

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

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

PENTECOST. Year B

23rd May 2021

Happy Birthday to Us!

Fr Brian writes....

The roller-coaster of a liturgical season that is Easter ends today – with a stunning climax – the feast of Pentecost! Today we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles gathered in the upper room in Jerusalem; this event marks the beginning of the Church, so Happy Birthday to us! For your own personal meditations today, you might like to read the story of Pentecost, which is found in chapter two of the Acts of the Apostles, today's first reading. It is a dramatic account of the descent of the Holy Spirit and the effects on the disciples. Today's Gospel reading, John 20:19-23, also recounts how Jesus gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to his disciples and the institution of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession.) A key message of both readings is that Jesus fulfilled his promise to send to his disciples a helper, the Holy Spirit, who would enable them to be his witnesses throughout the world. It is important for us to connect with these passages as the same Holy Spirit given to the disciples has been given to us at our baptism and confirmation. If we are passive in living our faith we do a disservice to our calling to be witnesses to Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is given to us to share the Good News that eternal life is ours in heavenly bliss because of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus that has been won for us. The gift of the Holy Spirit fills us with joy that even in this mortal life we have a taste of what is to come for us, as we experience the Eucharist and the sacramental life. In addition, we work for justice and peace, being a reconciling presence in the world. In situations of conflict, we are to be agents of peace and harmony among people. Happy Birthday!

Welcome!

Today we welcome a trio of seminarians from the diocesan seminary, Allen Hall in Chelsea. Mike Guthrie and Mark Wharton long with Robert Smialek. As you know, Robert has been with us for the last few Sundays and will continue to remain with us for his Sunday placement until the start of the summer as part of his third year of formation. Mark is a seminarian for the archdiocese of Southwark. Mike spent a year with me when I was in Stevenage parish as he undertook his Extended Pastoral Placement. He was a great support to me. I'm very pleased that Mike is now to be ordained as a deacon next month. I will be attending his ordination at Westminster Cathedral. Please God, he will be ordained as a priest for the diocese of Westminster in the summer of 2022. Thank you for your support for the men in the seminary, both financially and through your prayers. You can read the latest news from the seminary at this link: <https://bit.ly/3hAo7Vi>



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 WOIRD

Visit of Bishop Paul McAleenan; Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster Diocese

I'm very pleased that Bishop Paul McAleenan will be visiting us next weekend **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/>.

COVID Step 3 Guidance for Communal Worship etc

Following the 17th May relaxation in the National lockdown, our capacity in the church will remain as it is. Bookings for all Masses will still be required, with the wearing of masks unless legally exempt. Social distancing within the church will also remain. So, please do continue to respect each other's space, especially when moving around for communion. Take your time – I'm in no rush and neither is the Lord! The priest/deacon will invite you to offer each other a Sign of Peace. This can be done by a simple gesture, such as a bow of the head to your neighbour, so that we don't disturb the necessary atmosphere of reverence. The *physical* Sign of Peace remains suspended, as it has been since the start of the lockdown. For those of us who prefer communion on the tongue, please wait until all those who have received in the hand have done so and then come forward at the end. Holy communion will continue to be distributed at the end of Mass, after the Final Dismissal and Blessing. Stewards are asked to ensure that the church doors and the fire exit doors remain open during Mass to facilitate ventilation. The hearing of confessions will transfer from the presbytery to the confessional in the church, as from this Friday. Communion at home for the sick is now allowed. Deacon Simon has been or will be in contact with you if you wish to exercise this ministry to the sick.

Baptism

As part of the gradual relaxing of restrictions, from Monday 17th May we can now have baptisms on a Saturday, however there are still conditions. Firstly, previous attendance at a Baptism Preparation Class is required for the first child and, if you are not a weekly Mass attender, any subsequent children. If you attend Mass weekly and it is less than three years since you attended a baptism preparation class then re-attendance of the class is highly recommended particularly as your contributions to the discussions will be a valuable for new parents. The dates of the preparation class will be announced in the newsletter. In addition, at each baptism we can only baptise a child/children from the same parents. The maximum attendance is limited to 30 people which includes the child/children being baptised but we will live stream the baptism for those who, for whatever reason, do not attend. Track and trace still apply so attendees must register for the event.

The next Baptism Preparation Class will not take place until Step 4 of the COVID Roadmap has been reached. A date for the class cannot be set until June 21st. Once you have completed the baptism preparation course, you will be able to book a baptism via the parish website on the Events page.

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 16th -25th May: Pope Francis's Encyclical Letter on Care for our Common Home given in Rome on 24th 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 and she will arrange a certificate for you.

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](#).

Gospel readings for the week, beginning Monday 24th May:

Mon: Mark 10:17-27

Tues: Mark 10: 28-31

Wed: Mark 10:32-45

Thurs: Mark 10:46-52

Fri: Mark 11:11-26

Sat: Mark 11:27-33

Sunday: Matthew 28:16-20

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.

Mass intentions this week.

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

Sat 22 nd	6pm Bridie Keenan RIP
Sun 23 rd	9am Pro Populo 10.30am Paddy Kilcawley RIP 12 noon Maureen Albert RIP
Mon 24 th	Parish Mass not Celebrated
Tues 25 th	Parish Mass not Celebrated
Wed 26 th	10am Mass
Thur 27 th	10am Mass not Celebrated
Fri 29 th	10am Deceased Members of the Gerreyn Family 7pm-7.30pm (Presbytery) Sacrament of Reconciliation
Sat 30 th	6pm Deceased Members of the Parisi Family
Sun 31 st	9am Pro Populo 10.30am Sean Joyce RIP 12 noon Barry Albert RIP

Prayer

Dear God, remind us that all things will happen in the appropriate time.

It is through waiting that we are able to experience so many of life's blessings.

Things such as flowers, babies, seasons, and more, all come after a period of patient waiting.

Help us to find joy and embrace that time.

Amen.

Reflection

We live in a fast-paced society. Because of that we have become accustomed not to wait for things. By doing so, we often miss what we can learn and experience when we have patience, and wait for things to unfold just as they should.

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

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

Envelopes	£69.00
Loose Cash & Contactless	£542.33
Standing Orders	£4,974.00
TOTAL	£5585.33

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!




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