

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 of Easter. Year B

25th April 2021

Good Shepherd Sunday

Fr Brian writes....

The fourth Sunday of Easter is also called Good Shepherd Sunday. This chapter of John's Gospel we hear today follows Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the rejection of this miracle by the Jewish leaders who question Jesus' authority to heal. Jesus responds to this challenge by calling himself the Good Shepherd. He is criticizing the leadership of the Pharisees and the other Jewish leaders. The Pharisees and other Jewish leaders are so angry that they attempt to stone and arrest Jesus.

As you will know this controversy with the religious leaders continues until Jesus' death. Jesus describes his relationship with his followers as similar to the relationship between a good shepherd and his sheep. Jesus willingly sacrifices himself for the sake of his sheep. Jesus contrasts the actions of the good shepherd with the actions of the hired shepherd who abandons the sheep in the face of danger. In the verses following Jesus' teaching, we learn that the Pharisees and the other religious leaders understand that Jesus is referring to them when he describes the hired shepherds. So, you can imagine how worked up they felt about being criticised, especially by Jesus who was so not one of them, so different, the son of a carpenter, from up north where they had different accents.

The good shepherd knows the sheep and therefore acts out of love. For the Good Shepherd, this is never simply part of a job; this love-in-action is integral to his identity. Our modern ears hear a reference to Christian unity in this Gospel. The work of ecumenism is to restore unity among all Christians so that we form one flock under one shepherd, Peter, as God desires.

We also pray today for vocations to the priesthood from amongst the boys and young men of our parish. Parents? Over to you! We can express our practical support for men in formation for the priesthood for this diocese, by contributing to the Priests' Training Fund, the collection which will be taken today. We welcome Robert Smialek today, a seminarian for the diocese of Westminster. Robert will join us at our Sunday Masses for the next few weeks as he gains pastoral experience, albeit limited in the current circumstances. We pray that Robert persists and is, please God, one day ordained as a priest. May he take the example of Jesus the Good Shepherd as his role model.



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.

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, via live-stream from Westminster Cathedral, on Saturday 15th May 2021 at 3.00pm. The Cardinal will be celebrating a live-streamed Mass for all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2021. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please let Fr Brian have the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number if no email), and these details will be sent to those organizing this celebration. An Order of Service can be downloaded from the Cathedral's website before the event www.westminstercathedral.org.uk.

Priest Training Fund

This Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday and our second collection will support the Priest Training Fund. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. There are currently 42 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 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 ordained to the priesthood to serve as our future priests. The fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Your gift ensures we can provide training for these men responding to Christ's call to dedicate their lives to serve God's people. Please be as generous as you can. Please also pray for vocations and for all our priests. If you do not have a donation leaflet, plenty are still available at the back of the church. You can donate online anytime at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations.

Mass, livestream Sound Quality: You may have noticed that the sound quality had deteriorated over the last few weeks. The settings have been reviewed and you should now notice an increase in the quality of sound. Thank you for letting us have your feedback. Thanks also to everyone who joins us via livestream. We look forward to seeing you all again when we can gather physically.

Baptismal Certificates: If your child/children have recently been baptised and you need a baptismal certificate, please send the full names of the child, parents, godparents and Christian witnesses (if appointed) and full address to shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk and she will arrange a certificate for you.

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.

Allen Hall Seminary Newsletter: Please follow the link below for the latest newsletter from Allen Hall. https://issuu.com/rcwestminster/docs/allen_hall_newsletter_-_easter_2021.

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 24 th	6pm In the Memory of Anna John
Sun 25 th	9am John Durcan 3rd RIP ANNIV 12 noon John Cashin RIP ANNIV
Mon 26 th	Parish Mass not Celebrated
Tues 27 th	Parish Mass not Celebrated
Wed 28 th	10am Mass Ceris Doyle RIP ANNIV
Thur 29 th	Parish Mass not Celebrated
Fri 30 th	10am Mass 7pm-7.30pm (Presbytery) Sacrament of Reconciliation
Sat 1 st	6pm Mary Clarke 1st RIP ANNIV
Sun 2 nd	9am Anne Keane RIP 10.30am Jincy Antony RIP ANNIV 12 noon Sean Joyce RIP

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 26th April:
 Mon: John 10:1-10
 Tues: John 10:22-30
 Wed: John 12:44-50
 Thurs: John 13:16-20
 Fri: John 14:1-6
 Sat: John 14:7-14
 Sunday: John 15:1-8

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.

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
 whom should I fear?
 The Lord is my life's refuge;
 of whom should I be afraid?
Psalm 27:1

Reflection on Prayer

Prayer reminds us of our need for God.

It reminds us that we are not the centre of the universe, and that we are not God.

Sometimes, when things are going well, we can grow arrogant and complacent in our self-sufficiency.

Prayer, which places us in the presence of God, in an intentional way, reminds us of who is in charge, or rather who is nurturing us.

Learning to Pray: A Guide for Everyone,
Fr James Martin

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

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



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°: 233699