

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

30th

Sunday in Ordinary Time
24th/25th October 2020



Fr Brian writes....

Background to the Gospel Reading *Matthew 22:34-40*

This is the last of three questions put to Jesus by Jewish religious leaders who are trying to trick him into saying something that might get him arrested. The question requires Jesus to interpret the Law of Moses. The Mosaic Law was a mixture of the Ten Commandments and many additional rules, numbering over six hundred. Adherence to the Law, for a devout Jew, is an expression of faithfulness to God's covenant with Israel. The ranking of the Commandments was regularly debated among the teachers of the Law. Jesus answers the Pharisees' question with a two-fold summary. Jesus says that all of the commandments can be summarized in two commandments: love God and love your neighbour. Both of these were central elements of the religious tradition Jesus learned from his Jewish community. Jesus' response to his questioners proposed an integral connection between these two aspects of the Jewish Law. Love of God finds its expression in our love for our neighbour. Today we can extend this to the way we treat asylum seekers and refugees.

Hemel West Parish

Hemel West

Fr Brian McMahon

Parish Priest

The Presbytery,

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Deacon

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November: Month of the Holy Souls: Masses and prayers will be offered during November for the Holy Souls. **Mass will be offered on All Souls Day 10am at Ss Mary & Joseph. To book a place at Mass please follow the link:**

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

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

Newsletter: Please note that there will be no newsletter on the weekend of 1st November. The parish office, Boxmoor will be closed for one week from 26th October until 30th October. If you need to speak to Fr Brian please call 01442 391759.

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 2021: 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. Closing date will be on 8th November.

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

Church Boiler: We are trying a temporary fix to see if we can get the boiler working again and producing heat. That may take a few weeks to get resolved. In the meantime, wrap up and offer it up!

Thank you! A big thank you to everyone who is supporting the parish financially at this time. As you will have read, our income has dramatically reduced during the pandemic and we now run a deficit as previously advised, given that our surplus has been wiped out by decreased income. Thank you very much for supporting your parish at this time to pay its necessary bills. I review our standing orders, envelopes, online donations and loose collection figures every week and pray at that time for all our donors, from whatever revenue stream they contribute. Thank you for continuing to support the parish, especially those who have taken out a standing order, or increased their donation, or made a one-off contribution to parish funds, particularly by using the Virgin Money Giving facility at this link: <https://bit.ly/3jOQjCm>.

Holy Communion for the sick at home: We now have permission for visits to people at home to receive Holy Communion again. The bishops have provided guidance for the safe exercise of this ministry. If you already exercise this ministry, either to a family member or a friend/parishioner and wish to continue it, can you please contact me (Fr Brian) on 01442 391 759, so that I discuss with you the way forward and ensure that you have the necessary guidance. Thank you for exercising this ministry!

Sick & Retired Priests: There will be a collection for the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund on the weekend of 7th/8th November. This ensures our elderly and sick priests are financially supported in their senior years, after a lifetime of service. The fund ensures that their housing, medical, convalescence, companionship and spiritual support needs are met. Most priests retire with modest means. In later years their ability to live independently can be adversely impacted by their declining health, mobility or frailty. You can also donate online at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations. Thank you for your generosity.

We are no longer using the Hemelcatholic.org website. Please update your bookmarks to <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/>.

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/>.

Private Prayer: The church will be open on Monday 26th October, 2pm until 4pm for private prayer.

DENS Sleepout Friday 13th November: Sadly, we cannot come together at a 'live' Sleepout event this November and so we will need the help of the community to ensure the event can still go ahead, albeit in a different format. This year, we are urging everybody to take part by sleeping anywhere other than their bed for the night. You can register at DENS.org.uk/sleepout.

November: 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/holy-souls-2/>.

Schools

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.

St Albert Great: Reception admissions will open on Monday 2nd November and close on Friday 15th January. There will be two school tours one on Thursday 12th November at 7pm and Tuesday 24th November at 10am. Only one parent may attend and they will need to wear a face covering. Please call 01442 264 835 to book a place on a tour. Please keep an eye on the newsletter for information on when the Certificates of Catholic Practice will be available in November.

The Governing Board of St Rose's School are consulting on their Main School Admissions Policy for 2022/23. Any interested members of the community are invited to review it at: <https://www.stroses.herts.sch.uk/admissions/>.

Volunteer Stewards for Mass: Are you able to volunteer to steward at any of the week day or weekend Masses? If you are able to help please email shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk with your contact details.

You can participate in the 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!

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

Weekly Offertory and Sunday Collection from 3/4 October until 17/18 October	
Envelopes	£76.00
Loose Cash	£573.11
TOTAL	£649.11
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 please transfer to Standing Order, it really helps your parish in planning for an uncertain future!	

Mass Times and Intentions this week

Sat 24 th	4pm Streamed Mass 6pm (BM)
Sun 25 th	9am (BM) Pro Populo 10.30am (BM) Bridget Bonner RIP 12 noon (BM)
Mon 26 th	No Mass
Tues 27 th	No Mass
Wed 28 th	10am (BM) George Gardner RIP
Thur 29 th	No Mass
Fri 30 th	10am (BM)
Sat 31 st	4pm Streamed Mass 6pm (BM)
Sun 1 st	9am (BM) Pro Populo 10.30am (BM) Jack O'Malley RIP 12 noon (BM)
ALL SAINTS	

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 for week, beginning Monday 26th October.

Mon: Luke 13:10 -17
 Tues: Lk.13 :18-21
 Wed: Lk. 13:22-30
 Thurs: Lk. 13: 31- 35
 Fri: Lk. 14: 1-6
 Sat: Lk.14:1, 7-11
 Sunday: Matthew. 22:34-40

"We pray for eyes to see, and ears to hear, so that the cries of the prophets among us might instead soften our hearts, fortify our spirits, and remind us of our true nature as co-creators of God's Kingdom on Earth".
 Amen.
 (Ignation Prayer)

**Hemel West Parish
Administrator, Shirley Bailey.**

Email: shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk

Phone: 01442 391 759

**The Parish Office is located behind
the Parish Centre.
Office Hours**

Telephone cover for Hemel 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

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.

Link to Hemel West streamed Mass:
<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/mass-live/>
Hemel West Parish Microsite:
<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/>