



# OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH

A LIVESIMPLY and FAIRTRADE PARISH

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**SUNDAY, 17 OCTOBER 2021 — 29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**PSALTER WEEK 1, Lectionary Cycle B**

## THE HEIGHTS AND THE DEPTHS

We are used to the narrative of conquest and victory – people scaling the heights, arriving at the pinnacle of their powers, triumphing over adversity and all that jazz. We've probably been genetically predisposed to construct stories in that way ever since the first humans told stories around the camp-fire after the hunt. Survival of the fittest does have a basis in our prehistory, although the supremacy of Homo Sapiens actually came about through our sheer lack of adaptation to our environment. Being neither fastest nor fittest nor strongest, ingenuity and guile was our way to the top of the food-chain. Somehow, it worked – and now we risk the ultimate defeat, destroying our common home through our own capacity to tame the wilderness ...

It's not surprising that the story of Jesus is also told in terms of triumph and ascent, as in today's second reading (Heb 4.14-16). In him, we're told, *"we have the supreme high priest who has gone through to the highest heaven."* Yes, he has conquered sin and death, broken every limitation, ascended to *"the throne of grace"*. But, this is different from every other tale of human conquest. He does not leave behind the struggle and the brokenness that preceded this accomplishment. He takes it with him: *"For it is not as if we had a high priest who was incapable of feeling our weaknesses with us; but we have one who has been tempted in every way that we are, though he is without sin."* It is our impermanent and imperfect humanity which is raised up to the highest place, entirely by God's grace ...

So from Day One, the Gospel could never fit into our normal categories of how to climb the greasy pole of success, because Jesus came to take the downward path; to make himself *"last of all"*; to serve and not be served; to give, not save, his life as ransom for all. His sovereign liberty was to surrender everything, to make of his whole life this prayer to his Father: *"Your Kingdom come!"*

Our own conversion will consist in this: letting Christ change our own narrative of success and our own understanding of ourselves. Winning is no longer about sweeping aside the opposition and battering our way through. Rather, we somehow learn that our flaws have been taken up into a bigger story; our weaknesses drawn into the life of God. Our natural fear of insignificance is countered by discovering that nothing and no one is insignificant. Our freedom comes through getting our hands dirty and living hidden lives of service. And peace is ours when we stop praying: *"My will be done!"* and say instead *"Your Kingdom come!"* - **Fr. Rob**

### MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

**Streamed Masses can be viewed at:** <https://bit.ly/2Lu1sN4>

Sat 6pm People of the Parish

Sun 9am Private Intention  
10.45am Anne Marie Godwin RIP

**Mon 9.15am** Joseph Moneiro RIP

Tue 9.30am Canon Richard Hearn RIP

**Wed 9.30-10am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Rosary**

Thu 9.30am Special Intention

Fri 9.30am **Morning Prayer**

Sat 6pm Edward Devlin RIP

Sun 9am People of the Parish  
10.45am Private Intention

**We commend to the Lord** all who have died recently, especially Sadie Ruddy and John Joseph Power, whose anniversaries of death fall at this time.

**Parish Prayer Intentions For October:** That we may each live gratefully, thanking God for the fruits of the earth and of human ingenuity; that political leaders attending the COP26 Climate Change Conference in Glasgow in early November may act courageously to safeguard the natural world and protect those most threatened by Climate Change; for prisoners and their families and for the victims of crime; for Pope Francis' prayer intention for October: *"that every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavour of the Gospel."*

**Prayers needed?** A book of prayer intentions is placed on the altar at all masses. If you'd like a name or intention added to the book, phone/e-mail Fr. Rob.

**Keeping Each Other Safe:** Be mindful that the pandemic is not over and that some are very vulnerable, even after being 'double-jabbed'. **Sanitise** your hands on entry, **wear a mask** unless exempt (especially when singing) and **give people space**. We're all working together to keep OLOL covid-secure. If you have any concerns e: [office@olchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@olchurch.org.uk) / t: 020 8398 2191.

**Our First Communion Children** meet this Saturday (October 16) from 4.45pm.

**Coffee After Mass:** Please stay for a cuppa after 9am and 10.45am masses as a really easy way of creating community and offering hospitality (and come to admire the newly redecorated Stevenson Room!). We still need **willing volunteers** to take responsibility week by week, setting up beforehand and clearing away afterwards. Easy sign-up after mass or e-mail the office.

**Junior Church:** Our Children's Liturgy continues this weekend at **10.45am Sunday** mass for children who have not yet begun preparing for First Communion. We'll be very focused on keeping this Covid-secure. If you have queries, contact [juniorchurch@olchurch.org.uk](mailto:juniorchurch@olchurch.org.uk) or talk to Nicola O'Donnell or Nora Cleeve.

**Finding Wholeness and Prayers for Healing:** *Churches Together In The Dittons* are holding a service at St. Christopher's church, Claygate Lane, Hinchley Wood **this Sunday at 4pm**. All are welcome.

