

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 of Easter. Year B

2nd May 2021

MAY. THE MONTH OF MARY

Fr Brian writes....

In 1965 Pope St Paul VI wrote in his encyclical letter, *MENSE MAIO* (Month of May), "Looking at the present needs of the Church and the status of world peace, we have sound reasons to believe that the present hour is especially grave and that a plea for concerted prayer on the part of all Christians is a matter of top priority." Pope St Paul VI was writing about the Second Vatican Council, which was about to enter its final session. The Council was called to enable the Church to adapt itself, in a suitable way, to the needs of the day. The pope was also writing about the state of international affairs, which were of grave concern. The Cuban Missiles Crisis was just a few years previous in 1962. War was underway in Vietnam and civil rights in America under the spotlight.

The pope encouraged his readers to invoke the powerful intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary during the month of May, Mary's Month, for her to obtain peace, peace in the Church and the world. We look at the challenges the Church faces today and the continuing difficulties in international relations, all compounded and multiplied by the pandemic and its effect on individuals, the economy and families. The similarities between now and then are evident.

We are now in the Month of Mary, a Christian custom that arose in the 13th century as a way of the Church 'Christianizing' the secular feasts of the time. Mary is the great and wondrous sign who appeared in heaven, clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. Rev 12:1. What a great month to pay honour to the mother of God. Why not pray the rosary every day for world peace with your family, just as Our Lady asked the seers at Fatima?



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

The first gathering of the Parish Council occurs in a few weeks. It will begin a process of prayerful discernment of what the Spirit is saying to us as a parish, as we emerge from the pandemic and begin to shape our future, with the resources available. You may like to accompany us? There's the Pope's recent encyclical letter, *Fratelli Tutti* and his recent book, *Let us Dream*, which will inform our first few meetings until the Parish Council structures itself under my presidency.

<https://amzn.to/3slhLoK>

<https://bit.ly/3avmnsq>

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: Thank you for your generosity to the Priest Training Fund collection last weekend. It is not too late to donate if you wish. Envelopes are available in the back of the church. Please continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood. For more information, or to donate, visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations.

Visit of Bishop Paul McAleenan, Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster Diocese, Saturday 29th May & Sunday 30th May: I'm very pleased that Bishop Paul McAleenan will be visiting us on the weekend of 29th/30th May to celebrate at all our Masses and thank you for supporting the parish throughout the period of the pandemic. Bishop Paul was ordained Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster and Titular Bishop of Mercia by Cardinal Vincent Nichols in January 2016, with responsibility for the pastoral care of the deaneries of Hertfordshire. Many of you will know him from his time as parish priest of Holy Rood church, Watford, prior to his consecration as bishop. <https://rcdow.org.uk/bishop-paul-mcaleenan/biography/>.

May Devotion at the Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden: This will take place on Sunday 9th May at 3.30pm at the Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden. It will include Holy Rosary and Benediction, with music from the Shrine Singers. Due to COVID19 Restrictions only a limited number of seats will be available for reservation. The Devotion will be livestreamed. For a link to the livestream and booking of available seats, please visit parish.rcdow.org.uk/Willesden.

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.

Hemel Justice & Peace: International Conscientious Objectors' Day is on 15th May. Every year people are urged to stand in solidarity with conscientious objectors around the world on this date: As well as remembering those who have refused to participate in war throughout history. Join the National Online Ceremony at 4.30pm. There will be a minute's silence, songs and speeches from around the UK and beyond. This year it is livestreamed from London. There is an excellent website link below where you can learn more about the organisation which has the support of Pax Christi and many other religious bodies. Simply visit www.CO-Day.org to watch the live stream.

Parish Office: Please note that the parish office will be closed on Monday 3rd May.

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.

| Mass intentions this week. All Masses are subject to cancellation unexpectedly. Please check the parish website before you come to church! | |
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| 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 |
| Mon 3 rd | Parish Mass not Celebrated |
| Tues 4 th | Parish Mass not Celebrated |
| Wed 5 th | 10am Michael Quigley RIP |
| Thur 6 th | Parish Mass not Celebrated |
| Fri 7 th | 10am Anna Doyle RIP 7pm-7.30pm (Presbytery) Sacrament of Reconciliation |
| Sat 8 th | 6pm Rita Crowley Turner & Deceased Members of the Crowley |
| Sun 9 th | 9am Pro Populo 10.30am Jane McGinty RIP 12 noon Sr Goritti INT |

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 3rd May:

Mon: John 14:21-26
Tues: John 14:27-31
Wed: John 15:1-8
Thurs: John 15:9-11
Fri: John 15:12-17
Sat: John 15:18-21
Sunday: John 15:9-17

Prayer

Praise to you Father of our Lord Jesus Christ the source of all consolation and hope.
Be the refuge and guardian of all who suffer from abuse and violence.
Comfort them and send healing for their wounds of the body, soul and spirit.
Help us all and make us one with you in your love for justice, as we deepen our respect for the dignity of every human life.
Giver of peace, make us one in celebrating your praise, both now and forever.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

| Hemel West Parish Administrator, Shirley Bailey. Email: shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk Phone: 01442 391 759 | |
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| 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^o: 233699