

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

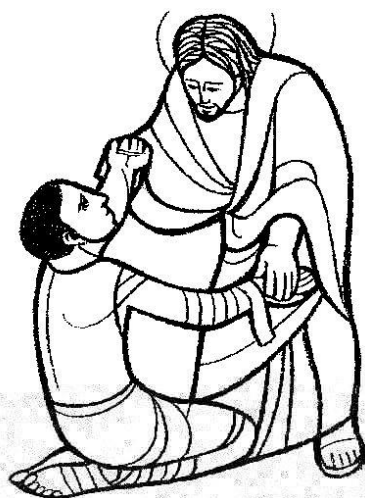
PARISH WEBSITE [HTTPS://PARISH.RCDOW.ORG.UK/HEMELHEMPSTEADWEST/](https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemel HempsteadWest/)

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

14th February 2021

Lent. REPENT!

Fr Brian writes...



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Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday 12 noon. Items for
Hemel West please send to:
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Repent and believe the Gospel! Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return. Those familiar phrases alert us to the start of a new liturgical season starting this Wednesday, Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. We are called to turn around and away from our strong inclination towards sin. "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us." 1 John 1:8. One of the reasons I regularly confess my sins to a priest is because it helps me to remain accountable to the Holy Spirit and convict myself of sin in my life. It presents the opportunity to acknowledge my need of a saviour and receive his forgiveness, thus renewing the life of the spirit in my soul. Arrangements for confession in the parish during Lent will be in a future edition of the newsletter. During Lent we are encouraged to focus on the traditional practices of **prayer, fasting and almsgiving**. What that looks like for each of us is left to our discretion and rightly so. Perhaps increased opportunities for prayer when we turn off the television or use social media less. Social media can be addictive and those who are easily triggered can get frustrated and annoyed by what they read and then respond often uncharitably. No meat on Friday, which we should be doing anyway as Catholics, or denying ourselves other types of food or restricting our consumption to promote self-discipline. Then increasing our existing charitable giving whilst also acting in the interests of justice and peace on behalf of those who don't share in the privileges that some take for granted. Lent is a great time to make sure we are on track for our eternal destination, providing as it does the necessary means. The salvation of souls (yours!) is what I'm about as a priest, everything else is secondary. There is much in the culture that can divert us. After all, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." Mt 7:21. We should never be presumptuous about our salvation, making the personal correctives that may be necessary. Equally, we should not be fearful, but trust in a loving Father God, "who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth." 1 Timothy 2:4. We are given all the spiritual tools in this life. To help us live Lent together, **I invite you to participate in an online retreat**. It is similar to the retreat we started last year at the beginning of Lent, but which was interrupted by the first of the lockdowns. It would be lovely if we could **come together every Monday evening at 7pm during Lent, via ZOOM**, to express solidarity with each other and share how the Holy Spirit is moving in our lives during the retreat. Do go to the parish website to pick up the details, under **LENT 2021 RETREAT** and start it on Ash Wednesday. If you have any problems getting in, do call me. Deacon Simon and his wife, Cecilia, will lead us in the **Stations of the Cross during Lent at 7pm on Tuesday evenings**. Bookings in the church required. This event will also be livestreamed. **Have a Good Lent!**

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

Baptism Preparation Classes: These will resume on 24th and 25th 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.

Pastoral Letter from the Cardinal Ash Wednesday at Home

As most of us will not be able to come to Mass on Ash Wednesday the Cardinal suggests having a simple prayer and blessing service at home. Please see below.

- 1: Gather together and start with the Sign of the Cross.
 - 2: Read the Gospel for today. It is from St Matthew's Gospel, 6.1-6 and 16-18.
 - 3: Say together the prayer given in his Pastoral Letter. You can read it on the parish website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/pastoral-letters-from-the-cardinal/>.
 - 4: Make the Sign of the Cross on each other's forehead, using the words you choose.
 - 5: Pray together: The Our Father; the Hail Mary; each one with his or her own prayer or intention. 6: Conclude with the 'Glory be to the Father.
 - 7: Give each other a sign of peace.
- The Cardinals Pastoral letter is available on the parish website.

The Way of the Cross: Every Tuesday during Lent, the Way of the Cross will be travelled via Live Stream and by individual attendance at Ss Mary & Joseph's church at 7pm. Individual attendance is available but you must book your seat using the Events page on the parish web site: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/events/>. Each week Simon and Cecilia will present a different set of "Stations" for prayerful contemplation so participants will remain in their seats throughout the service thereby ensuring social distancing.

Funeral of Michal Peter Renwick at Ss Mary & Joseph Monday 15th February at 10am. Peter was a reader at Mass and a member of the bereavement group. He was a faithful and committed parishioner for many years. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. Attendance is limited to invitees only. Please **do not attend** if you have not been invited.

CAFOD Family Fast Day Friday 26th February: This Lent in lockdown, we can help transform lives by participating in the CAFOD Family Fast Day! Camille Fidgett, our CAFOD representative, will make a brief announcement at the end of all Masses next weekend. She will encourage us to give whatever we can to support the work of CAFOD amongst the world's poor, who have been hit even more so by the pandemic. Dedicated envelopes will be available for return to church after the 26th February. You may also be interested in viewing the appeal video, which is on our parish website at this link: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/cafod-catholic-agency-for-overseas-development/> or just go to our CAFOD page on the parish website. I particularly liked Abdella's story which I found very moving. I know that your usual generosity will come to the fore for those in need.

