

# CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

PARISH WEBSITE [HTTPS://PARISH.RCDOW.ORG.UK/HEMELHEMPSTEADWEST/](https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemel Hempstead West/)

---

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B**

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

## **PEACE SUNDAY**

*Fr Brian writes....*

I continue to celebrate Mass with a congregation. If you would like to come, then please book via the Events page on the parish website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemel Hempstead West/events/>. Do spread the word, that for time being we are open for the celebration of Mass, as many people have lost contact with the parish over the last few months and may not have even realised that we have been open for Mass. Encourage them to ring me or go online to our parish website and sign up for e-alerts. I do quite frequently hear that some people don't ring me because they don't want to bother me as I'll be busy. I am busy - but busy for you! So, do call if I can be of any help or something is on your mind or you need prayer for healing or relief from spiritual affliction or just want a chat. This is a time of risks and opportunities, which we all need help navigating. Having been married and brought up two children with my wife (may she rest in peace) and experienced the stresses and strains of married family life, such as homelessness, redundancy, my alcoholic struggles and little money in the early days of married life, my heart aches now for families suffering greatly during the pandemic. Existing problems in families will be exacerbated, either because of the lockdown and the difficulties of being on top of each other all day, or the stress of furlough, unemployment and hunger. These are great travails that many families are going through. We have not long come through a very different Christmas, which is a season of goodwill, but also one of indulgence. Some of us will have had the larder, fridges and freezers & sweet tins well stocked - beyond what we would normally keep at home through the year..... But we don't consider ourselves greedy, and regard ourselves as careful when we deal with food. Christmas nonetheless is a time of increased food waste. As you will be aware DENS have flagged up a massive 68% increase in demand for their local DENS Foodbank. This prompts some thoughts. Thoughts about donations, yes, but also about the link between hunger & food waste. Reducing waste wherever possible, and feeding the hungry are moral imperatives especially so for suffering families. I thank God that I am not now bringing up a young family, with all the additional worries and concerns arising from the pandemic. I know of several and my prayers are with them and I signpost for help where necessary. Regarding church closures, I know that some Catholic churches in London and Hertfordshire have closed for Mass with a congregation. Should there be a need to end Mass with a congregation because of a change in legislation, or an instruction from the bishop, or a change in local circumstances, then I will do so. But for the time being, I intend to keep the church open for Mass as it has the support of the bishop and is completely legal, at the time of writing. I know that for many people it is greatly appreciated and essential for their well-being and more importantly their spiritual well-being. Equally, I know that some consider it too great a risk to come to church and in the interests of the greater good believe that churches should not be open. I fully understand that. The Sunday Obligation to attend Mass remains suspended during the pandemic and no one should feel guilty for not attending Mass. Whether you attend Mass in person or via livestream, then the latter option is completely acceptable in the current circumstances and you are as much a part of the congregation as anyone attending in person. We remain 'Covid-19 secure' having followed all the guidance for places of worship, with social distancing, reduction in church capacity and cleaning and disinfection by our contract cleaners, enhanced by spot-cleaning after all Masses. Thank you stewards! There will be certain days that Mass with a congregation is not offered, to take account of an increasing numbers of funerals. These are restricted in attendance to next of kin and invitees only. Also, now that we have cleared our first holy communion children through for 2019-2020, you will see at the 12pm Sunday Mass a number of baptisms taking place, as the Government has instructed places of worship to effectively roll them into communal worship (Mass,) to minimise opportunities for coming together outside communal worship. Whether you participate in Mass via livestream or in person, you may find the very good priced Sunday Missal from the CTS too much to resist! It's only £1.99. Get it at this link: <https://www.ctsbooks.org/product/cts-sunday-missal-2021/>. The paper missalettes we used at Boxmoor are history. I never liked them anyway!

