

# CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

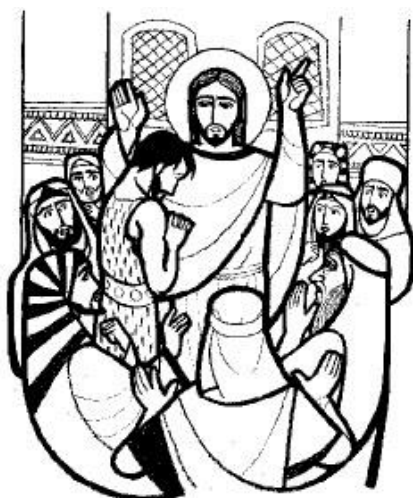
PARISH WEBSITE [HTTPS://PARISH.RCDOW.ORG.UK/HEMELHEMPSTEADWEST/](https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemel HempsteadWest/)

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

31<sup>st</sup> January 2021

**Gospel Reading: Mark 1:21-28**

*Fr Brian writes...*



This week we have been presented with the grim statistic of over 100,000 deaths as a result of COVID-19. Related to this will be bereaved families and friends who may not have had a chance to say goodbye. We remember all the bereaved at Mass during the Eucharist Prayer, especially at the increased number of funeral Masses being celebrated. There is also the effect of the lockdown on people's mental health and general well-being. In addition, the world also seems to be a more fractious place, certainly in the United States of America with a change of presidency and ongoing discussion in some quarters about the legitimacy of the election. The difficulties in the USA have seeped into the Catholic Church, with bishop against bishop and the gathering of different groups on the liberal vs conservative spectrum, often played out aggressively and uncharitably on social media about the role of the Church in the world and belief in doctrine. All this speaks of division, rebellion, enslavement and oppression, the complete opposite to the liberation that Jesus came to bring us. That's why in today's gospel reading the good news is that Jesus, with authority, sets us free from the evil influences that often dominate our lives, and that would lead us away from God, in the power of the demonic forces of the world. In the prescientific age of Jesus' time, all illnesses were understood to be manifestations of evil and sinfulness. Our modern understanding of illness is very different. Possession by unclean spirits may have been a way to describe what we might call extreme mental illness today. It may have even been a way of describing certain kinds of physical conditions. However, we cannot reduce the actions of the encounters of Jesus with the possessed to merely healing encounters. That is to take a reductionist view of Scripture. It is certainly not the teaching of the Church, which is clearly outlined in the Catechism of the Catholic Church <https://bit.ly/3qYf6qS> and why the Church provides the Ministry of Exorcist through selected priests specifically authorised by the bishop to pray the prayers contained in the Rite of Exorcism. Anyone experiencing spiritual affliction should contact me for assistance, as there is much I can do to help. Full possession is very rare, but the influence of the demonic can be troubling and irritating, almost like a pesky fly that we need to swipe away! But equally we should not assume that the devil and his demons are everywhere at work! That would be somewhat superstitious. For all of us, living a Catholic life of faith is sufficient to resist the work of the Evil One, unless we are reckless and introduce into our lives practices and beliefs that are not consistent with our faith. The good news of today's gospel is that Jesus is the Holy One of God who completely destroys evil, in our lives and in the world. His timescale is different – but he is definitely at work!

## Hemel West Parish Contact Details

**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)

## Newsletter Deadline

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

## 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.

**Baptism Preparation Classes:** These will resume on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> February via on-line video conferencing. To book follow the link on the Hemel West website <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/event/s/>. 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 me to send the link to you the day before the class. Please ignore the Covid-19 information as this is an internet meeting.

## Hemel West Finance Committee

### Call for Talent: What experience could you bring to the Hemel West Finance Committee?

Our role is to support Father Brian in the stewardship of parish monies. We meet bi-monthly for about 90 mins. We are looking for two people who would like to join us in serving:

- A person who understands the needs of the parish and how we can best manage our monies. Your ideas would be very welcome!
- A person who will be the Secretary – taking the minutes during the meeting and organising the meetings in co-operation with Fr Brian and the Chair

We are especially interested in those who may not have played an active role in the parish before. If you are interested please let Father Brian know on [brianmcmahon@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:brianmcmahon@rcdow.org.uk) or give him a call.

