

# CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

**10<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

*Fr Brian writes....*



With an additional lockdown we are legally required to **STAY AT HOME** to help save lives and prevent the NHS being overwhelmed, as a result of the exponential spread of the virus. As with all admonitions there are exceptions. It is pleasing that one of the exceptions is for people of faith to gather for communal worship, subject to COVID-19 arrangements in their respective places of worship. For Catholics this means that, for the time being, Mass continues to be celebrated with a congregation. Each of us needs to make a personal assessment of risk as to whether it is safe for us to leave home and enter the church, even though a routine of cleaning and disinfection, social distancing and increased ventilation is in place. Where this is not possible all our Masses are livestreamed so that there can be some degree of participation in the highest form of prayer and worship known to Christians. The removal of the Sunday obligation has meant that nobody should feel guilty if they do not attend Mass. If you do intend to come to Mass, online booking is necessary please. You can make a booking via the parish website. To accommodate an increasing number of funerals there will be times that Mass is not available on a day it would normally be celebrated. I would ask you please not to attend funeral Masses if you hear of one, unless you have been personally invited by the next of kin. We are legally required to limit numbers at funerals to 30. Please pray at home amongst your families for an end of the spread of the virus and the distribution of the vaccine. The bishops have stated that it is morally acceptable to take the vaccine on the grounds of the Common Good. You can read what they have had to say at this link: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/category/cbcew/health-and-social-care/coronavirus/> and make up your own mind by informing your conscience. As well as participating in a livestreamed Mass, place the Word of God, your family Bible, in a prominent place in the home and read it with your spouse and your children. As much as the tabernacle in our churches contains the living body of Christ, the Bible in your home contains the living Word made flesh, who came and dwelt amongst us. We live in a fallen world that is subject to sin and its effects. The virus itself is part of this mystery of iniquity. Today's feast helps us to see beyond this depressing fact of a fallen and broken world, as it shows us through the descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus at his baptism that something new is beginning through the baptism and ministry of Jesus. It is the beginning of a re-creation of the world in which Jesus won the victory over the works of the Evil One in the Garden of Eden. We should rejoice in what God did for us in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit as the victory over sin, suffering and death has been won. What we experience now as we struggle for justice and peace in exercising the preferential option for the poor and fight against the virus are, from a supernatural perspective the effects of a 'mopping up' exercise. Victory has been won! That's why as Christians we can never despair or give way to worry 'like the pagans', because as Jesus gets down into the waters of the River Jordan for his baptism, God gets down into the circumstances of our daily lives to lift us up in his good time.

## **Hemel West Parish**

**Fr Brian McMahon**

*Parish Priest*

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**Rev Simon Wright**

*Deacon*

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**Hemel West Live Streamed  
Mass please follow the link  
below.**

[https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemel  
Hempsteadwest/mass-live/](https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemel Hempsteadwest/mass-live/)

**Hemel West Parish Microsite:**

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

## **Newsletter Deadline**

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

**Happy New Year!**

## 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.

**Live streaming of Masses:** All Sunday Masses and weekday Masses are live streamed. The link goes live about 5 minutes before Mass. Just go to <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/mass-live/> and click on the YouTube button.

**SPREAD THE WORD!**

**Sacristans/Stewards:** Please review the training video on YouTube so that you know how to operate the live stream facility for all Masses and other events. Password available from Fr Brian. <https://youtu.be/4LnaGOH4cyc>.

**Thank you, message from Fr Brian:** Thank you for your gifts, prayers and Christmas cards! I really appreciated them.

**STEWARDS...more needed: I want to say a big thank you to our stewards! THANK YOU!** Without our stewards we would not be able to open our church at Boxmoor for Mass. However, we really need more so that we can spread the load across all Masses and other events such as funerals etc. Do contact me directly to volunteer assistance. It would be a shame if I had to cancel a Mass with a congregation for lack of stewards.

## Youth Ministry

**Confirmation Programme 2021:** We will be running Confirmation classes next year. While a date for receiving the sacrament has not been set, classes will begin Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021, 5pm until 6pm via zoom or google meet. The course will be 8 online classes running weekly until the 31<sup>st</sup> March. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place as part of the course and there is an expectation to attend Mass weekly as part of the programme. Presently it looks unlikely that we will be able to arrange a pilgrimage retreat. There will be an information evening in January for parents and carers and you will be able to register until 30<sup>th</sup> January. Please email [cmoore@jfk.herts.sch.uk](mailto:cmoore@jfk.herts.sch.uk) to register for the parents evening, receive a registration form or to ask any further questions.

