

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10th/11th October 2020

Fr Brian writes...

Today's Gospel Reading: *Matthew 22:1-14* (shorter form Matthew 22:1-10)



With the invited guests now deemed unworthy to attend the king's wedding feast, the servants are sent to invite whomever they can find. The guests arrive, but it appears that accepting the king's invitation brings certain obligations. The guest who failed to dress in the appropriate wedding attire is cast out of the feast. We are reminded that while many are invited to the kingdom of heaven, not all are able to meet its requirements. God invites us to his feast, giving us his salvation. Yet he asks us to repent for our sins. Jesus' message in the parable cautions against exclusive beliefs about the kingdom of heaven. The parable also teaches about humility. Those who assume that they are the invited guests may find that they have refused the invitation, and so others are invited in their place. To accept the invitation is also to accept its obligations. God wants our full conversion in complete acceptance of his mercy.

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

Hemel West Parish Micorsite:
rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/

**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

Fratelli Tutti

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, has issued a new encyclical letter named, FRATELLI TUTTI, ON FRATERNITY AND SOCIAL FRIENDSHIP. You can read it on the Vatican website at this link: <http://bitly.ws/9WDM> The document focuses on fraternity and social friendship as the ways to build a better, more just and peaceful world - with the contribution of all: people and institutions. Already there has been much commentary written and discussed about it. I commend it to everyone as a beautiful contribution to the Social Teaching of the Catholic Church, particularly at this time of the pandemic and the other challenges that face humanity from climate change to polarisation in the political arena. In his letter he gives a beautiful reflection on the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10. I particularly liked where Pope Francis expresses a position with regard to the death penalty that it is inadmissible and must be abolished worldwide. Not even a murderer loses his personal dignity" – the Pope writes – "and God himself pledges to guarantee this" (Par 263-269). There is emphasis on the necessity to respect "the sacredness of life" (Par 283) where today "some parts of our human family, it appears, can be readily sacrificed", such as the unborn, the poor, the disabled and the elderly (Par 18). Do read it!

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.

Parish E-Alerts: Have you signed up to the parish e-alerts on the parish microsite? Stay in touch with the latest news and events in your parish. Please see the details on the front page.

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

Mass: Now the colder weather is upon us, we will still need to ventilate the church during Mass. This is due to the restrictions set by the Government to allow us to open our churches. Please ensure you are wrapped up warm and please remember to wear a face covering.

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.

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. We pray for them all as they receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time. **Congratulations children!**

Baptism Preparation Classes: These will resume on 20th October via on-line video conferencing. To book go to <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/events/baptism-preparation-seminar/>. This 1.5-hour internet video meeting is for parents to understand the obligations of being parents to a baptised child. The format is to review the rite of baptism so that they understand 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.

Live Streaming Equipment Appeal: The live streaming of Mass has been a great success. We have 150 people subscribed to our channel and typically we get 130 households viewing each week. We would like to extend our live streaming to cover Mass at Ss Mary & Joseph's as well as baptisms, weddings and funerals in our parish, (should this be requested), and open up other devotional or evangelisation opportunities. However, this requires additional equipment. We would need a Windows 10 PC with an i5 processor, a 4K webcam and a broadband internet link. It is estimated that this will cost in the region of £1,500 to provide a system of comparable quality as the one we use at St Mark's currently. Therefore, a dedicated appeal has been set up to raise money for live streaming equipment. Can you help? If you can please visit https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/donation-web/charity?charityId=1019852&campaignId=14294&utm_source=extbtn&utm_campaign=donatebtn

Thank you for supporting CAFOD Fast Day, either by returning your Fast Day Envelope to church this weekend, contributing on line at cafod.org.uk/give, or texting CAFODNOINFO to 70085. If you have forgotten your envelope you can return it next week.

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.

We pray for the sick: 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.

Sunday 11th October, 7pm-8pm, CAFOD: An evening of prayer and reflection. Bishop John will reflect on the lessons of Pope Francis's new Catechesis, Healing the World, and consider the significance of the highly anticipated new Encyclical, Fratelli Tutti, for our global family. Register to join at Eventbrite. A CAFOD Webinar.

“Every migrant has a name, a face and a story. Each migrant and refugee is a human individual, not to be left outside and cold and hungry, but invited into the warmth through first and most importantly recognising their humanity.’ - Pope Francis. Following the Holy Father, Bishop McAleenan makes no reference in his recent homily to them as " illegal"

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.

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.

Weekly Offertory Collection For the weekend of 26/27 September & 3/4 October	
Envelopes	£232.00
Loose Cash	£571.91
TOTAL	£803.91
<p>Thank you for your contribution, which is very much appreciated! We are now running an increasing deficit as a result of the pandemic. If you donate via loose cash or envelope please transfer to Standing Order, it really helps your parish in planning for an uncertain future!</p>	

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.

Mass Times and Intentions this week

Sat 10 th	4pm Live-streamed: Gerry Jayasuriya RIP 6pm (BM) Carmel O'Callaghan (RIP)
Sun 11 th	9am (BM) Kathleen Diviney RIP ANNIV 10.30am (BM) Pro Populo 12 noon (BM) Bridget Joyce RIP ANNIV
Mon 12 th	No Mass
Tues 13 th	No Mass
Wed 14 th	10am (BM)Viktor & Family INT
Thur 15 th	No Mass
Fri 16 th	10am (BM) Fernandes Family Souls
Sat 17 th	4pm live-streamed Mass 6pm (BM)
Sun 18 th	9am (BM) Pro Populo 10.30am (BM) Viktor & Family INT 12 noon (BM)

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 the week, beginning Monday 12th October.
 Mon: Luke 11:29-32
 Tues: Lk. 11 :37-41
 Wed: Lk. 11:42-46
 Thurs: Lk. 11: 47- 54
 Fri: Lk. 12: 1-7 Sat: Lk.12:8-12
 Sunday: Matthew. 22:1-14

Based on Matthew's Gospel 21:28-32
 Lord of the Vineyard,
 make us generous in our response to your Word.
 May we answer the call to labour in your Vineyard,
 through our works of charity and justice.
 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.