## 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 admissions open on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February and close on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April. Forms will be available on the website or by request via email from this date. St Albert's hope to be able to hold school tours in March, subject to Government guidelines. Please keep an eye on our website for more details.

**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.

**Scam Email from Fr Brian:** There's a scam email doing the rounds from the mail address [office52123@gmail.com](mailto:office52123@gmail.com). This is not Fr Brian's correct email address, which is [brianmcmahon@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:brianmcmahon@rcdow.org.uk). Police advice is always to avoid replying to such emails. If you get persistent scam emails from anyone, which seems to be on the increase during the pandemic and they cause you distress, then do contact the National Fraud and Cyber Crime Reporting Centre <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/contact-us>.

**Racial Justice Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January:** The events of 2020 make this year's Racial Justice Sunday particularly important. To assist in your activities on the day and throughout 2021 please follow the link <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/racial-justice-sunday-2021/>.

**Sunday Missal:** During this difficult time when many people are unable to get to Mass, with churches in some parts of the UK forced to close and vulnerable people told to shield, we at CTS want to support you by offering you a Sunday missal for just £1.99. Please call 02076 400 042 to order your copy.

**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:** If you are unable to collect your paper at Mass, you can get it delivered direct to your home every week, free of post. Please go to [www.thecatholicuniverse.com](http://www.thecatholicuniverse.com) or call them on 0161 820 5722 and they will arrange this for you.

### Hemel Justice & Peace

Did You Know? Our Hemel Catholic Two-Parish Justice and Peace Group aim to keep you informed on Justice and Peace issues; locally, nationally and internationally. During Lockdowns we have been communicating amongst the group via email, WhatsApp Group as well as Zoom meetings. If you are interested in attending a meeting please email [hemelcatholicjusticeandpeace@gmail.com](mailto:hemelcatholicjusticeandpeace@gmail.com).

### *An update on Climate Change issues...*

**COP 26:** The 2021 United nations Climate Change Summit (Conference of the Parties) is due to be held in Glasgow this November. It was postponed from last year and will be hosted by the UK and Italy jointly. This is the most important summit since the Paris Accord of 2015. Its goal was to limit global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels. Joe Biden, on his first day in Office, signed the USA up (again) to the agreement following then President Trump's withdrawal in 2017. There is now a mood of optimism that COP 26 will result in strong commitments to Climate Change with China and many European countries already sensing urgency and bringing forward Net Carbon neutral target dates.

### Year of the Word

#### **Gospel readings for the week, beginning Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February.**

Mon: Mark 5:1-20  
 Tues: Mark.5:21-43  
 Wed: Mark 6:1-6  
 Thurs: Mark.6:7-13  
 Fri: Mark.6:14-29  
 Sat: Mark. 6:30-34  
 Sunday: Mark. 1:29-39

### Mass intentions this week.

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

Sat 30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>6pm</b> Jane Parisi RIP
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup>	<b>9am</b> Pro Populo <b>10.30am</b> Viktor & Family INT <b>12 noon</b> Holy Souls
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Parish Mass not Celebrated</b>
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Parish Mass not Celebrated</b>
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>10am Mass</b>
Thur 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Parish Mass not Celebrated</b>
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>10am Mass</b>
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>6pm</b> Kathy Wesch INT
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>9am</b> Pro Populo <b>10.30am</b> Erminio Gazza Sick <b>12 noon</b> Jack O'Malley RIP

**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.

"Good Catholics meddle in politics, offering the best of themselves so that those who govern, can govern. Politics, according to the social doctrine of the Church is one of the highest forms of charity."  
 Keep meddling!

### **Pope Francis from a Homily in 2013**

Blessed is the man who walks in justice, and speaks what is true.

**Isaiah 33**

**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>

**Weekly Offertory and  
Sunday Collection**

**From 04/01/21 until 24/01/2021**

<b>Envelopes</b>	<b>£56.00</b>
<b>Loose Cash</b>	<b>£213.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£269.00</b>

**Offertory collections remain  
depressed. If you donate via loose  
cash please transfer to Standing  
Order, it really helps your parish in  
planning for an uncertain future!**