

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

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

4th Sunday in Lent Time Year B

14th March 2021



Gospel Reading: *John 3:14-21*

Fr Brian writes...

Rejoice! The fourth Sunday of Lent is known as Laetare Sunday. *Laetare* is a Latin word that means “rejoice” and it is the first word of today’s Entrance Antiphon for our Mass. At this mid-point in Lent, we rejoice in anticipation of the joy that will be ours at Easter. Despite all that is going on with the pandemic, the world and the Church, we are a people of hope. If we do not have hope, we cannot be joyful. If we are not people of joy, thankful for all God has done for us in Christ, then we will not attract disciples for Christ, with all the consequences that entails.

It’s a particularly interesting Gospel reading we hear today. Nicodemus seems to misunderstand Jesus at every point in their conversation, but there is no animosity on his part. Part of today’s Gospel is a theological reflection on Jesus’ words to Nicodemus, which is so characteristic of John’s Gospel. In John’s reflection, we find an observation about human sinfulness. Jesus is the light that has come into the world, but people preferred the darkness. We wish to keep our sins hidden, even from God. Jesus has come into the world to reveal our sins so that they may be forgiven. This is the Good News; it is the reason for our rejoicing in this season of Lent and throughout our lives. So, Rejoice!

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

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/A8UY_tGLFSY. 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-4/>. 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 www.cardinalsntenappeal.org.uk.

Dear Friends, please take a copy of the 2020 parish up date of finances when you leave church today or follow the link below for more details. Fr Brian and the Parish Finance Committee would like to thank you for your continued support for the parish of Hemel West. <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/parish-management/finance-committee/update-on-parish-finances/parish-finance-update-2020/>

Feast of St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Patron of the Diocese: Friday 19th March: We will celebrate this feast day, so intimately connected with our parish church at Boxmoor, with Mass on Friday 19th March at 7pm. Fridays are days of penitential abstinence, but this is not expected on this Solemnity. Bookings for a place at the Mass will open on **Monday 15th March**.

We would like to offer our congratulations to Peter & Terry Griffin on their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Saturday 13th March.

Preparing for our Return to Normality

Fr Brian has asked me, Deacon Simon, to begin preparations for the return to normality by refreshing our lists of people who are prepared to help. We will need Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Stewards, Little Church leaders, altar servers and helpers if we are to provide the engaging liturgies that we were used to before the Corona Virus. If you have never served in this way before, now is an opportunity to come forward. Training and refresher training will be provided for all liturgical ministries.

Last week I began to refresh the list of the housebound who wish to receive Holy Communion. This week I want to make sure our list of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion is up-to-date. If you are willing to continue to be an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion or interested in serving in this way, then please email me at simonwright@rcdow.org.uk or phone 01442 391 759 and speak to Shirley or leave a message. Please give your name and contact details and the reason for your call; be assured that 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. <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 15/22 March, from 1.30pm until 2.30pm. To participate email joel@nlpc.org.uk for your Zoom invite.

Christians Against Poverty: We know that more people than ever are struggling financially right now. We want to make sure that as many people as possible are hearing the good news that there is help available and a way out of debt. Our service is completely free, so if anyone is struggling, they can call 0800 328 0006 and book an appointment.

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.

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? the UK government under David Cameron was the first country to commit a minimum of 0.7% of its Gross Domestic Product (income) to aiding the poorest countries. Now our Government has reneged on that election manifesto promise. For example, it is cutting by half our financial support to Yemen this year as well as aid to other needy countries such as Syria and Lebanon. So much for those TV images of starving babies! Why not write to your MP in protest?" We are preparing a letter from our Group.

Gospel readings for the week, beginning Monday 15th March:

Mon: John 4:43-54
 Tues: John 5:1-3, 5-16
 Wed: John 5:17-30
 Thurs: John 5:31- 47
 Fri: John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
 Sat: John 7:40-52
 Sunday: John 12:20-33

We must distinguish between ownership and the use of property. We have a right to ownership, through our hard work, or inheritance. Fair enough. But with regard to the use of those things, then, we must always be concerned for the common good and not of our own.
 St Thomas Aquinas

We pray for a more just and equitable world. May each of us be more willing to share that with which we have been blessed with those who have little.
 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 Peter & Terry Griffin 50 th Wedding ANNIV
Sun 14 th	9am St Cuthbert Mayne School Community 12 noon St Roses School Community
Mon 15 th	Parish Mass not Celebrated
Tues 16 th	Parish Mass not Celebrated 7pm The Way of The Cross
Wed 17 th	10am Pro Populo
Thur 18 th	Parish Mass not Celebrated
Fri 19 th	10am Mass not Celebrated 7pm Mass Feast of St Joseph
Sat 20 th	6pm Private Intention
Sun 21 st	9am Pro Populo 12 noon Private Intention

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.

Weekly Offertory and Sunday Collection

27th February until 7th March 2021

Envelopes	£158.00
Loose Cash	£285.80
TOTAL	£443.80
Standing Orders Total for February	£4,556.50
CAFOD Collection	£531.90
Cardinal's Appeal	£55.00

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!

The Year of St Joseph

The Pope has dedicated this year to St Joseph and, as he is one of our patronal saints in Hemel West, maybe we should try to get to know him a little better. The recent Apostolic Letter, *Patris Corde* (With a Father's Heart), is a personal reflection by Pope Francis on the importance of St Joseph in our world of today, as the husband of Mary, the father of Jesus and the protector of the Church. In this slim volume (a mere 32 pages) Pope Francis invites us to better get to know this often overlooked saint. The aim is to **'increase our love for this great saint, to encourage us to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtue and zeal'**.

Scripture tells us very little about Joseph but we do know that he was a carpenter; that he was a kind and devout man; that he took on the role of protector and legal father to Mary's son, and with her, enabled Jesus to grow in wisdom and knowledge. The Pope compares Joseph to the many unsung and hidden heroines and heroes of the current pandemic and those who serve, often in quiet, unobtrusive and everyday ways. Their contribution is often **overlooked but** without **them** the world would be a harsher and poorer place. He writes, **'Each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily discreet presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble.'**

The Pope devotes seven short sections to aspects of Joseph's fatherhood: he was an accepting, obedient, and loving father; he was courageous and resourceful; he was a working father; he remained in the shadows his influence on Jesus is not overtly mentioned in the scriptures but we can see it in the humanity of his foster son. The Pope says, **'I like to think that it was from St Joseph that Jesus drew inspiration for the parable of the prodigal son and the merciful father'**. Joseph offers a pattern of fatherhood to be emulated.

In Spain, Italy and Portugal, Father's Day is traditionally celebrated on 19th March, the feast of St Joseph. And his other feast on May 2nd celebrates him as patron of workers. There is no doubt about St Joseph's position as a key worker! There is a link to the Novena to St Joseph on the

parish website. The prayer below is from the conclusion of the Pope's letter. *Patris Corde* costs £3.95 and is available from the Catholic Truth Society.

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
To you God entrusted his only Son;
In you Mary put her trust;
With you Christ became a man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too
Show yourself a father
And guide us on the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage
And defend us from every evil.
Amen

Happy
Mother's
Day

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/>

 01442 391 759

Diocese of Westminster Charity N^o: 233699