

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

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

PALM SUNDAY. PASSION OF THE LORD. Year B

28th March 2021

Fr Brian writes...

Today is Palm or Passion Sunday, the first day of **Holy Week**. Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night are called the *Sacred Paschal Triduum*—three days that are the highlight of the Church year. There are two Gospels proclaimed at today's Palm Sunday Mass. The first Gospel tells of the triumphant entrance into Jerusalem of Jesus. Riding on a borrowed colt, Jesus was hailed by the crowds as they blessed God and shouted "Hosanna!". During the Liturgy of the Word, the second Gospel is proclaimed, when we hear the events of Jesus' passion. We will hear those events again later this week on Good Friday. In Mark's Gospel, generally speaking, Jesus' disciples do little to invoke confidence in their capacity to continue his ministry after his death. Collectively, they are about as much use as a chocolate teapot! They fare no better in Mark's passion narrative. At the Last Supper, the disciples insisted that none among them would betray Jesus. When Jesus predicted that their faith would be shaken in the events ahead, Peter and the other disciples protested vehemently. Yet in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus returned three times to find them sleeping. Just as Jesus predicted, Peter denied Jesus, and the disciples all ran away. Their successors are the bishops. Only the women who had been followers of Jesus in Galilee are said to have been present at the Crucifixion and witnessed its ghastly horror. Mark challenges the reader to consider the claim with which his Gospel begins and the passion narrative ends: Jesus is the Son of God. Dear newsletter reader. Who is Jesus for you? Is he truly the Son of God, the only way to salvation for you? Now is the time during this Holy Week to surrender yourself in silence and contemplation to the awesome truth that God came amongst us, lived as one of us and died out of pure love for us that we might be reconciled to the Father. Despite what is happening in the world with the pandemic, economic and social distress, God is very much involved in the world, suffering with us, bearing our faults and beckoning us home to him. That's what the events of Holy Week show us. I wish you a prayerful Holy Week, in as much silence, prayer and contemplation as you can afford, as we accompany Our Lord through his passion, death and glorious resurrection. Palms will be blessed during Mass and available as you leave. Palms will also be left outside the entrance door of the Parish Centre, Boxmoor, for those unable to come to Mass. When you are out for your daily exercise, do help yourself to one as you pass by.

Holy Week at the church of St Mary & St Joseph's, Boxmoor, parish of Hemel West	
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
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

Digital Collection Basket. This week sees the introduction of our Digital Collection Basket. It's a really easy to use self-service card donation point for our parish and has been installed at both of our churches. It is an alternative way for us to provide a more hygienic option to receive donations given the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as move us forward in eliminating our weekly loose coin and cash collection, with all the benefits that brings. So, if you usually donate using loose cash, please consider using your card or debit card. The digital collection basket accepts all major credit and debit cards. We are so used to using this type of equipment when we go shopping that it only makes sense for us to introduce it. It's easy to use, so give it a go and help us move to a cashless offertory collection based on digital giving and Standing Orders! As always, thank you for your generosity in the offertory collection and at other times. It is very much appreciated.

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.

The Way of the Cross: Tuesday evening at 7pm 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/WaSyZcnrE_4. To book please go to the Events page on the website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/events/the-way-of-the-cross-lent-week-6/>. 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.

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/3l37UYt>. 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.**

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!

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Confessions will be heard on Wednesday 31st March in the Parish Centre, Boxmoor between 7pm and 9pm. Please wear a mask and stand to make your confession. A screen will be in place to facilitate penitent anonymity. You may find the guidance at the link below helpful <https://www.catholic.org/prayers/confession.php>.

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.

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. There will be not be any 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/hemel Hempstead West/events/> Please sign up to the parish e-alert to keep up to date with parish news and any cancellations of Masses.

Schools

John F Kennedy Catholic School: Have a vacancy for a Duty Officer for evening and weekend hirings. Further details are available on the school website or contact the school directly.

Cleaner Required John F Kennedy School: We require a cleaner from 10am to 2.30pm during the COVID climate, fixed term until 20/07/21. Please contact the school for more details.

St Albert the Great: We are looking for a midday supervisor to work every lunch time from 11.45am to 1.15pm, starting as soon as possible. For more details please visit the school's website <https://albertthegreat.herts.sch.uk/vacancies/>.

We pray for the sick in our parish: Sean Joyce

Gospel readings for the week, beginning Monday 29th

March:

Mon: John 12: 1-11
 Tues: John 13:21-33, 36-38
 Wed: Matt. 26:14-25
 Thurs: John 13:1- 15
 Fri: John 18:1 - 19: 42
 Sat: Holy Saturday
 Sunday: John 20:1-9

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.

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.

HOLY WEEK

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 John Carroll RIP
Sun 28 th	PALM SUNDAY 9am Pro Populo 10.30am Mass 12 noon Jimmy Cash RIP
Mon 29 th	Parish Mass not Celebrated
Tues 30 th	Parish Mass not Celebrated
Wed 31 st	SPY WEDNESDAY 10am John Keane 25 th RIP ANNIV
Thur 1 st	MAUNDY THURSDAY 7pm Mass of the Lords Supper
Fri 2 nd	GOOD FRIDAY 3pm The Celebration of the Passion of the Lord
Sat 3 rd	HOLY SATURDAY 8.30pm Easter Vigil
Sun 4 th	EASTER SUNDAY 9am Pro Populo 10.30am Antoinette Horsted 2 nd RIP ANNIV 12 noon Joe Carroll 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



Prayer - We Are One with You

O God, we are one with you. You have made us one with You. You have taught us that if we are open to one another, You dwell in us. Help us to preserve this openness and to fight for it with all our hearts. Help us to realise that there can be no understanding, where there is ultimate rejection. Oh God, in accepting one another wholeheartedly, fully, completely, we accept You; and we thank You, and we adore You, and we love You with our whole being, because our being is in Your being, our spirit is rooted in Your Spirit. Fill us then with love, and let us be bound together with love as we go our diverse ways, united in this one spirit which makes You present in the world, and which makes You witness to the ultimate reality that is love. Love has overcome, Love is victorious. Amen. (Thomas Merton)

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