

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

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

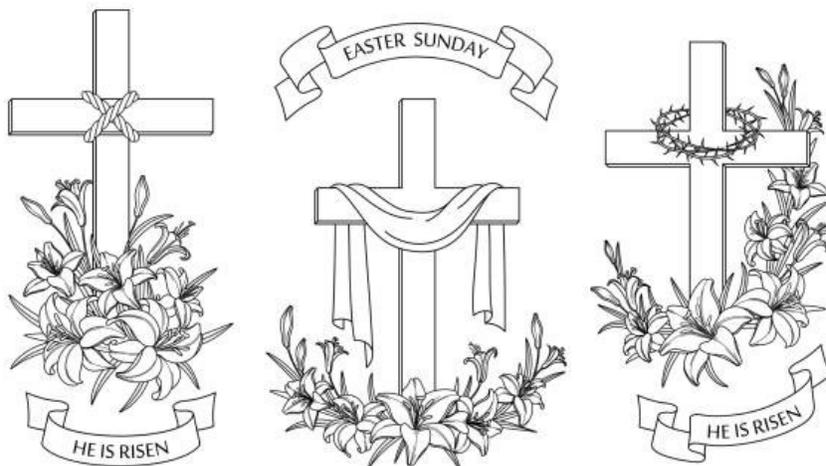
EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION. Year B **4th April 2021**

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord. ALLELUIA!

Fr Brian writes....

Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia!

Can you believe it!? Can you believe that a man who was seen battered, beaten, bloodied, bruised, crucified and dead just three days earlier, has been reported by some of his friends as being seen alive? Seen alive as well by women, can you imagine that!? The Father raised Jesus from the dead in the power of the Holy Spirit. It truly was an act of the Trinity. Each of the four Gospels tells us that Jesus' empty tomb was first discovered by women. This is notable because in first-century Jewish society women could not serve as legal witnesses, as their testimony was considered unreliable. In the case of John's Gospel, the only woman attending the tomb is Mary of Magdala. Mary is simply said to have observed that the stone that had sealed the tomb had been moved, and she runs to alert Simon Peter and the beloved disciple, John. Her statement to them is telling. She assumes that Jesus' body has been removed, perhaps stolen. She does not consider that Jesus has been raised from the dead. The Gospel passage concludes, however, that even having seen the empty tomb and the burial cloths, the disciples do not yet understand about the Resurrection. In the passage that follows, Mary of Magdala meets Jesus but mistakes him for the gardener. In the weeks ahead, the Gospel readings from our liturgy will show us how the disciples came to believe in Jesus' Resurrection through his appearances to them. Our Easter faith is based on their witness to both the empty tomb and their continuing relationship with Jesus—in his appearances and in his gift of the Holy Spirit. **Happy Easter! Alleluia!**



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/hemelhempesteadwest/mass-live/> and click on the YouTube button.

SPREAD THE WORD

Digital Collection Basket. The introduction of our Digital Collection Basket seems to be going well. 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 instead.** 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. You will not be able to gift-aid your donation at the moment, but this function will be enabled shortly and we'll let you know.

Parish Office: The parish office will be closed from Friday 2nd April until Friday 9th April and will reopen on Monday 12th April at 12 noon. Happy Blessed Easter to everyone.

Newsletter: The next newsletter will be on the weekend of 17th/18th April. Please send your newsletter items to shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk by 12 noon on Wednesday 14th April.

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!

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!

Schools

John F Kennedy Catholic School: Have a vacancy for a Duty Officer for evening and weekend hiring's. 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/>.

| | |
|---|---|
| Mass intentions this week. All Masses are subject to cancellation unexpectedly. Please check the parish website before you come to church! | |
| Sat 3 rd | HOLY SATURDAY 8.30pm Easter Vigil |
| Sun 4 th | EASTER SUNDAY 9am Anne Keane RIP 10.30am Antoinette Horsted 2 nd RIP ANNIV 12 noon Joe Carroll RIP |
| Mon 5 th | Parish Mass not Celebrated |
| Tues 6 th | Parish Mass not Celebrated |
| Wed 7 th | 10am George Gardner RIP |
| Thur 8 th | Parish Mass not Celebrated |
| Fri 9 th | 10am Jacek Kosowski Terminally ill |
| Sat 10 th | 6pm Herman Fernandes RIP |
| Sun 11 th | 9am Pro Populo 12 noon Jack O'Malley 1st RIP ANNIV |

Gospel readings for the week, beginning Monday 5th April:

Mon: Matthew 28: 8-15
 Tues: John 20:11-18
 Wed: Luke 24:13-35
 Thurs: Luke 24:35- 48
 Fri: John 21:1-14
 Sat: Mark 16:9-15
 Sunday: John 20:19-31

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.

Prayer

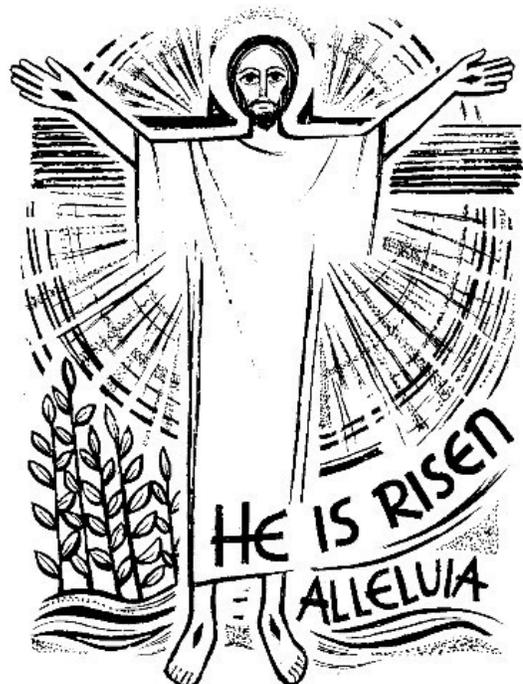
God, who takes infinite care, you know that sometimes it takes a Pandemic to make us thankful.
 Let us not waste that experience, or trivialise, or regret it, but draw on it, as from a rich well of gratitude.
 Amen

"While the world changes, the Cross stands firm."

St Bruno
 Amen.

Act of Spiritual Communion

In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church
 where your death and passion are-pleaded-before the Father,
 I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving.
 I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may be united to you for ever:
 and since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come to me spiritually.
 I unite myself to you and embrace you with all the affection of my soul.
 Let nothing ever separate me from you: let me live and die in your love.
 Amen



| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 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/hemelhempsteadwest/>



01442 391 759