

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

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

3rd Sunday of Easter. Year B

18th April 2021

Fr Brian writes...

Background to the Gospel Reading *Luke 24:35-48*

We continue to hear Gospel accounts of Jesus' appearances to his disciples following his Resurrection. Today's reading, taken from the Gospel of Luke, follows immediately after the report of Jesus' appearance to his disciples on the road to Emmaus. This is the event being recounted by the disciples in the opening verse of today's Gospel. Notice how in the reports of Jesus' post-Resurrection appearances, Jesus greets his disciples with the words, "Peace be with you." The disciples have witnessed the death of someone they loved, and they now fear for their own lives as well. Peace is what they need more than anything else. Jesus often connects this greeting of peace with the gift of forgiveness. This is woven into the text of every Mass. The disciples still remain terrified to some extent of Jesus. Imagine how you might feel if you witnessed a close friend die a violent death and then three days later see them alive and looking better than before they were killed. They are uncertain about what to make of the figure before them and mistake Jesus for a ghost. We have the benefit of hindsight, the disciples didn't. Jesus invites them to experience his resurrected body with their senses, to look and to touch. The figure before them is flesh and bone, still bearing the marks of crucifixion. Although the disciples cannot forget his suffering and death, slowly peace begins to take root in their hearts, as their fears turn to joy and amazement. As further proof of his identity and of his resurrected body, Jesus eats with his disciples. The disciples have known Jesus best through the meals that he has shared with them. By eating with his disciples after his Resurrection, Jesus recalls all these meals, and most importantly, he recalls the Last Supper. Luke's report of the Last Supper and the meals that Jesus shared after his Resurrection unveil for us the significance of the Eucharist. Having shared a meal with his disciples, Jesus now uncovers for them the significance of what was written about him in the Scriptures. So, too, our celebration of the Mass is an encounter with Jesus, through the Word and the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Jesus invites us to be participants, not spectators. As Jesus commissions his disciples to be witnesses to what Scriptures foretold, our celebration of the Eucharist commissions us. Go! Like the disciples, we are sent to announce the good news of Jesus' forgiveness of sins.

Thank you!

A very big thank you to everyone who had a hand in getting us ready for Holy Week and especially our Sacred Paschal Triduum. We had the best Easter liturgical celebrations we could have had in the current circumstances. Thank you to everyone who played a part!

Mass schedules etc!

The Sunday Obligation remains suspended during the pandemic, until re-instated by the bishop. At present I have not heard and do not know when this will be. Please God, all our parishioners will return once the Sunday Obligation is re-introduced, so that we can have our full complement of Sunday Masses i.e. the vigil Mass on Saturday evening and three on Sunday morning. When the whole parish returns, I intend to make some minor modifications to Mass schedules. as the majority of us begin again in acquiring the habit of attendance at weekly Sunday Mass. Sunday Masses will probably be celebrated at 6pm, 8.30am, 10.15am and 12pm. As from September, Mass on Monday and Tuesday at 10am will be re-introduced and Mass on Wednesday change from 10am to 11.30am so that we can come together afterwards in the Parish Centre to share hospitality and fellowship. This would be a good opportunity to invite a friend or family member back to church who might like to join us afterwards for hospitality and refreshment. All this to be confirmed!

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

Parish Council

Several parishioners have come forward and offered themselves for service on the Parish Council - thank you! I'll be in contact for an initial ZOOM get together in the next few weeks. A couple of observations. No men have come forward to offer service. Not sure what that indicates? It would also be great to have a couple of young people serve on the Parish Council. Their insights and ability to exercise leadership and change and shape the parish in the years ahead would be very welcome! If you are over the age of 16 do please give it some consideration. Perhaps you are the parent or guardian of a young person aged over 16 and might like to prompt them to offer service on the Parish Council?

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.

Friends of The Holy land Pentecost Challenge: By undertaking a "virtual" walk from Bethlehem to Nazareth, Monica and I hope to raise £500 in aid of the education of children in the Holy Land, a project of Friends of The Holy Land. This is a pilgrimage with a difference, covering the 84 miles by Pentecost Sunday, on 23rd May. We cannot get there in person but if you can help us on our virtual way, that would be great. If you are interested please follow the link to our fundraising page: <https://fhl.enthuse.com/pf/david-toorawa>. Please support Monica & David Toorawa.

