

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

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

6th Sunday of Easter. Year B

9th May 2021

Gospel Reading John 15:9-17

Fr Brian writes....

Last Sunday Jesus taught that he was the vine and that his disciples were the branches. That's you and me. This unity leads to fruitful service. Today's reading extends this teaching to describe the kind of service that Christians are called upon to offer to others. This reading, like last week's, is part of Jesus' Last Supper discourse. In the context of John's Gospel, these words are spoken before Jesus' Crucifixion. So, we read his instruction to the disciples in the light of his death and Resurrection. We know that Jesus himself gives us the greatest example of the kind of love and service that he teaches to his disciples. He has, in fact, laid down his life for his friends, for his disciples, and for us. Through his death and Resurrection, we have received the grace to love others as Jesus has commanded.

When John wrote this Gospel, his community was influenced by a set of religious beliefs called Gnosticism. It appears that one of John's intentions was to distinguish Christian belief from the beliefs held by the Gnostics. One of the tenets of Gnostic teaching was the importance of knowledge, or gnosis, as the determining aspect of faith. We read today's Gospel as a response to this teaching.

In John's Gospel, we hear Jesus affirm that he is known by the Father and that his disciples will know the Father by knowing Jesus. In this passage, however, Jesus reminds his disciples that this knowledge is to be expressed in love. Those who know Jesus well—and Jesus says that his disciples do know him—will love one another. Knowledge leads to love, which leads to action. John reminds his community that Jesus taught that love is the sign of a true disciple and, thus, a true Christian. Even more, a true disciple shows a particular kind of love, sacrificial love. The disciples of Jesus were chosen and were sent into the world to bear fruit by serving others, by sacrificing for others, in love. This is the radical nature of the call to discipleship as a Christian.



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

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. The Devotion will be livestreamed. For a link to the livestream please visit parish.rcdow.org.uk/Willesden.

Thy Kingdom Come - Lighting up the world in prayer - 13th/23rd May: Once again, alongside other Catholic dioceses, the diocese of Westminster is pleased to be participating in this timely ecumenical initiative to help us reflect more deeply on our journey with Christ and personal call to discipleship. A variety of rich Catholic resources are available for use, which can enable us to prepare more fully to celebrate the great Feast of Pentecost. Pick up the details at this link: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/thy-kingdom-come/>.

Visit of Bishop Paul McAleenan. Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster Diocese

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. There will be four Masses that weekend. 6pm on the Saturday and 9am, 10.30am and 12pm on the Sunday. Please book to attend Mass, via the Events page on the parish website. <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/events/>. Bookings will be enabled nearer the time. 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/>.

Solemnity of the Ascension - Ascension Thursday: Thursday 13th May is Ascension Thursday. To celebrate this significant occasion of Our Lord's return to the right hand of the Father, so that the Spirit can be sent, Mass will be celebrated at 10am and 7pm. If you wish to attend Mass it is necessary to book a place using the *Events* page on the parish website. Please follow the link: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/events/> to book.

Friends of the Holy Land: Our 2021 Pentecost Challenge is launched, with a focus on helping Christian families keep their children in Christian schools. Please support our Appeal by visiting our website www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/pentecost or sending a donation to FHL, Farmer Ward Road, Kenilworth CV8 2DH. You can register to join an 84-mile virtual pilgrimage between Bethlehem and Nazareth, using just 2 miles/day of your exercise. You can obtain sponsorship from friends or family or simply sponsor the parishioners you might know who are already walking, cycling or swimming! For those with children/grandchildren at local schools, why not encourage them to set up a team! For more information, email office at office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk or call 01926 512 980.

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

CAFOD: This year the UK will host the largest gathering of world leaders ever to take place on British soil: 'COP26' climate talks in Glasgow in November. As Prime Minister, Boris Johnson must push world leaders to show the ambition we need to keep temperature rises below the disastrous 1.5-degree threshold. This means that all countries must play their part. With the eyes of the world on the UK, we must urge the Prime Minister to make sure communities hardest hit by the climate emergency are listened to at COP26. Please sign CAFOD'S Petition at cafod.org.uk/reclaim.

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.

John F Kennedy School: We have a vacancy for a Premises Assistant for evening and weekend hirings to assist with our external hirings. For further details available on our website or contact the school directly.

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.

Did you know? For those of us obliged to take regular medication, it comes as a relief that all that tablet packaging can now be recycled. "Superdrug" has taken this on board with a company called Terracycle. Other pharmacies may follow suit. An important environmental issue...?

<https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB/brigades/medicine-packet-uk>

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.

Reflection (Pope Francis)

Let us accept the grace of Christ's resurrection!
Let us be renewed by God's mercy, let us be loved by Jesus, let us enable the power of His love to transform our lives too; and let us become agents of this mercy, channels through which God can water the earth, protect all creation and make justice and peace flourish.

"Our call to love is one that transcends all prejudices, all historical and cultural barriers, all petty interests."
Fratelli Tutti : 83

Mass intentions this week.

All Masses are subject to cancellation unexpectedly. Please check the parish website before you come to church!

Sat 8 th	6pm Rita Crowely Turner & Deceased Members of the Crowely Family
Sun 9 th	9am Anne Keane RIP 10.30am Jane McGinty RIP 12 noon Sr Goritti INT
Mon 10 th	Parish Mass not Celebrated
Tues 11 th	Parish Mass not Celebrated
Wed 12 th	10am Charlie Healy RIP
Thur 13 th	THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD 10am Mass 7pm Mass
Fri 14 th	10am Sean Malone RIP 7pm-7.30pm (Presbytery) Sacrament of Reconciliation
Sat 15 th	6pm Rosemary Joseph RIP ANNIV
Sun 16 th	9am Paddy Kilcawley RIP 10.30am Pro Populo 12 noon Mass

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 10th May:

Mon: John 15:26-16:4
Tues: John 16:5-11
Wed: John 16:12-15
Thurs: John 16:16-20
Fri: John 16:20-23
Sat: John 16:23-28
Sunday: John 17:11-19

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/hemel Hempsteadwest/>

 **01442 391 759**

Diocese of Westminster Charity N^o: 233699