

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

19th/20th September 2020

Fr Brian writes....

Gospel Reading: Matthew 20:1-16



Strike! All out, brothers and sisters! The parable of the workers in the vineyard appears to be an offence to common sense. Those who work a longer day ought to be paid more than those who work just an hour or two, surely? When viewed in this way, the landowner seems unfair. That is because we are reading into the parable our own preconceived notions of how fairness and equality should be weighed and measured.

A close read shows us that the landowner paid on the terms that were negotiated. The landowner, it seems, has acted completely justly. The parable goes beyond that, however, and we come to see that the landowner is not simply just, he is radically just. He has given those who laboured in the field for a full day their due pay. But he has also given a full-day's wage to those who worked only a single hour. No one is cheated, but a few receive abundantly from the landowner just as we receive from God more than what is merely justifiable or due. God, like the landowner, is radically just and abundantly generous. The workers who complain are made to look foolish as they lament the fact that landowner has made all workers equal. Indeed, what more could one ask for than to be treated as an equal at work or anywhere else?

The parable reminds us that although God owes us nothing, he offers abundantly and equally. We are occasionally tempted to think that our own actions deserve more reward, more of God's abundant mercy, than the actions of others. But God's generosity cannot be quantified or partitioned into different amounts for different people. When we think that way, we are trying to relate to God on our terms rather than to accept God's radically different ways.

Hemel West Parish

Hemel West

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Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday 12 noon. Items for
Hemel West please send to:

shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk

Hemel West Notices

Welcome to the parish of Hemel West. If you are new to the parish, please make yourself known to Fr Brian, by speaking to him after Mass or contacting him via email.

Thank you for your best wishes, cards and prayers, as I recover from my recent stroke. I'm very slowly recovering and learning to deal with the fatigue. Fr Brian.

First Holy Communion: The First Holy Communion Children who were prepared over the last few months will be joining us at Mass from 26/27 September. Places at all Masses will be reduced. Thank you in advance for your understanding. **Please note if you have booked a place for your child's for First Holy Communion Mass, you will not receive an automatic email to confirm it has been booked.**

Certificates of Catholic Practice: If you have submitted a request for a Certificate of Catholic Practice by 12pm Saturday 19th September, then I have signed them and they can be collected from the Parish Office behind the Parish Centre on Monday 21st September from 3pm until 5.30pm or Wednesday 23rd September from 10.30am until 3pm. I will sign more next week and let you know when they will be available. Please note that I only sign Certificates of Catholic Practice for practising Catholics who attend weekly Sunday Mass (with exceptions for sickness, emergencies etc) in the parish of Hemel West and also, if you attended Sunday Mass regularly prior to the lockdown. You can download the form from <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempssteadwest/certificate-of-catholic-practice/>. When you have completed the form and the accompanying request form, they should be posted through the Presbytery letterbox at 186 St Johns Road.

Baptism Preparation Classes: These will resume on 24th September via on-line video conferencing. To book go to <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempssteadwest/events/baptism-preparation-west/>. This 1.5-hour internet video meeting is for Mums and Dads to understand the obligations of being parents to a baptised child. The format is to review the rite of baptism so that they know what will happen on the day. And more importantly, know what is expected afterwards. When booking please provide an email address and not a telephone number as your contact, to enable me to send the link to you the day before. Please ignore the Covid-19 information as this is an internet meeting.

CAFOD's Harvest Fast Day Friday 9th October: This is fast approaching. Let's Start thinking of how you can support CAFOD.

David Turner, Virtual London Marathon - Go David!

On Sunday 4th October, David will complete 26.2 miles up and down the pavement on Blackbirds Moor (beside Ss Mary & Joseph Church). The distance will be measured by an app and David will have 24 hours in which to complete the run. Your sponsorship for Mother's Village Orphanage in Bosnia Herzegovina would be greatly appreciated. Please visit David's fund-raising page at <https://bit.ly/32Bw7Oh> to donate and tick the gift aid box if you are a tax payer. Alternatively contact Pat Henry on pat@arthurmc.com or phone 01442 391087 to make other arrangements. Thank you for your generosity over the years.

Volunteer Stewards for Mass: Are you able to volunteer to steward at any of the week day or weekend Masses? We are also looking for volunteers on a Monday, from 2pm until 4pm to cover for private prayer. If you are able to help please email shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk with your contact details.

