

# CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

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

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**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter. Year B**

**16<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

**Background on the Gospel Reading : *John 17:11b-19***

*Fr Brian writes....*

We hear today from the conclusion of Jesus' farewell discourse delivered to the disciples at the Last Supper. It is in effect a long prayer, a High Priestly prayer, as Jesus prepares to sacrifice himself. This entire chapter is a prayer by Jesus, commending himself to the Father and expressing his care and concern for his disciples. At the end of this prayer, Jesus and his disciples depart for the garden, and Jesus is arrested, following his betrayal by Judas.

In the text Jesus reaffirms the complete union between himself and the Father. Jesus also includes all his disciples in this union with the Father. This is so beautifully intimate and expressive of the love that is the Godhead of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In this prayer, Jesus describes part of his mission in the language of protection. He has protected those who were given to him by the Father.

The Evangelist John has presented Jesus' mission on earth in the context of a cosmic struggle between good and evil, represented by light and darkness. In Jesus' presence, his disciples have been protected from Satan. Now that Jesus is returning to the Father, he prays that his disciples will continue to be protected from the evil one.

The world, according to John, prefers the darkness. Yet the light will not be overcome by the darkness. Reading this prayer of Jesus during the Easter Season, through the lens of his Resurrection, we know that the light of Christ has overcome the darkness of sin and death in our world. In the opening line of this prayer, we hear Jesus pray that his disciples will be kept in the name that he was given by God. We know that the salvation is given to us in the name of Jesus, and that his name—"God saves"—announces his mission on our behalf. There is no other name by which we can be saved.



## 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

**Thy Kingdom Come - Lighting up the world in prayer - 13<sup>th</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> 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 next weekend 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> 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/>.

### 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>

**CAFOD:** Thank you to all the parishioners of Hemel West for your generous support for CAFOD this year and for your kind donation of £691.90 from the Family Fast Day collection.

**Laudato SI' Week 16<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> May:** Pope Francis's Encyclical Letter on Care for our Common Home given in Rome on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2015. We are called to care for our Common Home by Pope Francis and this week he asks us to once again reflect and commit to this. We are reminded of our fragile earth and that as custodians we are called to take care of it for future generations.

**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](mailto: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.

**Showtime Players:** The Showtime Players are a group of singers who entertain day centres, lunch clubs and care homes. Sadly, their members have declined in recent years and they are looking for new members to join them. Please contact Robin Wilkinson on 01442 215180 if you would like to join the group on a Friday 1.30pm at the Warners End Community Centre.

### Hemel Justice & Peace

Friends of The Holy Land Pentecost Challenge brings hope to the Christians of The Holy Land who in ordinary times live under severe restrictions & oppression. The Pandemic has devastated their lives even further, making children's education, care of the elderly even more difficult than usual. The challenge continues until the end of June, plenty of time for us to make a difference. For more details go to [Friends of the Holy Land](#).

**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>

### Gospel readings for the week, beginning Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May:

Mon: John 16:29-33  
Tues: John 17:1-11  
Wed: John 17:11-19  
Thurs: John 17:20-26  
Fri: John 21:15-19  
Sat: John 21:20-25  
Sunday: John 15:26-27,16:12-15

**Collection:** There will be a collection at all Masses this weekend for Catholic Communications.

**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.

**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.

**A Prayer for Our Earth**

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.  
 You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.  
 Pour out upon us the power of your love,  
 that we may protect life and beauty.  
 Fill us with peace that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.  
 O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.  
 Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.  
 Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.  
 Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognise that we are profoundly united with every creature, as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.  
 Amen  
 (Pope Francis - Laudato SI')

<b>Mass intentions this week.</b>	
<b>All Masses are subject to cancellation unexpectedly. Please check the parish website before you come to church!</b>	
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>6pm</b> Rosemary Joseph RIP ANNIV
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>9am</b> Paddy Kilcawley RIP <b>10.30am</b> Pro Populo <b>12 noon</b> Mass
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Parish Mass not Celebrated</b>
Tues 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Parish Mass not Celebrated</b>
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>10am</b> Anne Keane RIP
Thur 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>10am Mass not Celebrated</b>
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>10am</b> Veronica Theresa McMahan RIP <b>7pm-7.30pm (Presbytery)</b> <b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b>
Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>6pm</b> Bridie Keenan RIP
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>9am</b> Pro Populo <b>10.30am</b> Paddy Kilcawley RIP <b>12 noon</b> Mass

**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

<b>Hemel West Parish</b> <b>Administrator, Shirley Bailey.</b> <b>Email: <a href="mailto:shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk">shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk</a></b> <b>Phone: 01442 391 759</b>	
<b>The Parish Office is located behind  the Parish Centre.</b> <b>Office Hours</b>	
<b>Telephone cover for Hemel West</b>	<b>Hemel West Office Hours</b>
<b>Monday 12 noon- 6pm</b>	<b>Monday 3pm-6pm</b>
<b>Tuesday 9.30am - 3.30pm</b>	<b>Tuesday Closed</b>
<b>Wednesday 9.30am- 3.30pm</b>	<b>Wednesday 9.30-3.30pm</b>
<b>Thursday 9.30am-3.30pm</b>	<b>Thursday 9.30am-12.30pm</b>
<b>Friday 9.30am-3.30pm</b>	<b>Friday 9.30am-12.30pm</b>

<b>Total Weekly Offertory Collection, Contactless Payments and Standing Orders for April 2021.</b>	
<b>Envelopes</b>	<b>£69.00</b>
<b>Loose Cash &amp; Contactless</b>	<b>£542.33</b>
<b>Standing Orders</b>	<b>£4,974.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£5585.33</b>
<p><b>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!</b></p>	

### MAKING CONTACT AT HEMEL WEST CATHOLIC PARISH

**Parish Priest:** Fr Brian McMahon [brianmcmahon@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:brianmcmahon@rcdow.org.uk) or call 01442 391 759 **option 3**  
**Deacon:** Rev Simon Wright [simonwright@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:simonwright@rcdow.org.uk)  
**Parish Administrator:** Shirley Bailey [shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk) or call 01442 391 759 **option 2**

**Hall Bookings:** via Shirley at [hemelwesthallbookings@rcdow.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk)

**Address:** The Presbytery, 186 St John's Road, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 1NR

**Parish website:** <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempesteadwest/>

 **01442 391 759**

*Diocese of Westminster Charity N°: 233699*