office: 01582 460457
admin@theharpendentrust.org.uk

ST ELIZABETH'S MUCH HADHAM

Governors are being sought for St Elizabeth's School or St Elizabeth's College at Much Hadham. To be considered as a prospective Governor, please contact Bishop Paul McAleenan at: paulmcaleenan@rcdow.org.uk. More information about St Elizabeth's centre can be found at <https://www.stelizabeths.org.uk/>

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL CELEBRATION CONCERT

Christmas Celebration The annual Christmas Celebration concerts at Westminster Cathedral will take place this year on Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st December. For tickets, scan the QR code on the poster in the porch or visit www.westminstercathedral.org.uk

WINTERSHALL NATIVITY JOURNEY

Showings of the Wintershall Nativity journey will take place from 14th to 19th December. Tickets and further information are available at www.wintershall.org.uk or by calling 01483 892167.

SING FOR ...4 JANUARY 2023

Please put the dates in the diary - something to look forward to in January ! Adults and children are invited for this charity-fundraising singing project - more details to follow but there is a choice of Tuesday OR Sunday rehearsals.

Tuesday 10th January 7.30-9.00pm Undercroft

Tuesday 17th Jan, 24th Jan, 31st Jan
AND to widen the opportunity for more/ families to take part in this project :

Sunday 15th January 3.00-4.00pm Undercroft
22nd Jan, 29th Jan

Performance SUNDAY 5th FEB 2pm Rehearsal, 3pm CONCERT

Please email katiemjack@yahoo.co.uk to book a place £35 for the project per family

MASS INTENTIONS NEXT WEEK

Sat 19 th Nov	feria OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNVERSE (C) 6.00pm Brian Armitage RIP
Sun 20 th Nov	OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNVERSE (C) 8.30am Winifred Nicholls RIP (Anniv) 9.45am People of the Parish/Holy Souls 11.30am Paul Murphy RIP (Anniv) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568.
Mon 21 st Nov	THE PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 9.15am Michael Chapman RIP (Recently Deceased)
Tue 22 nd Nov	St Cecilia, Virgin & Martyr 9.15am Holy Souls
Wed 23 rd Nov	feria 9.15am Holy Souls Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Thur 24 th Nov	St Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest & Companions, Martyrs 11.00am Theresa McCloskey (Spec Ints)
Fri 25 th Nov	feria
Sat 26 th Nov	feria 10.30am - 11.30am First Reconciliation 12.00 Noon Baptism Wicks Family 6.00pm 1 ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A) Sadie Beirnes RIP (Anniv)
Sun 27 th Nov	1 ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A) 8.30am People of Parish/Holy Souls 9.45am Mary Kelly RIP (1 st Anniv) 11.30am Erroll Yates RIP (Anniv) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568. 6.00pm Advent Service - Choir



**CONFESSIONS - SATURDAYS 10.00AM - 10.30AM & 7.00PM - 7.30PM
(NO MORNING CONFESSION ON 26TH NOVEMBER)**