

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

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

3rd Sunday in Lent Time Year B

7th March 2021



Gospel Reading *John 2:13-25*

Fr Brian writes...

You may have seen an article in the news this week that Pontins, the holiday park operator, had circulated a blacklist telling its staff not to book accommodation for people with certain Irish surnames, as they were considered “Undesirable Guests.” One of the blacklisted surnames was McMahon! Oh, well, perhaps Butlins might let me in this summer! Having read the gospel passage for this Sunday’s Mass, I wonder if Jesus might also end up on the Pontin’s blacklist after his behaviour in the Temple at Jerusalem. Imagine you were going about your business in the Temple at Jerusalem and encountered Jesus in full flow. How might you react? Jesus overturns the tables of the merchants and the moneychangers in the Temple at Jerusalem. At the time of Jesus worship at the Temple in Jerusalem included animal sacrifice, and merchants sold animals to worshippers. Moneychangers exchanged Roman coins, which bore the image of the Roman emperor, for the temple coins that were needed to pay the temple tax. After clearing the Temple of the merchants and the moneychangers, John’s Gospel tells us that the people asked for a sign of Jesus’ authority to do such an audacious act. In response, Jesus predicted his death and Resurrection. The language of signs is distinctive and John uses this word rather than miracles. These signs are proof of his authority. Jesus really does what it says on the tin! Here we learn that the supreme sign will be Jesus’ passion, death, and Resurrection, which we are preparing to celebrate during Holy Week, as we progress through Lent. During this liturgical season we reflect upon the meaning of this sign for us and for our world. We might take this opportunity to consider the quality of our prayer and worship. In our prayers we seek to deepen our relationship with the person of Christ. In our worship with the community, we gather to experience anew the passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus and its significance in our lives. Christ promises to be present with us when we gather for prayer.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Just a reminder that confessions are being heard on Friday evenings between 7pm-8pm in the presbytery. Why not pop in when you are out for your daily exercise? A screen is in place to facilitate penitent anonymity. Please wear a mask. I’m also available to hear confessions by appointment at other times. Jesus is waiting there in the Sacrament of Reconciliation for you. Pope Francis’ prayer intention for the month of March is for a renewed experience of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. When was the last time you went to confession he asks?

Year of St Joseph

If you would like to pray the novena to St Joseph, you can find it on our parish website at this link:
<https://bit.ly/3kGyt5Q>

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.

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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 & Joseph's church. Live stream is only available at <https://youtu.be/2VL1jxbcFYY>.

To book 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-3/>. Each week Simon and Cecilia will present a set of "Stations" for prayerful contemplation and 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 ww.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.

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.

Preparing for the New Normal

The COVID19 vaccination programme, coupled with infection control measures will, at some time in the future, bring the number of cases of coronavirus down to a level when we can resume a full programme of weekend and weekday Masses. With this in mind, Fr Brian has asked me, Deacon Simon, to begin preparations for that time, by refreshing our lists of people who are prepared to help. We will need Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Stewards, Little Church leaders and helpers, etc. If we are to provide the engaging liturgies that we were used to before the Corona Virus. If you've never served in this way before, now is an opportunity to come forward. The first list I want to compile is the list of the housebound who wish to receive Holy Communion. Although we have some names please do not assume that the list includes your loved one. To this end if you know of someone who used to receive Holy Communion prior to lockdown or someone who would like to receive Holy Communion, when home visits are safe enough to resume then please email me at simonwright@rcdow.org.uk or phone 01442 391 759 and speak to Shirley or leave a message. Please include your name and contact details as well as the name of the person who would like to receive Holy Communion with their contact details and their residential address. All personal information is held on GDPR compliant secure servers.

Baptisms

In order to comply with the current regulations, we can only hold a baptism during a scheduled Mass. Traditionally baptisms are not celebrated during Lent. Therefore, there will be no baptisms in church until after Easter. However, we have now received guidance from our Bishop's on how the new regulations and guidance from the government (on the relaxation of the current lockdown) affects Church services. Baptisms outside of Mass will not resume until 17th May at the earliest, and possibly later if the infection data takes a turn for the worst. Therefore, if you have attended a Baptism Preparation Class and you live within the parish of Hemel West you can book one of the following Sunday Masses, via the events page, for a baptism on: 18/25 April and 2/9 and 16 May. Please follow the link below to book. Bookings will open on **Saturday 6th March from 12 noon** <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/events/> Please sign up to the parish e-alert to keep up to date with parish news and any cancellations of Masses.

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

Easter Eggs 2021



Share the Easter Story, support Fairtrade, and enjoy wonderful chocolate! This year major supermarkets are cutting back on the number of Easter Eggs in stock. A casualty of this is the egg produced by the Real Ester Egg company. In previous years over 80,000 people have bought these eggs. This year, however, you can only get them online. The 2021 Original Real Easter Egg includes a free 24-page Easter story activity book. It features a rainbow design to remind us of the importance of working together, in amazing and inspiring ways, for the common good. It costs £4.50 and is delivered in multiples of six or as singles. It offers us a simple way to share the Easter Story while supporting Fairtrade and charitable projects. To order go to www.realesteregg.co.uk.

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.

Catholic Universe and Catholic Times: If you would like to subscribe to the above newsletter and get it delivered direct to your home every week, free of post, please go to w.thecatholicuniverse.com or call them on 0161 820 5722 and they will arrange this for you.

Gospel readings for the week, beginning Monday 8th March:

Mon: Luke 4:24-30
 Tues: Matthew.18:21-35
 Wed: Matt. 5:17-19
 Thurs: Luke11:14- 23
 Fri: Mark 12:28-34
 Sat: Luke 18:9-14
 Sunday:John 3:14-21

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 in love.
 Amen

Isaiah 1:17

"Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed.
 Take up the cause of the fatherless;
 plead the case of the widow ..."

Mass intentions this week.

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

Sat 6 th	6pm Patricia Goodwin 1st ANNIV RIP
Sun 7 th	9am Michael Flanagan RIP ANNIV 12 noon Peggy Sitkowski RIP ANNIV
Mon 8 th	Parish Mass not Celebrated
Tues 9 th	Parish Mass not Celebrated 7pm The Way of The Cross
Wed 10 th	10am Stephen Gardner RIP
Thur 11 th	Parish Mass not Celebrated
Fri 12 th	10am Peggy Killeen 7pm-8pm (Presbytery) Sacrament of Reconciliation
Sat 13 th	6pm Peter & Terry Griffin 50 th Wedding ANNIV
Sun 14 th	9am St Cuthbert Mayne School Community 12 noon St Roses School Community

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.

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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