



OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

**EASTER SUNDAY
OF THE RESURRECTION
(A)
12TH APRIL 2020**



**MAY THIS FEAST OF EASTER BE A TIME IN WHICH WE ARE
RENEWED IN HOPE, OUR FAITH MADE STRONGER,
AND FILLED WITH JOY!**

EASTER

In some ways it may be a little difficult to feel that we have arrived at Easter Sunday.



Usually, this great feast is preceded by our participation in Holy Week, and those extra visits to church. And we might also feel that we have been distracted from Lent by the restrictions and worry of Coronavirus. However, it would not be untrue to say that the Coronavirus has been our Lenten penance, with all the anxiety and worry that it has brought. But we have reached Easter Sunday, and we have participated through sharing in the celebration of Mass, albeit virtually, and through, no doubt, in a variety of other ways, which have kept us focused on this most holy time of the year. Despite everything being so different, and without our traditional celebrations, we can still celebrate Easter. We can still celebrate Easter because Jesus has risen, he is alive and with us always. That's the truth we live with, that's the truth our faith proclaims, that's the truth that gives us hope even in these dark times. We need to celebrate Easter because it gives us light and hope – the light and hope we need – the light and hope that comes from continuing to celebrate the reality that Jesus, our Risen Lord, is alive and risen, walking beside us. We are not alone, we are not abandoned, Jesus is Risen. Happy Easter!

LIVESTREAMING

We are hoping to livestream the following liturgies, on Zoom, during this coming week:



Day	Time	Zoom Code
Easter Vigil	8.30pm	250-608-103
Easter Sunday	11.30am	249-755-767
Tuesday	10.00am	757-267-766
Thursday	10.00am	655-519-162
2 nd Sunday of Easter	11.30am	379-269-692

Please see the attachment, or parish website, for information on how to view.

CHURCH CLOSED

Following the directions from both the Cardinal and the Government, the church will continue to remain closed. I know how disappointing this is, and

particularly, at a time, when the church is the place we go to in search of peace and solace.

MASS READINGS

If you would like to have the readings for Mass, you will find them at:

<https://www.universalis.com/mass.htm> and <https://us.magnificat.net/free>.

RECONCILIATION/EASTER DUTIES

In these extraordinary circumstances of the Covid-19 (coronavirus) pandemic when we are unable to gather together to celebrate the great feasts of Holy Week and Easter, Cardinal Vincent explains, in this video:

<https://rcdow.org.uk/cardinal/news/cardinal-obligation-to-easter> that the obligation to our Easter Duties to go to Confession and receive Holy Communion is removed from us. Instead, he says, we can make an Act of Perfect Contrition to express our deep sorrow at our sins against the goodness of God, and leads us in prayer.

PRAYING TOGETHER

In times such as this, it is important that we 'pray without ceasing'. Each of us will pray in our own ways, at whatever time suits us. Although we cannot, physically, come together to pray we could try to pray at the same time each day wherever we are, and so, as a parish, be united in prayer. So, each evening at 7.30pm it would be good if everyone in the parish could pause to pray, maybe to use a prayer that all the family knows, or perhaps a decade, or more, of the Rosary. In that way we can be united in a prayer for ourselves and our country, and all who are affected by Coronavirus.



SUPPORTING EACH OTHER

As mentioned, a couple of weeks ago, during this time it is important that we try to remain as united as is possible, even though we can't physically be together. With this in mind a group of parishioners, have been asked to telephone other parishioners, simply to see how they are, and if there is any help that they might need.



Although we can't be together, we still share the same faith, and belong to the same parish, this is one way in which we express those realities.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

In the present circumstances, we cannot receive Holy Communion but we can make a Spiritual Communion. Set aside some time either alone, or better with your family. Turn off the tv or radio.



Firstly: Make the sign of the Cross.

Then: Make an act of Contrition.

Then say: My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Finish by making the Sign of The Cross

FOR THE CHILDREN

In addition to what we do as families, it is good if the children can be encouraged to engage in activities which



remind them that it is Sunday. There are various online activities inviting reflection on the Sunday Gospels: <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Kidz-Zone>; <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Resources-for-school-closures>;

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturg>

Two American websites, offer activities and crafts for children & families:

<http://catholicmom.com/2020/03/21/when-you-cant-get-to-mass-15-at-home-resources-for-families/>

Another website with Catholic arts & crafts for Lent & Easter and more: <https://www.catholicicing.com/>

MASS INTENTIONS

Canon Dwyer is continuing to celebrate Mass sometimes in private, and at others times, this will be livestreamed; he will continue to offer some of the Masses already requested. Some will be moved to other dates. If you would like to move a Mass Intention please contact Melanie by email.

