

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

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

2nd Sunday in Lent Time Year B

28th February 2021



Deacon Simon writes....

In our first reading God commands Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, his son, despite the fact that God had promised Abraham that his descendants would be “as numerous as the stars”. Even without this promise asking a father to kill his son is asking the impossible. God does relent, Isaac is spared, and a ram is sacrificed instead. But as a father myself I doubt that I would have had the faith to put the life of one of my children at risk for God. And that is the point, since that time God has not asked any parent to sacrifice their child for any reason whatsoever.

But there are times when I think that God asks too much from me, but God does not. There is no need for me to make an impossible sacrifice because the ultimate sacrifice has already been made. In our gospel reading God the Father makes it crystal clear that Jesus is his son, and Jesus explains to his disciples that the son is destined to die, to be sacrificed. This is reinforced in our second reading; St. Paul points out that “God did not spare his own Son.” The Father loves us so much he gave us Jesus. Jesus loves us so much that he died for us, so that we are spared from having to make the impossible ultimate sacrifice.

But God does ask us to sacrifice some things, such as money, resources, time, unnecessary pleasures, all of which we are all capable of doing.

If money is tight then we can give away things we no longer need to charity shops, that is alms giving. Similarly, our meals are not the only thing that we might overindulge in. Daily fasting from snacks, chocolate, biscuits, alcohol may be more appropriate, particularly if the money we would have spent on these things is given to the poor. That is a two for one, fasting and alms giving!

In addition to giving up physical things we could also try time fasting by which I mean refraining for watching one TV program a week and giving the time to God. I know praying can be difficult but there is plenty of help. Fr Brian has set up a Lenten retreat on Monday and on Tuesday we have Stations of the Cross, and you are most welcome at either one or both.

Alternatively read the bible. If it is some time since you opened your bible start with St Mark’s gospel – that can be read in less time than one edition of a reality show. When you have finished St Mark then move on to the Acts of the Apostles and read it over several evenings. Like many mini-series, there is plenty of action in The Acts of the Apostles. This is another two for one, fasting from a guilty pleasure and spending time with God, in prayerful reading of the bible, fasting and prayer.

Our Lenten sacrifices are tiny compared to the sacrifices of the Father and the Son, yet our sacrifices are not impossible but eminently achievable. Spending time with God at the expense of one TV program a week and giving to the poor money we can spare; or giving books, clothing, bric-a-brac, whatever we no longer need to charity. God does not ask us to do the impossible but sometimes we need to do the difficult.

I wish you all a happy 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.

SPRED THE WOIRD

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 at <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/event/s/the-way-of-the-cross-lent-week-1/>. Each week Simon and Cecilia will present a set of "Stations" for prayerful contemplation and so participants will remain in their seats throughout the service thereby ensuring social distancing.

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal: This lent, please support the Cardinal's appeal and help provide food for children and families in our communities who are facing hunger. Please take an envelope when you leave Mass. For more details or to donate go to the following link www.cardinalsntenappeal.org.uk.

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.

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.

CAFOD Lenten Fast Day Reminder: Thank you to Parishioners who took home a Fast Day Envelope at last Weekend's Masses. If you have forgotten to return this Weekend. You can still do so in next few weeks. There are also envelopes available on table at back of Church (as you come in), and CAFOD Prayer Cards for you take home. Thank you also to those Parishioners who have donated to CAFOD on line or by Text. The generosity of the Hemel West Catholic community to this Lenten Fast Day Appeal is very much appreciated.

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.

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 1/8/15 & 22 March, from 1.30pm until 2.30pm. To participate email joel@nlpc.org.uk for your Zoom invite.

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.

Newsletter Items: When submitting an item for the newsletter, please send the details and information 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.

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.

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 on 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 are now open. We are unable to hold school visits, please see the virtual tour on our website. We will be holding a Zoom meeting on Monday 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.**

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 the CEDAR (Catholics Experiencing Domestic Abuse Resources) website?

The website's resources include guidelines for supporting people who may be experiencing domestic abuse. There are phone numbers for Helplines and links to the websites of support services and projects. Have a look at the website, there may be someone you know who can use the information. www.cedar.uk.net.

Gospel readings for the week, beginning Monday 1st March:

Mon: Luke 6:36-38
 Tues: Matthew.23:1-12
 Wed: Matt. 20:17-28
 Thurs: Luke16:19- 31
 Fri: Matt. 21:33-43, 45-46
 Sat: Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32
 Sunday: John 2:13-25 or John 4: 5-42

"Oh, come to the Water all you who are thirsty.

" Isaiah 55:1

Christ Jesus, you know what it is to hunger and thirst. Open my eyes to my brothers and sisters who struggle to get clean water, and fill me with compassion so that I may reach out to them with love.

Amen.

CAFOD

Mass intentions this week.

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

Sat 27 th	6pm Mary Barnes RIP
Sun 28 th	9am Pro Populo 12 noon John Keegan RIP
Mon 1 st	Parish Mass not Celebrated
Tues 2 nd	Parish Mass not Celebrated 7pm The Way of The Cross
Wed 3 rd	10am Holy Souls
Thur 4 th	Parish Mass not Celebrated
Fri 5 th	10am Eddie McLaughlin RIP
Sat 6 th	6pm Patricia Goodwin 1st ANNIV RIP
Sun 7 th	9am Michael Flanagan RIP ANNIV 12 noon Peggy Sitkowski RIP ANNIV

Weekly and Sunday Offertory Collection

13/02/2021 – 21/02/2021

Envelopes	£69.00
Loose Cash	£343.30
TOTAL	£412.30

Thank you for your contribution, which is very much appreciated! If you donate via loose cash please transfer to Standing Order, it really helps your parish in planning for an uncertain future!

Hemel West Parish Administrator, Shirley Bailey. Email: shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk Phone: 01442 391 759	
The Parish Office is located behind the Parish Centre.	
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-12.30pm



MAKING CONTACT AT HEMEL WEST CATHOLIC PARISH

Parish Priest: Fr Brian McMahon brianmcmahon@rcdow.org.uk or call 01442 391 759 **option 3**
Deacon: Rev Simon Wright simonwright@rcdow.org.uk
Parish Administrator: Shirley Bailey shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk or call 01442 391 759 **option 2**

Hall Bookings: via Shirley at hemelwesthallbookings@rcdow.org.uk or call 01442 391 759 option 2 (In office hours)

Newsletter: Deadline Wednesday 12 noon. News items for Hemel West, please send to: shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk

Address: The Presbytery, 186 St John's Road, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 1NR

Parish website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/>



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