

# CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> October 2020



## Hemel West Parish

*Hemel West*

**Fr Brian McMahon**

*Parish Priest*

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**Rev Simon Wright**

*Deacon*

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## **Hemel West Parish Microsite:**

[rcdow.org.uk/hemel Hempsteadwest/](http://rcdow.org.uk/hemel Hempsteadwest/)

## **Link to Hemel West livestream Mass:**

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemel Hempsteadwest/mass-live/>

## **Newsletter Deadline**

Wednesday 12 noon. Items for Hemel West please send to:  
[shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk)

*Fr Brian writes....*

## **Background on the Gospel Reading *Matthew 22:15-21***

Jesus continues the tense exchange with the Pharisees and Herodians. This time they try to entrap him on a question of taxes. Background is that the Herodians agreed with the payment of taxes; the Pharisees opposed it. The Herodians and the Pharisees approach Jesus, asking that he take sides in their dispute. If Jesus answers with the Pharisees, he shows himself to be an enemy of Rome. If he answers with the Herodians, he offends popular Jewish religious sensibilities. You can see the trap they are conspiring together to set for Jesus. It's no wonder he calls them hypocrites! Jesus takes his response one step further. He asks that his questioners examine the coin they have handed him. Agreeing that it is Caesar's image on the coin, Jesus tells them that it must belong to Caesar. Avoiding the question of lawfulness altogether, Jesus answers their question with simple logic. Then, going further still, Jesus tells them that their obligation is to pay to God that which belongs to God. Jesus' response to the Herodians and Pharisees suggests the ethic that we as Christians ought to adopt. It reminds us of the importance of keeping things in their proper perspective. Do we attach ourselves to worldly things at the expense of the love and honour that we owe to God?

## **Today is World Mission Sunday**

World Mission Sunday is the one Sunday in the year when the entire global Church comes together to support mission. Every Catholic community, in every country, sends a powerful message of faith, hope and love on this special day. Missio is the Pope's chosen charity for mission and co-ordinates World Mission Sunday, working with local bishops, churches and missionary congregations, to distribute resources and funds fairly on the basis of need. You are probably familiar with the little red boxes that have been such a feature over the years and in which people collect their loose change? We now need a parish co-ordinator to volunteer to take on the work of promoting the work of Missio and look after the little red boxes for us. If you are interested, do let Fr Brian know. In the meantime, you may like to donate to the work of Missio at this link: <https://missio.org.uk/donate/>.

## 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.

**First Holy Communion:** For those in Year 3 or above and have not yet made their first Holy Communion, please use the link below to apply to join the programme.

<https://hemelcatholic.typeform.com/to/F8oVlduk>.

**Church Boiler:** At the time of its annual gas safety check on Wednesday, the church boiler was deemed unsafe for future use by the contracted Gas Safety Engineer. This means that **there is no heating in the church for the foreseeable future** until we are able to purchase and install a new boiler. If the weather deteriorates, it will be very cold in the church, so please do dress accordingly. Fr Brian is currently taking quotes from prospective suppliers for the purchase and installation of a new boiler and will keep you updated.

**Parish E-Alerts:** Please sign up to the parish e-alert system on the parish microsite. Stay in touch with the latest news and events in your parish. Please see the details on the front page.

**Private Prayer:** Ss Mary & Joseph church **will not** be open on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October for private prayer.

### Baptism

If you have already attended a baptism preparation seminar and you wish to have your child baptised this year, you can now book a date and time for a Saturday morning in November using the events pages on our web site, <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/events/>.

**Baptism Preparation Classes:** These will resume on 20<sup>th</sup> 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 Deacon Simon 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 equipment appeal has been **ACHIEVED!** Many, many thanks to all who contributed. We will begin immediately to buy the equipment and get the live streaming going as soon as possible. The trickiest part will be getting the wired broadband connection into the church, that may take some weeks but rest assured we will get it up and running as soon as possible. **Thank you once again!**

**CAFOD Fast Day:** Thank you on behalf of CAFOD for your generous response to their Fast Day Appeal - Survive/Rebuild/Heal - standing together with families facing the worst of Coronavirus. Give today and save lives [cafod.org.uk/give](http://cafod.org.uk/give).

**November: The Month of the Holy Souls.** Masses and prayers will be offered during the month for the Holy Souls. If you would like to include the names of your loved ones, please take a purple prayer sheet and an offering envelope on the way out of Church. Fill them in and return them, with your offering in the envelope over the coming weeks. You can pop them through the presbytery letter box or put your envelope in with the offertory collection at Sunday Mass or post it through the presbytery door. The form can also be downloaded from the parish micro site please follow the link

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/wp-content/uploads/sites/238/2020/10/Holy-Souls.pdf>.

**David Turner's Marathon:** Thank you so much for your support for David's 9-hour, 2 minutes run/walk in miserable conditions on 4<sup>th</sup> October. The director and staff at Mother's Village Orphanage in Bosnia Herzegovina greatly appreciate David's kindness and use him as an example to the children of how Divine Providence enters their lives. You can still donate at [virginmoneygiving.com/fund/DavidTurnerMarathon10](http://virginmoneygiving.com/fund/DavidTurnerMarathon10) or phone Pat Henry on 01442 391087 to make other arrangements. Every penny of David's donations is sent to the Orphanage by the Arthur McCluskey Foundation. He has almost reached the £1,000 mark – just needs a bit more help from some of you kind people! God bless you all. Pat Henry.

**Newsletter:** Please note that there will be no newsletter on the weekend of 1<sup>st</sup> November.

**John F Kennedy School:** We have a vacancy for a Foundation Governor. You would be asked to attend two meetings per term which are all being held online during the pandemic. If you are a practising Catholic and interested in the education of our young people, please contact Heather Houston for more details at [hhouston@jfk.herts.sch.uk](mailto:hhouston@jfk.herts.sch.uk).

**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](mailto: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 <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/mass-live/> and you will find the Sunday Mass available on demand.

**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. 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/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.

**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.

**We pray for the sick:** Andy Kemp

**We pray for the recently departed**

Dolores Fitzpatrick & Carmel O' Callaghan

**May they rest in peace and rise in glory**

### Mass Times and Intentions this week

Sat 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>4pm Live-streamed Mass</b> 6pm (BM) Dolores Fitzpatrick RIP
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup>	9am (BM) Maureen Hayes RIP 10.30am (BM) Viktor & Family INT 12 noon (BM) Pro Populo
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass</b>
Tues 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass</b>
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup>	10am (BM) Holy Souls
Thur 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass</b>
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup>	10am (BM)
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>4pm live-streamed Mass</b> 6pm (BM)
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup>	9am (BM) Pro Populo 10.30am (BM) Bridget Bonner RIP 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 week, beginning Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October:  
 Mon: Luke 12:13 -21  
 Tues: Lk. 12 :35-38  
 Wed Lk: 12:39-48  
 Thurs: Lk. 12: 49- 53  
 Fri: Lk. 12: 54-59  
 Sat: Lk.13:1-9  
 Sunday: Matthew. 22:15-21

"The fruit of faith should be evident in our lives, for being a Christian is more than making sound professions of faith. It should reveal itself in practical and visible ways."  
**St Ignatius of Antioch.**

## 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](mailto: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.