

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

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

5th Sunday in Lent Time Year B

21st March 2021

Background on the Gospel Reading *John 12:20-33*

Fr Brian writes....

The final section of today's Gospel might be read as John's parallel to the agony in the garden. Unlike the Synoptic Gospels, ie Matthew, Mark and Luke, the Gospel of John does not record Jesus' anguished prayer in the garden of Gethsemane before his arrest. Although comparable words are found in today's reading, Jesus gives a confident response to the question he raises when asking God to save him from his impending death. After announcing his conviction that it is for this purpose that he came, a voice from heaven speaks, as if in answer to Jesus' prayer. This voice, like the one heard at Jesus' baptism and at Jesus' Transfiguration—events reported in the Synoptic Gospels but not in John's Gospel—affirms that God welcomes the sacrifice that Jesus will make on behalf of others, a sacrifice of love. In John's Gospel, Jesus teaches that this voice was sent for the sake of those who would believe in him. In today's Gospel, we also hear Jesus speak about the cosmic framework against which we are to understand his passion, death, and Resurrection. Through his death and Resurrection, Jesus conquered Satan, the ruler of this world. In this way the world is judged, but the judgment is not condemnation. Instead, through Jesus' dying and rising, salvation is brought to the world. We look forward to this in the coming weeks as we move through the final weeks of Lent, into Holy Week and Easter.

Holy Week and The Paschal Triduum at the church of St Mary & St Joseph's, Boxmoor	
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord 27th/28th March	6pm, 9am, 10.30am and 12pm
Maundy Thursday. Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper 1st April	7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday. The Celebration of the Passion of the Lord 2nd April	3pm Liturgy of Good Friday 5.30pm- 6.30pm Sacrament of Reconciliation in the parish centre
Holy Saturday. The Easter Vigil in the Night. 3rd April	8.30pm Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday. Easter Sunday of the Resurrection. 4th April	9am & 10.30am & 12 noon

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. Livestream is only available at <https://youtu.be/--zuo13kA1Q>. To book please go to the Events page on the parish website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/event/s/the-way-of-the-cross-lent-week-5/>. 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.

Holy Week and the Paschal Triduum

This year we are unable to celebrate our Holy Week and Paschal Triduum liturgies with the full solemnity that would normally be expected, or to have full churches. However, there is a massive improvement on last year, when no one except the priest was allowed in the church, as communal worship was prohibited. Time spent in church must continue to be curtailed, to minimise the risk of the virus spreading in an enclosed area, with liturgies expedited and social distancing maintained. I encourage parishioners who are unable to get a booking for one of our liturgies to participate via livestream. Please do not come to church during this period without a booking, as it is probable that there will not be space for you and regretfully the steward may have to refuse you entry. Thank you and God bless you as we move now into this time of increased solemnity, preparing to join with our brother and Lord, Jesus, as he suffers, dies and is raised to life by the Father.

Fr Brian

Good Friday Stations of the Cross: On Good Friday there will be two on-line Stations of the Cross. The first at 10am which will be for young children and their parents with age appropriate words and images. Please follow the link <https://youtu.be/TcbAskL3W64>. The second will be at 11am with traditional prayers and contemporary images. Please follow the link https://youtu.be/Qfp7pD78x_g. **Both links will go live on Good Friday.** The links to the video streams will remain available until Easter Saturday 12 noon.

National Day of Reflection Tuesday 23rd March: 23rd March is the first anniversary of the first UK lockdown, do visit at some stage Ss Mary & Joseph's church. It will be open between 11am and 1pm so that you can come and **pray before the Blessed Sacrament** exposed on the altar. Do consider inviting one friend or neighbour, who would not usually come to church. Masks should be worn (unless legally exempt) and social distancing observed. Please sanitise your hands on entry and complete the contact form at the front desk, leaving via the fire exit door after your period of prayer. Please see the link to the background from the President and Vice President of the bishops' conference. <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/news/>. Thank you. Fr Brian.

Parish Council - come on board!