PARISH SURVEY

A few weeks ago, as part of our parish mission of 'Seeking Christ Together', your help was requested. We are conducting a parish survey as it is essential that we obtain the views of everyone, irrespective of where they are in their journey so that we have a benchmark of views and opinions. Our hope is that EVERYONE would complete this survey including all

our young people. Thank you to everyone who has already completed the survey. We have now passed the closing date, but, given the extraordinary times we are living through we have decided to extend that by a few weeks. There are a number of ways that you can access the survey, a paper version, obtainable by contacting the parish office, on-line at Survey.SeekingChristTogether.com, or from your mobile phone, if you have a QR-enabled camera, or a QR Reader app on your phone you can scan the QR code. Please note the on-line version allows more room for comments. Any questions you may have please email dr.harpendenlol@gmail.com. We really would like to hear from everyone, so if you haven't yet completed the survey, it would certainly be appreciated if you would take just 15 minutes, or so, to do so. Thank you, the DR Development Team



ST ALBANS FOODBANK

Amidst the worry and stress of Coronavirus it has been good to hear of the different good works taking place, as people support each other. The present situation means that we won't be able to do the usual collections of long-life UHT milk on the 1st Sunday of each month, for the St Albans and District Foodbank. The Foodbank is still in need of our support. Donations can be made in person at the branches of Sainsburys and Waitrose in Harpenden. Anything you wish to donate will be much appreciated. For more information please visit:

<http://www.stalbansdistrict.foodbank.org.uk> for up to date information of what is needed most.



FACEBOOK PAGE

While we are unable to gather together for Mass, it is important that we are able to continue to be in contact. Hopefully you will receive the parish newsletter, and recently we have set up a parish Facebook page, Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden.



HELPFUL WEBSITES

There are many websites offering information and support at this time Among them are:

The Diocese of Westminster

rcdow.org.uk

The Bishops' Conference

cbcew.org.uk



The National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham

Walsingham.org.uk

Lent in Isolation

lentinisolation.com

LUTON CATENIANS

Local Catenians are taking the lead to donate money to NOAH who will use it to support vulnerable families. At their recent Corona Response Group Meeting there was an example of the plight of three families with 13 children among them made destitute with no income. NOAH will support them and extend its services to others in the community. Parishioners are invited to join this initiative by emailing

peter.ward11@nhs.net

for information. Anything you give, no matter how small will be greatly appreciated. NOAH website is <https://www.noahenterprise.org/who-we-are/vision-mission-values/>

DEVELOPING WORLD GROUP

The parish's DWG has funded two projects already this year. The first (for £487) in January was to supply reusable sanitary kits to school girls in Malawi; while the second was to fund a new borehole to provide clean water to nearly 4,000 people in Uganda (we sent £4,435 for this in February). Our goal now is to raise £2,850 to fund a business/financial training programme (and capital) for a number of vulnerable people, mostly women, in Kisumu Kenya. The small charity, Just Small Change (see its website), which is organising this work, has provided persuasive evidence of the course's positive impact on participants' businesses and thus on the large extended families that they support. Looking ahead, the poorest countries are likely to be hit very hard by the Coronavirus both directly and indirectly, and we will focus on responding effectively to their changing needs. Please see updated DWG section of the website for more information on recent work, donating etc. Thank you for your continued support.



MAGNIFICATE ONLINE FREE

To help us follow the Mass, daily prayers, reading, etc. at home, and also keep up with the weekly church news, we are offering free access to Magnificat online.

For free access to Magnificat online, log in at www.magnificat.com/free

LOURDES ONLINE

Although the Sanctuary at Lourdes is closed, the Priests are still praying constantly at the grotto. You can watch, or for a small donation make a prayer intention or have a candle lit at the Sanctuary of Lourdes. Their website is <https://www.lourdes-france.org/en>

NEWSLETTERS

If you would like the newsletter sent to you electronically please send your email address to harpenden@rcdow.org.uk.

If you know of someone without a computer, please pass on a copy of the newsletter. If they would like the newsletter to be posted, please let Melanie know.

CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS ONLINE

Due to the Coronavirus many of the Catholic Diocesan newspapers have been put on one website



www.ChurchPaper.co.uk so you can all stay in contact with the Church and Catholic community. There are over 600 editions of the following newspapers: A&B News, Cardiff People, Catholic East Anglia, The Vine, UCM, Reach- Catholic Schools Paper, more newspapers are expected to be added in the coming weeks.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

11th April
HOLY SATURDAY

8.30pm People of the Parish

Easter Vigil will be Livestreamed at 8.30pm Zoom Code 250-608-103



12th April
EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION (A)

11.30am People of the Parish

Mass will be Livestreamed at 11.30am Zoom Code 249-755-767



13th April **Monday within the Octave of Easter**
Sr Regina (Sepc Ints)

14th April **Tuesday within the Octave of Easter**
Richard Strommer RIP (Anniv)
Mass will be live streamed at 10.00am 757-267-766

15th April **Wednesday within the Octave of Easter**
John & Winifred Middlehurt RIP

16th April **Thursday within the Octave of Easter**
Nigel Newham RIP
Mass will be live streamed at 10.00am 655-519-162

17th April **Friday within the Octave of Easter**

18th April **Saturday within the Octave of Easter**
Sr Eileen (Spec Ints)

19th April **SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER DEVINE MERCY (A)**
People of the Parish
Mass will be live streamed at 11.30am 379-269-692

CONFESSIONS - There will be no Confessions