## 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.

**PEACE SUNDAY Pope Francis** asks us to think about 'A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace'. "How many resources," he says, "are spent on weaponry, especially nuclear weapons, that could be used for more significant priorities such as ensuring the safety of individuals, the promotion of peace and integral human development, the fight against poverty, and the provision of health care." Pope Francis calls on us to "strive daily, in concrete and practical ways, to form a community composed of brothers and sisters who accept and care for one another." In this country we have an active Catholic peace movement in Pax Christi. Their website suggests many ways we can all promote peace in our daily lives. There are activities for families to do at home, including a 15-minute peace liturgy for young children. <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2021/>. The work of Pax Christi – the Peace of Christ – is based on the gospel and inspired by faith. Their vision is of a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in any form. Pax Christi is rooted in Catholic Christianity but is open to all who share its values and work.

**Read the MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE 54th WORLD DAY OF PEACE, "A CULTURE OF CARE AS A PATH TO PEACE" at this link <https://bit.ly/3oBuU1K>**

**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.

## Baptisms

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.



**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.**

## 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.

## Schools

**St Rose's Nursery:** Due to Government Guidance we are unable to hold Nursery 2021 tours this year. To book onto the live webinar with our Headteacher Mrs Ryan on either 10<sup>th</sup> February at 9.30am or 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 9.30am please email Mrs Taylor on [admin@stroses.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stroses.herts.sch.uk). Please take a look at the school tour <https://strosesboxmoor.secure-primariesite.net/admissions/>. Application forms are on the school website. If you would like a copy posted to you please email Mrs Taylor. St Rose's Nursery **DO NOT require a Certificate of Catholic Practice** for Nursery admissions.

**St Albert the Great Nursery:** If you are applying for the nursery at St Albert the Great, you **will** require a Certificate of Catholic Practice for the nursery.

**Certificates of Catholic Practice:** You can download a request for a Certificate of Catholic Practice from the website. When you have completed the form and the accompanying request form, they should be posted through the Presbytery letterbox at 186 St Johns Road. Please note that I only sign Certificates of Catholic Practice for practising Catholics who attend weekly Sunday Mass (with exceptions for sickness, emergencies etc) in the parish of Hemel West and also, if you attended Sunday Mass regularly prior to the lockdown. You can download the form from <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemel Hempsteadwest/certificate-of-catholic-practice/>. **N.B** Requests to Fr Brian at **least two weeks** before the closing date for admissions.

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

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

**Hemel West Parish Website:**

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

**Banning of Nuclear Weapons Officially Ratified:** There is a call going out to churches to make a point of celebrating a special day on **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January**. 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>.

**Mass intentions this week.**

**All Masses are subject to cancellation unexpectedly.  
Please check parish website before you come to church!**

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
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Parish Mass not Celebrated</b>
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Parish Mass not Celebrated</b>
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Parish Mass not Celebrated</b>
Thur 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Parish Mass not Celebrated</b>
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>10am</b> For World Peace
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>6pm</b> Bishop Paul McAleenan Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>9am</b> Pro Populo <b>10.30am</b> Sue Sheridan RIP <b>12 noon</b> Kathleen Fox INT

**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 18<sup>th</sup> January:**

Mon: Mark 2:18-22  
Tues: Mark.2:23-28  
Wed: Mark 3:1-6  
Thurs: Mark.3:7-12  
Fri: Mark.3:13-19  
Sat: Mark. 3:20-21  
Sunday: Mark. 1:14-20

**Reflection**

When non-violent peace-making is given a real chance, it relieves suffering, invites forgiveness, and makes communities safer. It transforms the world.

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you.  
I do not give to you as the world gives.  
Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

**Contact details for Hemel West Parish**

**Fr Brian McMahon**  
*Parish Priest*  
The Presbytery,  
186 St Johns Rd, HP1 1NR.  
**t: 01442 391759**  
e: [brianmcmahon@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:brianmcmahon@rcdow.org.uk)  
**Rev Simon Wright**  
*Deacon*  
**t: 01442 391759**  
e: [simonwright@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:simonwright@rcdow.org.uk)

**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**

<b>Telephone cover for Hemel West</b>	<b>Hemel West Office Hours</b>
<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>

**Newsletter Deadline**

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