Last Sunday Pope Francis opened '**The Synodal Path**' - a two year journey of listening to the Spirit and to each other at every level of Church life to discern the way forward for our mission and ministry - and this Sunday services in every cathedral around the world begin the local process, including our own at Arundel at 3pm.

**Monday** is the feast of **St Luke**, St. Paul's '*beloved physician*' (Col 4.14) and evangelist. Mass is at **9.15am** so that a class from St. Paul's school can attend. This week very appropriately we welcome **Class 1L** to worship with our daily congregation.

**Tuesday** is the Solemnity of **St. Philip Howard**, Martyr and Patron of the Diocese.

**Taketime meditations** are a calm, compassionate space to meet God. Our Taketime group also offers the opportunity to explore your faith with others. 8-8.45pm **every Wednesday** via zoom. Please email [meditations@olchurch.org.uk](mailto:meditations@olchurch.org.uk) for the zoom link. Go to <https://taketime.org.uk/> to try the meditations at home.

**Next Sunday** is **World Mission Sunday** - with a collection taken for *Missio*, the papal missionary charities which support the work of the churches in the poorest countries.

**Pressing Re-Start at OLOL:** A meeting to review the results of the recent parish survey took place last Tuesday (Oct. 5). It included learnings from in-depth interviews of a number of parishioners by Dan Iacob. The meeting was attended by 22 parishioners already involved in leadership of parish life and activities or interested in getting more involved. The learnings shared in the meeting focused on the need to encourage everyone to rejuvenate and grow in their relationship with Christ, who is the source of the '*Joyful Mission*' of which our Parish Purpose statement speaks. This involves seeking encounter with Christ not only at Mass (central though this be) but also by regular prayer; so we are trying out different prayer and worship activities, to identify what is suitable for everyone. We expect this to help us build a strong and vibrant community and parish life and to support others through charity. The next stage is further to define the strategies and the leadership teams that will help us to build up our parish life at Our lady of Lourdes. The group will meet again on November 16. If you would like to feed in further suggestions regarding the road ahead, e: [olchurchsuggestions@gmail.com](mailto:olchurchsuggestions@gmail.com)

**Do you wish to be confirmed?** A journey of preparation will begin after Christmas for young people in Year 10 or above, and forms for signing up are available in the Narthex (welcome area). Please return completed forms by **10 November**. Any adult wishing to celebrate the sacrament can also be helped to prepare in a more age-appropriate way.

**First Communion 2022 Preparation:** Our next course of preparation for Holy Communion for children in Year 3 or above begins in January. **Sign-up forms** are available in the narthex - please return by half-term.

**It's not too late** to join in the **Mary's Mantle Consecration:** A 46-day self-directed spiritual retreat for busy people, built on daily recitation of the rosary, weekly fasting and an act of personal consecration, which we began on Thursday (Feast of the Rosary) - a journey of 46 days (ending on the Feast of Christ the King) during which we pledge to pray 5 decades of the rosary and read a short reflection every day and to fast once a week (from bread and water to meat-free diet, depending on your circumstances and health). If you'd like to receive the daily reflection, e: [olmarysmantle@gmail.com](mailto:olmarysmantle@gmail.com). If you'd like to join the **WhatsApp** group, text 07900 138492.

**Assisted Dying Bill:** Baroness Meacher's attempt to introduce Euthanasia in the UK has its second reading in the House of Lords on Friday. If you wish to oppose it write urgently to Rt. Hon. Dominic Raab MP at House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. For more information see <https://www.carenotkilling.org.uk/>, <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/assisted-dying-bill-2021/>

**Preparing for COP26:** As we prepare for the international climate conference in Glasgow in November, we'll give a few suggestions of things we can do to make a difference (on the principle of 'Think globally, act locally'). This week, consider how you can **prepare your garden for wildlife to survive winter** <https://bit.ly/3Alt89Y>

**Book Review:** *Gift of the Red Bird* by Paula D'Arcy is the best story of a person's spiritual journey that I have read. Beautiful, encouraging and uplifting; it's a story full of hope, reminding us not only of our need to learn and relearn basic truths but of God's patience in guiding us. I can't recommend it highly enough. *Submitted by J. Bishop*

**Duke of Edinburgh volunteering opportunity** with Junior Church, Sundays at our 10.45am mass. Contact Nicola at [juniorchurch@olchurch.org.uk](mailto:juniorchurch@olchurch.org.uk) or 07539835686.

**Spanish Gold:** The Ripieno Choir's next concert will hear All Saints Church resound with evocative music from Spanish composers, all with links to Renaissance Seville. 7.30pm Saturday, **20 November** at All Saints Church, Chestnut Avenue, Weston Green. Tickets £18 in advance; £20 on the day, £5 for under 18s. Group discounts available. Book at [www.ripienochoir.org.uk/tickets](http://www.ripienochoir.org.uk/tickets) or e: [vox@ripienochoir.org.uk](mailto:vox@ripienochoir.org.uk) or call 020 8399 2714.