

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

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

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

24th January 2021

Background on the Gospel Reading: Mark 1:14-20

Fr Brian writes...

Most of the Gospel readings in Year B of the Lectionary, are taken from the Gospel according to Mark. I'm sure you've read that Gospel through? If not, why not!? There's not much else to do during the lockdown. Read it and enjoy it as if you were reading an action story. It's shot through with two major themes, discipleship and suffering. It also highlights in the early stages what I would argue if the key ministry that Jesus demonstrates in the Gospels and that is the ministry of exorcism, casting out demons thus setting people free from the snares of the devil. The Gospel of Mark begins by reporting on the preaching of John the Baptist. John is described as the voice in the wilderness sent to prepare the way of the Lord. Immediately after describing the work of John the Baptist, Mark reports on Jesus' baptism and his temptation in the desert. Jesus' public ministry begins after the arrest of John the Baptist. Mark wants his readers to understand the important connection between the end of the ministry of John the Baptist and the beginning of Jesus' own ministry. As we learn at the beginning of today's Gospel reading, Jesus preaches the Kingdom of God in continuity with the preaching of John the Baptist. Like John the Baptist, Jesus' pronouncement of the kingdom is a call to repentance. Yet his is greater than John's. Jesus begins the time of fulfilment; the Kingdom of God is already here. This will be demonstrated again and again, both in Jesus' words and in the actions that follow. Jesus' healings and forgiveness of sins are signs of the Kingdom of God that he announces in his teaching. Jesus takes the initiative in calling his first disciples, unlike last week when they followed him seemingly out of curiosity and typical of first-century rabbinical schools for students to seek out rabbis, asking to be their disciples. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus breaks with this tradition and invites his disciples to learn from him. Jesus is said to have first called four fishermen—Simon, Andrew, James, and John. Simon and Andrew are brothers. Jesus promises that he will make them "fishers of men." A bit of humour there on the part of Jesus! James and John are also brothers. Mark does not report Jesus' words of invitation to them, but he does report that they left their fishing immediately; their father, Zebedee, was left behind in the boat. I can imagine the look on their father's face! Mark's Gospel is told with a great sense of urgency and immediacy. Jesus is a person of action, and events occur in rapid succession. We see this in today's Gospel. Time is of the essence; the fishermen immediately put aside their livelihood to become Jesus' disciples. The Kingdom of God is here and now. The time of fulfilment is at hand. How might our parish be different if we more fully shared this sense of the immediacy of God's kingdom?

Reminder: Do remember to keep an eye on the parish website, as with the increased numbers of funerals and burials that I have to take, **weekday** Masses may have to be cancelled to accommodate them. Best to check before you come to Mass. I currently have nine funerals in a very short space of time. I know that you will offer up prayers for the repose of their souls. May they all rest in peace and rise in glory.

Also: Remember to sign up for parish e-alerts on the parish website. It's also the best first call for baptisms, weddings, requests for certificates of Catholic practice (school admissions) etc. <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempesteadwest/>.

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

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.

Youth Ministry

Confirmation Programme 2021: We will be running a Confirmation Programme in 2021. A date for receiving the sacrament has not been set and classes will begin Wednesday 10th February 2021, 5pm until 6pm via zoom or google meet. The course will be 8 online classes running weekly until the 31st 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 30th January**. Please email Callum at cmoore@jfk.herts.sch.uk to register for the parents evening, receive a registration form or to ask any further questions.

Year of the Word

Gospel readings for the week, beginning Monday 25th January:

Mon: Mark 3:22-30
Tues: Mark.3:31-35
Wed: Mark 4:1-20
Thurs: Mark.4:21-25
Fri: Mark.4:26-34
Sat: Mark. 4:35-41
Sunday: Mark. 1:21-28

Hemel West Finance Committee

What life experience can you bring to the finance committee?

The Finance Committee's role is to support Fr Brian in the stewardship of the parish finances. We meet bi-monthly for about 90 minutes. We are looking for two volunteers who would like to join us in this task:

- A parishioner with household or commercial experience of money management to help us ensure our financial viability.
- A parishioner to be the Secretary for the committee and organise the finance meetings, take the minutes and send out communications.

We are especially interested in those who may not have played an active role in parish management before and understand the needs of the parish. If you are interested please let Fr Brian know by email at brianmcmahon@rcdow.org.uk or call him on 01442 391 759.

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 10th February at 9.30am or 3rd March at 9.30am please email Mrs Taylor on 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/hemelhempsteadwest/certificate-of-catholic-practice/>. **N.B** Requests to Fr Brian at **least two weeks** before the closing date for admissions.

Ss Mary & Joseph Church: If you hold keys or key safe codes for the church, parish centre or St Joseph's hall please can you let Shirley know by email. If you have already replied to her email, there is no need to respond to this request. Thank you.

Catholic Universe and Catholic Times: At the moment you are unable to collect your paper at Mass, but you can get it delivered direct to your home every week, free of post. Please go to www.thecatholicuniverse.com or call them on 0161 820 5722 and they will arrange this for you.

Mass intentions this week.

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

Sat 23 rd	6pm Bishop Paul McAleenan Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination
Sun 24 th	9am Melissa's Baby 10.30am Sue Sheridan RIP 12 noon Kathleen Fox INT
Mon 25 th	Parish Mass not Celebrated
Tues 26 th	Parish Mass not Celebrated
Wed 27 th	Parish Mass not Celebrated
Thur 28 th	Parish Mass not Celebrated
Fri 29 th	Parish Mass not Celebrated
Sat 30 th	6pm Jane Parisi RIP
Sun 31 st	9am Pro Populo 10.30am Viktor & Family INT 12 noon Holy Souls

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.

Prayer at the end of Week for Christian Unity 17/24 January 2021.

Lord, you are the vinedresser who cares for us with love. You call on us to see the beauty of each branch united to the vine, the beauty of each person. Any yet, too often, the differences in others makes us afraid. We withdraw into ourselves. Our trust in you is forsaken. Enmity develops between us. Come and direct our hearts towards you once again. Grant us to live from your forgiveness, so that we may be together and praise your name. Amen

Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit.
John 15:5-9



**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-1pm

Newsletter Deadline

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

Contact details for Hemel West Parish

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Parish Priest

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186 St Johns Rd, HP1 1NR.

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