Church Opening Times for Private Prayer: Our Boxmoor church will be open for private prayer on a Monday between 2pm-4pm.

Face Covering: Please note that it is **compulsory** to wear a face covering to church. We all know how uncomfortable these can be, but it is vital that we play our part in making the Church a safe place for everyone to come and worship. Thank you all for your understanding.

To attend Mass, you will need to book. Please do not come without booking as you may be refused entry to the church, I am afraid that's the way we have to operate for the time being. You can book by going to this link: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempssteadwest/events/> If you do not use the internet then you can ring our Parish Administrator Shirley Bailey, Monday to Friday, on 01442 391 759 and she will book a Mass for you. If there is availability. All Masses will be at Ss Mary & Joseph Church, Boxmoor.

The obligation to attend Mass on a Sunday remains suspended at present. The Live streamed Sunday Mass from St Mark's church will continue and you can participate in it as from 4pm every Saturday, when it is recorded 'live.' It is also available at any time after that. Just go to www.hemelcatholic.org/mass-live and you will find the Sunday Mass available on demand.

Standing Order Mandate Form: If you would like to make a regular contribution to the Parish of Hemel West, the standing order forms can be found at the back of the church. You can also make a bank transfer to HSBC Bank. Account number: 31095048 sort code: 40-05-20.

Offertory Envelopes: If you normally make your offertory donation by envelope, your new envelopes are now available from the parish office to collect.

Parish Centre and St Joseph's Hall: Please note that the key safe code has been changed for both halls. If you need the key safe code please email shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk.

Halls Phone: Please only call the halls mobile phone for hall bookings or enquires. If you call this number for any parish matters it will not be responded to. For parish enquires the number to call is 01442 391759.

We pray for the sick: Fr Brian & Andy Kemp

The link to the live-streamed Mass is: <http://www.hemelcatholic.org/mass-live/>. If you use social media there is also the parish Twitter feed @hemelwest.

Mass Times and Intentions this week

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| (BM) Ss Mary & Joseph Boxmoor, (SM) St Mark, (ORD) Ordinariate | |
| Sat 19 th | 4pm (SM) live-streamed from St Mark's 6pm (BM) Paddy Nevin RIP |
| Sun 20 th | 9am (BM) Pro Populo 10.30am (BM) Deceased Members of the Heatley & Franek Families 12 noon (BM) Peggy Killeen RIP ANNIV |
| Mon 21 st | No Mass |
| Tues 22 nd | No Mass |
| Wed 23 rd | 10am (BM) Alison Swann (RIP) |
| Thur 24 th | No Mass |
| Fri 25 th | 10am (BM) Peter Moore 4th RIP ANNIV |
| Sat 26 th | 4pm (SM) live-streamed from St Mark's 6pm (BM) Nigel Read RIP ANNIV |
| Sun 27 th | 9am (BM) Pro Populo 10.30am (BM) 12 noon (BM) Sheila Keegan RIP ANNIV |

Mass Intentions: There are a number of spaces available for intentions at our Masses. If you would like a Mass offered for a deceased family member or a friend, or indeed for any other intention, let Shirley know by emailing her at: shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk or calling her on 01442 391 759. It is customary to make an offering and the diocese recommends £10. However, I am not expecting an offering and it can be made at your discretion.

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| <p>Year of the Word Gospel readings from the daily Masses for week, beginning Monday 21st September:</p> <p>Year of the Word Mon: Luke 8:16 -18 Tues: Lk.8 :19-21 Wed: Lk. 9:1-6 Thurs: Lk. 9: 7- 9 Fri: Lk. 9: 18-22 Sat: Lk.9:43-45 Sunday: Matthew. 21:28-32</p> |
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"If you want God to hear your Prayers,
 Hear the voice of the poor.
 If you wish God to anticipate your wants
 provide those of the needy,
 without waiting for them to ask you."
 (Prayer of St Thomas of Villanova)

| Parish Administrator Office Hours | |
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| Telephone cover for East and West | Hemel West Office Hours |
| Monday 12 noon- 6pm | Monday 3pm-6pm |
| Tuesday 9.30am - 3.30pm | Closed |
| Wednesday 9.30am- 3.30pm | Wednesday 9.30-3.30pm |
| Thursday 9.30am-3.30pm | Thursday 9.30am-12.30pm |
| Friday 9.30am-3.30pm | Friday 9.30am-1.30pm |