## Baptisms

If you have already attended a baptism preparation seminar then please book one of the baptism slots available in January or February via the events web page <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/events/>. The next baptism preparation seminar will be held in February. Please keep any eye on the newsletter and sign up for the parish e-alerts to keep up to date with parish news.

Fr Brian Reynolds would like to thank all of the parishioners for their Christmas cards and gifts. They are really appreciated. May the Lord watch over you in 2021.

**Westminster Year Book 2021:** The year book is available to purchase from the parish office. The cost is £4.50.

**Boxmoor Good Neighbours Scheme:** Have been supporting the elderly in Boxmoor during the Coronavirus Pandemic. If you are a Boxmoor resident and are elderly, unwell, lonely or facing a crisis or need some support we are here to help. Please call our duty officer on 0771 335 893 from 9am until 1pm Monday to Friday.



**Peace Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January:** "May we strive daily, in concrete and practical ways, to form a community composed of brothers and sisters who accept and care for one another."

**Pope Francis.**

**Banning of Nuclear Weapons Officially Ratified:** There is a call going out to churches to make a point of celebrating a special day January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2021. This is the day when the United Nations new treaty banning nuclear weapons is officially ratified, following the agreement of 50 nations having already signed this treaty. Our morning Mass on that day will be offered for World Peace. Churches are encouraged to consider ringing their bells on this day. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered as it is the greatest act of religious subversion and resistance to the powers and principalities that rule this world and wish to inflict great harm on us through the proliferation and use of nuclear weapons. This is a significant moment in human history. Further details here: <https://bit.ly/33y6Tjz>.

**DENS** is working on frontline services to ensure the most vulnerable people in the local community are supported into 2021. With no income this year DENS has had to meet a 68% increase in demand for food parcels. Since the pandemic began the Foodbank has supported 4000 people and the demand is set to increase. This is OUR community - Can you help? Go to <https://www.dens.org.uk/get-involved/donate/>.

## Mass Times and Intentions this week

Sat 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>6pm</b> Ruth Doreen Rajendra RIP
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>9am</b> John West RIP <b>10.30am</b> Colleen Fitzpatrick RIP <b>12 noon</b> Martin Byrnes RIP
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Mass not Celebrated</b>
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Mass not Celebrated</b>
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>10am</b> Peter Renwick RIP
Thur 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Mass not Celebrated</b>
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>10am</b> Margaret McMahan RIP
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>6pm</b> Brendan Byrne & Eve Bruckner RIP
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>9am</b> Margaret Hagan RIP <b>10.30am</b> Pro Populo <b>12 noon</b> Robert McCann RIP

**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](mailto: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.

**Standing Order Mandate Form:** Thank you to all the parishioners who have set up a standing order and for supporting the parish of Hemel West. If you are a UK tax payer, please consider filling in a Gift Aid form. This enables the parish to claim Gift Aid on your donation. Please contact Shirley in the parish office and she will send you the Gift Aid 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.

## Year of the Word

**Gospel readings for the week, beginning Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January:**

Mon: Mark 1:14 -20  
Tues: Mark.1:21-28  
Wed: Mark 1:29-39  
Thurs: Mark.1:40-45  
Fri: Mark.2:1-12  
Sat: Mark. 2:13-17  
Sunday: John. 1:35-42

Peace is not the product of terror or fear.  
Peace is not the silence of cemeteries.  
Peace is not the silent result of violent repression.  
Peace is the generous, tranquil contribution of all to the good of all.  
Peace is dynamism.  
Peace is generosity..... It is right and it is duty.  
**Blessed St Oscar Romero**

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

Email: [shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk](mailto: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
<b>Monday 12 noon- 6pm</b>	<b>Monday 3pm-6pm</b>
<b>Tuesday 9.30am - 3.30pm</b>	<b>Closed</b>
<b>Wednesday 9.30am- 3.30pm</b>	<b>Wednesday 9.30-3.30pm</b>
<b>Thursday 9.30am-3.30pm</b>	<b>Thursday 9.30am-12.30pm</b>
<b>Friday 9.30am-3.30pm</b>	<b>Friday 9.30am-1pm</b>