I'd like to get a **Parish Council** going to help co-ordinate and energise the parish across its various Pastoral activities, especially now as we begin to emerge from the pandemic, please God! Finance would not be part of its considerations, which is dealt with separately by the Finance Council. If you are looking for an opportunity to serve in this way, then do contact me for a chat. I'm not quite sure what it would involve at this stage, other than developing a pastoral plan for a start, based on the consultation started last year, but which was interrupted so dramatically by the pandemic. It could also provide a means of consultation with the parish on significant matters and required change. We could perhaps tease out what it means to be a 'synodal' Church that Pope Francis encourages, as he outlines in his recent book, *Let Us Dream.* <https://amzn.to/3I37UYt>. I'm sure your ideas would be as good as mine. It would be great to have you on board to help develop the life of the parish for the years ahead, deciding what we should focus on for **mission**, whilst **maintaining** essential activities. You'll have an opportunity, along with other interested parishioners, to position the parish to meet the challenges of the future, within the context of what it means to be a Catholic parish in the diocese of Westminster, as part of the Universal Church. I'm quite fluid about this and open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. For this service, **I'm particularly interested in parishioners who do not currently serve in the parish or have never done so.**

My previous calls for service on the Finance Committee were poorly responded to, apart from two parishioners who have never served before. Many thanks to them for coming forward! If the response to this call is similar, then I'll take that as an indication that there is perhaps no appetite for a Parish Council. After all, there is no requirement to have one, but I think it would be a good way of fostering collaborative working between priest and people. I do not see it as a resurrection or continuation of whatever previously existed in the parish in years gone by. You don't need any particular skills as such, just a willingness to get involved and **get things done**, working co-operatively with others. I'm afraid there's no payment. But you do get to build up the Kingdom of God in this little bit of Hemel Hempstead!

Diocesan Covid-19 Vaccination Confidence

Event: With the support of Local Authorities Westminster Diocese is hosting a webinar on **Saturday 27th March 2021 10am-11.30am** to encourage confidence in COVID-19 vaccination among all our communities. There is concern that BAME communities are less likely than White-British ethnic groups to accept vaccination. A group of Catholic clergy from BAME communities and medical professionals will share information on health and wellbeing in the context of COVID-19 and vaccines. All are welcome. You do not have to register to attend. **Join Zoom Meeting at <https://zoom.us/j/92895192155>.**
Meeting ID: 928 9519 2155,
Password: 844612
Or join by phone: 0208 080 6591 (and use the meeting ID and password above).

Music at the Sunday 9am Mass: In the near future we will be establishing a Schola (a small choir of 3-6 people). Within the current government guidance, it states that 3 people are legally permitted to sing in church. The choir will have to be socially distanced and masked. With the introduction of the St Anne's Mass to our 9am Mass, the Schola will be singing the Mass setting as well as the processional hymn. Sam our organist will be taking charge of the Schola and accompanying them from the organ as well. If you are interested in this and wish to join the Schola, please contact Sam at akemp1312@gmail.com, or speak to Andy at the 9am Mass. The ability to read music is preferable but certainly not essential. Enthusiasm is far more important!

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 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.

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 general 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.

This week I am refreshing the list of readers. If you are willing to continue to be a reader at Mass or are 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.

Gospel readings for the week, beginning Monday 22nd March:

Mon: John 8:1-11
Tues: John 8:21-30
Wed: John 8:31-42
Thurs: John 8:51-59
Fri: John 10:31-42
Sat: John 11:45-56
Sunday: Mark 14:1-15:47 (Palm Sunday)

St John of the Cross:

Where there is no love, put love and you will draw out love.

Prayer

God of mercy and justice, hear your people crying.
We need a safe place, filled with love.
Yet, too many of your beloved children are under threat, even in their homes. They are humiliated, beaten and abused. Hear their cries. Let them find refuge and support as they seek dignity and justice.
God of mercy and justice, hear your children crying.
Amen

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.

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 Private Intention
Sun 21 st	9am Pro Populo 12 noon Private Intention
Mon 22 nd	Parish Mass not Celebrated
Tues 23 rd	Parish Mass not Celebrated National Day of Reflection. Church open for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, 11am to 1pm. 7pm The Way of The Cross
Wed 24 th	10am Private Intention
Thur 25 th	Parish Mass not Celebrated
Fri 26 th	10am Herman Fernandes RIP 7pm-7.30pm (Presbytery) Sacrament of Reconciliation
Sat 27 th	6pm John Carroll RIP
Sun 28 th	PALM SUNDAY PASSION OF THE LORD 9am Pro Populo 10.30 am 12 noon Jimmy Cash RIP

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-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/hemelhempestadwest/>

 **01442 391 759**

Diocese of Westminster Charity N^o: 233699