Planned Giving Envelopes: Thank you to all of the parishioners who have moved from planned giving envelopes and set up a regular standing order. This helps the Parish of Hemel West plan for the coming year. Envelopes are inefficient, costly and require us to count the cash within them. Please do consider moving to Standing Order. However, if you do not have a bank account and want a box of planned giving envelopes for the coming year, please email or call Shirley by **Friday 26th February** and she will order them for you. If she does not hear from you by then she will assume that you do not want envelopes for the coming year. If you would like to make a regular contribution to the Parish of Hemel West, by standing order please email Shirley and she will send you a copy of the standing order and gift aid form. You can also make a bank transfer to HSBC Bank. Account name: WRCDT Hemel West, Account number: 31095048 sort code: 40-05-20.

Alpha online -Catholic Context: I'd like the parish to run an online Alpha event. But I want parishioners to run it. **That's you!** Alpha is a parish tool for evangelisation where everyone is welcome. The same Alpha content is run all over the world, by Christians of all traditions, sharing the good news of Jesus. Each session has three key ingredients: hospitality, a talk and discussion. All the materials for this are available online and just need to be adapted so that it can be delivered in the context of the Catholic faith. Do have a look at the materials at this link <https://www.alpha.org/catholic-context/> and let me know if you'd like to come on board with others and get this going in Hemel West! If you have previously not been involved in the parish, now is a good time to get engaged.

Looking for something to read during Lent? This Lent I'll be reading "Learning to Pray: A Guide for Everyone." It's by Fr James Martin SJ and is available from online booksellers. If you get a copy to read give me a call now and then so we can share together how we're getting on. Fr Brian.

Hemel Churches Together: A 6-part Bible study exploring 'Restorative Justice' led by leaders from the Hemel Churches Together group will be held via Zoom, on 15/22 February and 1/8/15 & 22 March, from 1.30pm until 2.30pm. To participate email joel@nlpc.org.uk for your Zoom invite.

Ss Mary & Joseph Church: If you hold any 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.

Hemel West Finance Committee

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 one more person who would like to join us in serving. A person who could act as our Secretary – taking simple minutes /action points during the meeting and who could come to understand the needs of the parish and how best we can manage our monies. We are especially interested in someone 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 or give him a call. Your ideas would be very welcome!

Hemel Justice & Peace

Hemel Catholic Justice & Peace Group: We aim to keep you informed on Justice and Peace issues; locally, nationally, and internationally. If you are interested in attending our Zoom Meetings please email us at hemelcatholicjusticeandpeace@gmail.com.

Do You Know About CAFOD? (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development): Learn about the great work of this organisation on their excellent website <https://cafod.org.uk/About-us/What-we-do>. The organisation started with a Family Fast Day in 1960 for starving children in the Caribbean. There are resources on the website for this year's Family Fast Day on Friday 26th February.

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 Wednesday 3rd March at 9.30am please email Mrs Taylor at admin@stroses.herts.sch.uk. Application forms are on the school website. If you would like a copy posted to you please email Mrs Taylor at St Rose's Nursery. Please note you **DO NOT require a Certificate of Catholic Practice for Nursery admissions.**

Nursery Applications: St Albert the Great nursery applications for September 2021 will open on 22nd February. We are unable to hold school visits, please see the virtual tour on our website. We will be holding Zoom meetings on Monday 23rd February and 1st March at 3.15pm and you will be able to meet the teachers. To book please email admin@albertthegreat.herts.sch.uk. **A Certificate of Catholic Practice is not required.**

Year of the Word

Gospel readings for the week, beginning Monday 15th February.

Mon: Mark 8:11-13

Tues: Mark.8:14-21

Wed: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Thurs: Luke.9:22- 25

Fri: Matt.9:14-15

Sat: Luke. 5:27-32

Sunday Mark: 1:12-15

Dear God,
St Josephine Bakhita endured horrors,
I cannot fathom, yet her bravery, her mercy
and her warrior spirit, could not be restrained
by man-made chains.
Teach me to forgive as she forgave,
and to love as she loved.
Help me to understand what she understood
with such clarity:
True freedom can only come from you.
Amen

Mass intentions this week.
All Masses are subject to cancellation unexpectedly.
Please check the parish website
before you come to church!

Sat 13 th	6pm Inmaculada Carr 12th RIP ANNIV
Sun 14 th	9am Pro Populo 10.30am Mass 12 noon Mass
Mon 15 th	Parish Mass not Celebrated
Tues 16 th	Parish Mass not Celebrated
Wed 17 th	10am Mass ASH WEDNESDAY Mass attendees must pre-book.
Thur 18 th	Parish Mass not Celebrated
Fri 19 th	Parish Mass not Celebrated
Sat 20 th	6pm Ronald Fernando RIP
Sun 21 st	9am Pro Populo 10.30am Edward Stokes RIP ANNIV 12 noon

Act of Spiritual Communion Prayer



In union, O Lord, with the faithful
at every altar of your Church
where your death and passion
are-pleaded-before the Father,
I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving.
I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish
that I may be united to you for ever:
and since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come to me spiritually.
I unite myself to you and embrace you with all the
affection of my soul.
Let nothing ever separate me from you:
let me live and die in your love.
Amen

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

**Sunday & Weekly
Offertory Collection**

25/01/21 to 7/02/2021

Envelopes	£84.00
Loose Cash	£245.63
Total	£329.63
Total Standing Orders for January 2021	£4,355.00

**Thank you for your contribution, which is very
much appreciated! Parish income remains
depressed during the pandemic, so if you donate
via loose cash or planned giving envelopes please
transfer to Standing Order, it really helps your
parish in planning for an uncertain future!**