

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

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

1st Sunday in Lent Year B

21st February 2021

Background on the Gospel Reading: *Mark 1:12-15. Jesus is tempted in the desert by Satan.*

Fr Brian writes...

Mark tells us that Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit and that for 40 days he was tempted by Satan. The Gospels of Matthew and Luke explain that while Jesus fasted in the desert, Satan presented him with three temptations, and that Jesus refused each one, quoting Scripture. In each of the Synoptic Gospels, the temptation of Jesus follows his baptism by John the Baptist. In Mark's Gospel, we are told that Jesus went into the desert immediately after his baptism, led by the Spirit. Jesus' public ministry in Galilee begins after his temptation in the desert. Mark's Gospel makes a connection between the arrest of John the Baptist and the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Jesus' preaching about the Kingdom of God is in continuity with the preaching of John the Baptist, but it is also something very new. The Kingdom of God is beginning; the time of the fulfilment of God's promises is here. In Mark's Gospel, the desert marks the beginning of Jesus' battle with Satan; the ultimate test will be in Jesus' final hours on the cross. In a similar way, our Lenten observances are only a beginning, a preparation for and a reinforcement of our ongoing struggle to resist the temptations we face in our lives, repudiating their origin. During Lent, we are led by the Holy Spirit to remember the vows of Baptism in which we promised to reject sin and to follow Jesus. God also supports us in our struggle against sin and temptation. We succeed because Jesus conquered sin once and for all in his saving death on the cross. The Collect (Opening Prayer) for Ash Wednesday Mass sums up well what we are about during this liturgical season: ***Grant, O Lord, that we may begin with holy fasting this campaign of Christian service, so that, as we take up battle against spiritual evils, we may be armed with weapons of self-restraint.*** We are involved in spiritual warfare against evil. Our sins are a detraction from our humanity, they make us less human. That is why Jesus, who was without sin, was most certainly the most perfect human being who lived. We are all called to strive for this level of perfection, aided by the grace of almighty God. As we look to focus on others, as part of our alms giving during Lent, Camille Fidgett our CAFOD rep will speak briefly at all Masses this weekend to promote **CAFOD'S FAMILY FAST DAY**. You may like to view the very beautiful and moving video supporting this year's FAMILY FAST DAY on our parish website: <https://bit.ly/3jVcmbg>. I know that you will be generous in supporting those who suffer from the effects of poverty in the developing world, magnified no doubt by the pandemic. It's worth highlighting also **Fairtrade Fortnight 2021** 22nd February to 7th March. Both our churches have contributed to our Fairtrade Parish status for several years. Last year we celebrated Fairtrade Fortnight with the Boxmoor Scouts at their monthly coffee and bacon butties morning - some of the cubs had worked hard and made cakes with Fairtrade ingredients and crafts to raise money. Sadly, we will not be able to do that this year. Instead, the Fairtrade Foundation is inviting us all to take part in an online festival being launched to highlight how the climate crisis is affecting the future of food and those who produce it. The event is entitled "**Choose the World you want**" and will feature a series of on-line events for all ages. Do visit the parish website to show your support: <https://bit.ly/3s2Pbig>. Also the Westminster Diocese has recently become a Fairtrade Diocese and they will be receiving their award on 5th March. Please use the link on the parish website to participate. And just a reminder that our parish retreat started on Ash Wednesday: <https://bit.ly/3uhAM3E>. You can catch up and join in. 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.

Lent

The Way of the Cross: Every Tuesday evening at 7pm during Lent the Way of the Cross will be travelled via Live Stream and by individual attendance at Ss Mary and Joseph's church. Live stream is only available here <https://youtu.be/qembsL1VIPc>. To book your place, please go to the Events page on the parish web site: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/events/the-way-of-the-cross-lent-week-1/>. Each week Simon and Cecilia will present a set of "Stations" for prayerful contemplation so participants will remain in their seats throughout the service thereby ensuring social distancing.

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.

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.