Priest Training Fund – Annual Collection

Next Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day we pray for priests and for vocations to the priesthood. The annual collection for the Priest Training Fund will take place next weekend. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood in the diocese of Westminster. It usually takes about six years to prepare a man for ordination as a priest, studying philosophy, theology and other subjects, whilst also working in a variety of pastoral settings. When I was in Stevenage it was my pleasure to have a seminarian staying with me for a year whilst he gained pastoral experience during his extended pastoral placement, which occurs in a seminarian's third year. For several years he was a Metropolitan policeman. I gave him a good report at the end of his year with me. This year he is to be ordained as a deacon and please God as a priest the year after. I have also been contacted by the seminary this week and asked if I will host a seminarian on Sundays only, as a pastoral placement. Naturally I have said yes. I'm sure you will welcome him when he arrives. I look forward to meeting him and helping him on his path to priesthood. There are currently 42 men studying at Allen Hall seminary in Chelsea, 18 of whom are for our own Diocese, and two men are studying in Rome, also for our Diocese. Last year two men who studied at Allen Hall and one who studied in Rome were ordained to the priesthood to serve as our future priests in this diocese. This is a very small number to replace the increasing numbers of retired priests and sick priests. This fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Your generous donation helps ensure we can support these men who are called to be like Christ the Good Shepherd. Donation leaflets will be available as from this weekend. Please take one home, read the information, and bring it back next weekend with your donation. Please continue to pray for vocations and for our priests. Pray also for me please! I do appreciate your support and prayers very much. Perhaps amongst us there is a man who may respond to the call to priesthood? If you are interested, do speak with me. Parents, do encourage your boys to consider serving the Lord as a priest when they get older. Plant those vocational seeds now. I see many suitable candidates at Mass every Sunday! I am very conscious that the pandemic has affected everyone's finances and especially those of our parishioners who have been very generous in many different ways. Thank you for contributing generously, especially on an ongoing basis to this collection. This year we look forward to celebrating four ordinations to the priesthood and three ordinations to the diaconate for the diocese. The cost of the training these men will have been borne by the Priests' Training Fund. You can donate online anytime at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations.

Missio: Thank you to all the parishioners of Hemel West who raised £867.84 in 2020 through the Red Boxes and individual giving.

Mass intentions this week. All Masses are subject to cancellation unexpectedly. Please check the parish website before you come to church!	
Sat 17 th	6pm Leonard Schmidt RIP
Sun 18 th	9am Pro Populo 12 noon In the Memory of Mr John Devasia
Mon 19 th	Parish Mass not Celebrated
Tues 20 th	Parish Mass not Celebrated
Wed 21 st	Mass not Celebrated – Funeral.
Thur 22 nd	Parish Mass not Celebrated
Fri 23 rd	10am Mass 7pm-8pm (Presbytery) Sacrament of Reconciliation
Sat 24 th	6pm In the Memory of Anna John
Sun 25 th	9am John Durcan 3rd RIP ANNIV 12 noon John Cashin RIP ANNIV

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.

Gospel readings for the week, beginning Monday 19th April:

Mon: John 6:22-29
Tues: John 6:30-35
Wed: John 6:35-40
Thurs: John 6:44-51
Fri: John 15:1-8
Sat: John 6:60-69
Sunday: John 10:11-18

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.

Pope Francis's Prayer for April

"Defending fundamental human rights demands courage and determination.

I'm referring to actively combatting poverty, inequality, the lack of work, land and housing, and the denial of social and labour rights.

Often, in practice, fundamental human rights are not equal for all.

There are first, second, and third-class people, and those who are disposable.

No. They must be equal for all.

In some places, defending people's dignity can mean going to prison, even without a trial. Or it might mean slander. Every human being has the right to develop fully, and this fundamental right cannot be denied by any country.

Let us pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis, that they may see their sacrifice and their work bear abundant fruit.

Lord in your mercy".

Amen

Total Weekly Offertory Collection, Contactless Payments and Standing Orders for March 2021.

Envelopes	£214.00
Loose Cash & Contactless	£861.94
Standing Orders	£5,005.25
TOTAL	£6,081.91

Thank you for your contribution, which is very much appreciated! If you donate via loose cash please transfer to Standing Order, or you can use the contactless payment option on your way into church. This really helps your parish in planning for an uncertain future!

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/>



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Diocese of Westminster Charity N°: 233699