

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

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

6th June 2021

SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST. Year B

Fr Brian writes...

The Gospel of Mark describes Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples as a celebration of the Jewish feast of Passover. I'm reading the Book of Exodus at the moment, which outlines the origins of the Passover. It's fascinating. I recommend it to you. The Jewish celebration of Passover is a memorial and a ritual participation in the defining moment of Israel's history. It celebrates God's deliverance of his people from slavery in Egypt. The Passover meal includes many separate ritual elements, such as unleavened bread, lamb, and bitter herbs. Each food item recalls an aspect of the Exodus event. It is a central obligation of the Jewish faith tradition to celebrate this meal and to give thanks to God for his deliverance and protection. Mark omits many elements of the Jewish Passover meal. Instead, he describes only those elements he believes to be most essential to the Christian Eucharist, our celebration of the Mass, which are so familiar to us and presided over by the priest in the person of Christ: Jesus **took** bread, **blessed** the bread, **broke** the bread, and **shared** it with his disciples. Similarly, with the chalice.

This bread now shared is Jesus' own body. Those who drink from the chalice are invited to share in a new covenant which will be sealed by Jesus' own blood. The Eucharist is a **memorial** of Christ's **sacrifice** on the cross perpetuated throughout the ages. It is both a meal and a sacrifice. We believe that Jesus is truly present to us in the elements of bread and wine, in his **body, blood, soul and divinity**.

A reflection on this truth should encourage us to reflect on our own behaviour when we receive the eucharist. Are we in a state of grace to receive the sacrament i.e. free from serious sin, having examined our conscience and received absolution in the sacrament of reconciliation if necessary? Do we handle and receive the sacred host with love and devotion, not regarding him as some object, but truly who he is in the palm of our hands, Jesus himself? We remember at this time of the year all the children of the parish who have made their first holy communion during the difficult time of the pandemic. We pray that they grow to love Jesus more and more in the eucharist and come to serve his body in the poor as they grow. Each time we celebrate this sacrament, we prepare for the Kingdom of God. This celebration, as the Second Vatican Council taught us, is the source and summit of the Christian life.



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

Robert Smialek: Today we say goodbye to Robert. Robert continues his formation for the priesthood as he enters his fourth year in September. We wish Robert all the best and pray for him to persevere. We have enjoyed having him with us over the last few weeks. The diocese needs more priests – so pray for vocations from the boys in your family!

Bishop Paul McAleenan: Bishop Paul enjoyed his time with us here last Sunday, when he celebrated all our Sunday Masses. He was pleased to see how well organised we were, in respect of the various types of service, especially in regard to stewarding at all Masses and music at the 9am and 12pm Mass. Thank you everyone! We had a good lunch after Mass in the presbytery and Bishop Paul departed about 3pm.

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. 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 be in the church confessional at the advertised times. 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.

Confessions: Please note there will not be Confessions on Saturday 12th June.

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 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.

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.

The wedding of Carrie Symonds and Boris Johnson: The Cardinal has written to clergy of the diocese in regard to the marriage that took place in Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 29th May, between Carrie Symonds and Boris Johnson. He states that whilst it will have come as a total surprise to almost everyone, it had been carefully and fully prepared over a significant period. The Cardinal acknowledges the wide range of responses to it. He is most aware, and painfully so, of those for whom it has reawakened hurt and resentment about the impact on their own situations of the Church's teaching concerning the validity of marriages. An outline of this teaching has been published on the website of the diocese of Westminster. You can find it at this link: <https://rcdow.org.uk/news/wedding-in-westminster-cathedral/>. If I can be of any help to those who are distressed by the event, especially if you are concerned about the status of your marriage, do please contact me, Fr Brian.

CAFOD Post Cards Campaign: UN Climate Talks, Glasgow, November Prime Minister Johnson is the host this year of two major international meetings: the G7 in June and the UN climate talks in November. CAFOD wants to send a message that people of faith here in the UK and around the world, expect leaders at the summit to put in place plans for a global and green recovery which leaves no one behind. With this in mind parishioners are being asked to take part by signing CAFOD'S Post Cards Campaign to the PM. CAFOD would like as many postcards as possible to be sent to Mr Johnson making him aware of our feelings. There will be an opportunity for parishioners to sign postcards after all Masses on the weekend of 13/14 June. Parishioners not attending Mass during this time of pandemic can sign on line at cafod.org.uk/reclaim.

John F Kennedy School Vacancy: The Governors are seeking to appoint an experienced librarian to manage all matters relating to the smooth and efficient operation of the school library. Please visit our website www.jfk.herts.sch.uk or email efinal@jfk.herts.sch.uk.

Mass intentions this week. All Masses are subject to cancellation unexpectedly. Please check the parish website before you come to church!	
Sat 5 th	6pm Aine O'Sullivan RIP
Sun 6 th	9am Pro Populo 10.30am Sean Joyce RIP 12 noon Flanagan & Sweeney Families INT
Mon 7 th	Parish Mass not Celebrated
Tues 8 th	Parish Mass not Celebrated
Wed 9 th	10am Mass
Thur 10 th	10am Mass not Celebrated
Fri 11 th	10am Margaret Tighe RIP 7pm-7.30pm (Church) Sacrament of Reconciliation
Sat 12 th	6pm Lorna Stiffle RIP
Sun 13 th	9am Pro Populo 10.30am Tommy Keegan RIP ANNIV 12 noon Simon Miller 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.

Reflection (Pope Francis - Laudato Si')

God who calls us to generous commitment and to give him our all, offers us the light and strength needed to continue on our way.

In the heart of this world, the Lord of life, who loves us so much, is always present.

He does not abandon us, he does not leave us alone, for he has united himself definitely to our earth, and his love constantly impels us to find new ways forward. Praise be to him.

Prayer

Dear God,

Please forgive us for our treatment of this beautiful world, which you have so graciously given to us to watch over as devoted stewards.

Give us the strength to seek new ways to protect your wonderful creation.

Lead us with the light of your love.

Amen

Digital Collection Basket. The introduction of the Digital Collection Basket has been introduced into both churches. It's a really easy to use self-service card donation point for our parish. 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.

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:

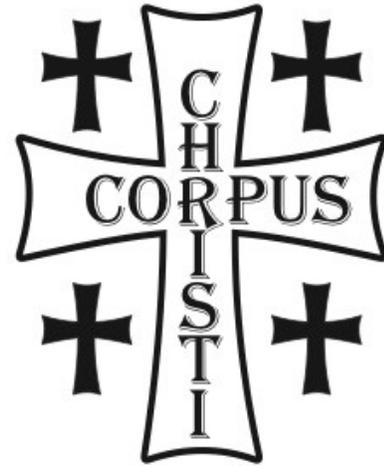
and since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come to me spiritually.

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

<p align="center">Hemel West Parish Administrator, Shirley Bailey. Email: shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk Phone: 01442 391 759</p>	
<p align="center">The Parish Office is located behind the Parish Centre. Office Hours</p>	
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



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°: 233699