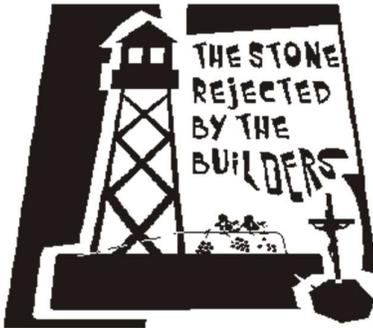


CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

3rd/4th October 2020



Fr Brian writes....

This Sunday's Gospel Reading *Matthew 21:33-43*

The text from Isaiah 5, 1-7 was one that the religious authorities and others would have known well. It is our first reading. The Pharisees would have understood that the vineyard represented Israel, the landowner represented God, the servants represented the prophets, and the bad tenants represented them, the religious leaders. Matthew names the religious leaders as Pharisees and chief priests. Clearly this Gospel shows the tension that was mounting between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders who thought that his message was dangerous, even radical and subversive to the religious oligarchy of the ruling elites at the time. This Gospel reminds us of the importance of listening to God's word. God speaks to us in many ways—through Scripture, through our Church tradition, in our Church's teaching, and through modern-day prophets in the secular field as well, especially those working in the interests of Justice and Peace. Are we attentive and receptive to God's word to us through these messengers? Who are our modern-day prophets? It could be you!

Hemel West Parish

Hemel West

Fr Brian McMahon

Parish Priest

The Presbytery,
186 St Johns Rd, HP1 1NR.

t: 01442 391759

e: brianmcmahon@rcdow.org.uk

Rev Simon Wright

Deacon

t: 01442 391759

e: simonwright@rcdow.org.uk

www.hemelcatholic.org

**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.

Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday 12 noon. Items for Hemel West please send to: shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk

CAFOD Fast Day Friday 9th October: This Weekend CAFOD Fast Day Envelopes will be available at all Masses **to take home and return next weekend 10th /11th October**. Envelopes can be placed into the collection basket at the end of Mass. You can also donate on line at cafod.org.uk/give or you can donate by text at Text CAFODNOINFO to 70085 to donate £10. Please be as generous as you are able to, and thank you.

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 contacting him on 01442 391 759.

Let's Help Stop the Spread of Coronavirus: Please download the NHS COVID-19 app and scan the QR code to check into church. The code can be found above the hand sanitizer in the porch.

Private Prayer: Please note that the church will not be open for private prayer on **Monday 5th October.**

October is the Month of the Holy Rosary! The rosary is a great way to honour Mary the Mother of God. She is the Mediatrix of All Graces. As St. Bernardine of Siena wrote: *“Every grace that is communicated to this world has a threefold course. For by excellent order, it is dispensed from God to Christ, from Christ to the Virgin, from the Virgin to us.”* She is a most powerful intercessor. I know this personally. All her visits to this earth from heaven demonstrate how interested and involved she is in this world and how she deeply cares for our salvation. That is why authentic apparitions and visitations (approved by the local bishop) always reinforce the message of the Gospel; repentance, reformation of life and the joy of discipleship with Jesus Christ. The Great Adversary, the Evil One, does what he can to divert us from this path in many subtle ways that we are often not fully aware of.

1 John 3:8, John 12:31 and Heb 2:14-15 make it clear why Jesus came. His mother shared in His mission, consequently Satan fears the power of the Blessed Virgin, a power she obtains from Jesus who crushed the head of Satan from the cross. We do the best we can whilst on earth, against the backdrop of our final and eternal destination in that supernatural realm from where she abides with her Son and the saints and the angels, heaven. She is deeply concerned for us as only a mother can be at this time of the pandemic and other ominous worldly events. Perhaps you could find some time to pray the rosary during the month of October in honour of her? Pray it for peace in the world. In reparation for sin. For yourself or a friend or a family member in need. It is one of the riches of our Catholic faith and heavily endorsed by all the popes. I recommend a short little book by Fr Don Calloway MIC called 10 Wonders of the Rosary. It's less than £10 and is a great read during the month of October. I will be praying the rosary each night at 9pm if you want to join me spiritually in prayer.

Collection: There will be a collection for Peter's Pence at all Masses this weekend.

First Holy Communions Class of 2019/2020: This weekend we will be joined by those children who were not able to make their First Holy Communion because of the lockdown. The children will not make their First Holy Communion as one large group, but as smaller groups at Masses over the coming weeks. We pray for them all as they receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time. **Congratulations children!**

First Holy Communion Certificates: Certificates can be collected from the parish office Monday 3.15pm until 5.30pm or Wednesday 10.30am until 3.30pm.

David Turner, Virtual London Marathon - Go David! On Sunday, 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.

Come back to church on Sunday! Though the Sunday obligation remains suspended at this time of the pandemic, the church environment is a Covid-19 secure area. Social distancing is in force and the church is regularly cleaned. With the mandatory requirement to wear a face mask, social distancing has been reduced from 2m to 1m which means that more pews are now available. So please, do come to Mass! You can book a space at Mass for you and your family at this link: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/events/>.