Newsletter Items: When submitting an item for the newsletter, please send the details and information to be submitted as you would like to see it published in the newsletter. Space is limited in the newsletter and so please keep your item to no more than 70 words. **Please do not send posters.**

CAFOD Family Fast Day Friday 26 February

This Lent CAFOD is inviting us to support its Clean Water Appeal. Focusing on Abdella who lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia, it takes Abdella 10 hours a day to collect water. Please give today to reach vulnerable communities around the world with water and other vital support. You can donate on line at cafod.org.uk/give, or by using one of the envelopes at Mass this weekend. You can also easily give via text. Text LENTNOINFO to 70460 to donate £10. Please keep CAFOD in your prayers and thank you for your generous donation.

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 5th March** 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.

Music at the 9am Sunday Mass: A change is to be made in terms of the music at our 9am Mass. During these difficult times, it is a real shame that singing has had to be stopped, however we are now going to have more music in our service. Our organist Sam will be playing the 'St Anne's' musical Mass setting by James MacMillan (a popular Scottish composer). Since we're aren't allowed to sing, Sam will play the parts of the Mass setting on the unaccompanied organ. When we eventually can return to singing in church, this Mass setting will be what we sing, instead of the old Belmont Mass. With playing the unaccompanied parts of the Mass, it will give us all a chance to become familiar with this new setting. It will work in this way: After the particular prayer (Kyrie, Sanctus, Acclamation, Agnus Dei and Great Amen.) has been said by the congregation, the music will be played and the people can reflect on the words that have just been said. When singing can return, a Schola (small choir) will be formed to lift the singing and altar servers introduced to enrich the liturgy, but for now, it'll just be the organ.

World Day of Prayer 5th March: Join in prayer with people around the world in a live streamed service arranged by the women of Vanuatu available at www.wwdp.org.uk. Or share with others from Hemel on Zoom at 3pm. Please email Lynnbassett@gmail.com for an invitation. For those without internet, service booklets can be requested by phone on 07803 986716. If you would like to donate please do so via the wwdp website.

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.

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 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.

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.

Did You Know? Our Westminster Diocese has its own Justice & Peace Commission, representing parishes and organisations throughout the diocese. The Commission is a member of the National Justice and Peace Network. Our two Parish Justice & Peace Groups works in conjunction with the Commission and David Toorawa is currently a member. You can read about their activities and sign up for their monthly e-bulletin on their website: <https://westminsterjusticeandpeace.org/>.

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.

Mass intentions this week.

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

Sat 20 th	6pm Ronald Fernando RIP
Sun 21 st	9am Pro Populo 10.30am Edward Stokes RIP ANNIV 12 noon Mass
Mon 22 nd	Parish Mass not Celebrated
Tues 23 rd	Parish Mass not Celebrated 7pm The Way of The Cross
Wed 24 th	10am Mass
Thur 25 th	Parish Mass not Celebrated
Fri 26 th	Parish Mass
Sat 27 th	6pm Mass
Sun 28 th	9am Pro Populo 10.30am Mass 12 noon John Keegan RIP

Recently Departed

We pray for those who have recently died: John Keegan

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, though the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Year of the Word

Gospel readings for the week, beginning Monday 22nd February.

Mon: Matthew 25:31-46
 Tues: Matt.6:7-15
 Wed: Luke 11:29-32
 Thurs: Matt.7:7- 12
 Fri: Matt. 5:20-26
 Sat: Matt. 5:43-48
 Sunday: Mark. 9:2-10

The call to experience Lent as a journey of conversion, prayer and sharing of our goods, helps us as communities, and as individuals, to revive the faith that comes from the living Christ, the hope inspired by the breath of the Holy Spirit and the love flowing from the merciful heart of the Father.

Pope Francis Lent 2021

O God, to those who are hungry give bread.
 And to us who have bread, give hunger for justice, so that no one goes hungry.

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	Tuesday 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

Parish of Hemel West
Contact Details

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 The Presbytery,
 186 St Johns Rd, HP1 1NR.
t: 01442 391759
 e: brianmcmahon@rcdow.org.uk

Rev Simon Wright
Deacon
t: 01442 391759
 e: simonwright@rcdow.org.uk

Newsletter Deadline

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