Certificates of Catholic Practice for Secondary School: If you have submitted a request for a Certificate of Catholic Practice by 12 noon on Saturday 3rd October, then I have signed them and they can be collected from the Parish Office behind the Parish Centre on Monday 5th October **3.15pm until 5.30pm** or Wednesday 7th October 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 Catholics who attended weekly Sunday Mass (with exceptions for sickness, emergencies etc) at one of our two churches in the parish of Hemel West, prior to the lockdown. If you do not fit into one of those categories, then I will not issue a certificate

John F Kennedy Open Event for Secondary Transfer: Due to the COVID-19 climate, we are unable to hold our annual Open Evening and school tours this year. Instead, there will be a video presentation available at www.jfk.herts.sch.uk and a live webinar on Tuesday 6th October at 6.30pm. Please register in advance of the event at- <https://app.livestorm.co/jfk-1/jfk-open-evening-october-2020>. All Supplementary Information Forms are available to download from the school website and the Certificate of Catholic Practice is available from your Parish Priest. The deadline for applications is **31st October 2020**.

We pray for the sick: Fr Brian & Andy Kemp

We pray for the recently departed: Bridget Bonner
May she rest in peace and rise in glory

St Rose's Catholic Infant School: We have a vacancy for a Foundation Governor. If you are interested in this rewarding role, please contact Mrs Taylor at admin@stroses.herts.sch.uk or call 398855. No previous experience is necessary, but you must be a practicing Catholic with a keen interest in the faith life of the young people in our school and community.

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.

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/hemel Hempstead west/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. **Please note that it is compulsory to wear a face covering to church.**

You can participate in the live-streamed Sunday Mass 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, please email Shirley and she will email you a copy of the standing order form. 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.

Hall Phone: Please only call the hall 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.

Mass Times and Intentions this week

Sat 3 rd	4pm live-streamed Mass 6pm (BM) Anto & Yolande Martil Golden Wedding Anniversary
Sun 4 th	9am (BM) Pro Populo 10.30am (BM) 12 noon (BM) Johnny Bailey RIP ANNIV
Mon 5 th	No Mass
Tues 6 th	No Mass
Wed 7 th	10am (BM)
Thur 8 th	No Mass
Fri 9 th	10am (BM) Intention for Dear Souls
Sat 10 th	4pm live-streamed Mass 6pm (BM)
Sun 11 th	9am (BM) Kathleen Diviney RIP ANNIV 10.30am (BM) Pro Populo 12 noon (BM) Bridget Joyce RIP ANNIV

Mass Intentions: 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, an offering is not expected and it can be made at your discretion.

Year of the Word

Gospel readings from the daily Masses for week, beginning Monday 5th October:

Mon: Luke 10:25 -37
 Tue: Lk.10 :38-42
 Wed: Lk. 11:1-4
 Thurs: Lk. 11: 5- 13
 Fri: Lk. 11: 15-26
 Sat: Lk.11:27-28
 Sunday: Matthew. 21:33-43

CAFOD Prayer

Jesus, hold out your hand and grip mine tightly,
 Strengthen my faith so that I can reach out to my
 Sisters and Brothers.
 Amen

Update on Parish Finances

At our last meeting on 14 September, the Finance Committee agreed that it made sense to give everyone an update about how the pandemic has affected our finances in Hemel West.

The main points are:

- Collection of cash and envelopes at Mass **are significantly down.**
- **Income from the halls has fallen off a cliff** – which is significant as this makes up 15% of parish income; for example:

Parish Centre February income: £2,195.29

St Joseph's February income: £447.34

Parish Centre September income: £272.64

St Joseph's September income: £128.00

Income down each month by **£1,922.65**

Income down each month by **£319.34**

- The Diocese decided to give us a **'payment holiday'** on the loan re-payments for the building of the presbytery and adjoining flats for retired priests (the balance remaining is £6,500).
- We benefitted from the Furlough scheme and our **five paid members of staff** are now back at work.
- All non-essential works have been **put on hold.**

This means that each month we have to pay out more than we have coming in.

We estimate that we will have a **£25k shortfall** on our budget for 2020. This will greatly impact our ability as a parish to invest in prospective parish initiatives.

What can you do to help?

We know that some of you will have been badly affected by the pandemic in many ways, including part-time working, pay reductions and redundancy, and that everyone will have appeals for money from charities asking for support.

Three ways to help:

- If you don't already have one, we'd like to encourage you to **move to a standing order.** 13 parishioners have already moved over to standing orders – thank you! We need more of us to do so, especially those who have signed up for envelopes. This will reduce the Covid risks of handling cash and also importantly allows us to know with more certainty what monies are coming in which is essential for budgeting.
- If you already have a standing order, please think about **increasing it.**
- If possible please consider making a one-off **donation.**

Contact the Parish Administrator shirleybailey@redow.org.uk today to play your part. The Finance Committee for Hemel West exists to advise Father Brian in his administration of the financial affairs of the parish and is made up of Deacon Simon, Fran Ayers, Shirley Bailey, Geoff Doyle, Derek Kelly & James Stewart. Minutes from the meeting on 14 September will be made available on the website.