

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

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

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year B

11th June 2021

Fr Brian writes.... This Sunday's Gospel from Mark carries a significant message regarding faith and the Kingdom of God, as we fully enter into Ordinary Time after the roller-coaster of Lent, the Easter season and three Sundays of major feast days—Pentecost, Most Holy Trinity, and Corpus Christi. The parable we listen to in the Gospel reading this Sunday helps us discern something about the kingdom of God and our own faith. In God we live and move and have our being, but God is a mystery and his kingdom, though present, has not yet come into its fullness. It is as if *we see through a glass darkly* 1 Cor 13:12. Today, the Kingdom of God is present in the Church. The mission of proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom given to the Apostles is now given to us. To put it bluntly – what are we doing about it? As we tentatively emerge (albeit with stops and starts) from the ravages of the pandemic, we know that we cannot go back to the way we lived previously, that includes how we as the Church proclaim the Gospel of Christ to the world. That's why the proposed Synod of Bishops, on the topic of sodality, is to be welcomed and embraced as an opportunity to proclaim anew Jesus Christ risen, to a post-Covid world. <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2021-05/synod-of-bishops-will-begin-in-the-local-churches.html>

This also has implications for us as a parish. The parish needs to change to meet the challenges in the local area, otherwise our churches will empty out and there will be nothing to hand on to those who come after us. The shell that was 'Cultural Catholicism' is dead and buried, we just have to look at the experience of the collapse of the faith in Ireland to see that. Now, more than ever, what matters is **intentional discipleship**, that is, we respond to the call from Jesus to follow him first and foremost, placing our relationship with him at the heart of all we do and express. This will have implications for those seeking the sacraments, whether baptism, first holy communion, confirmation or marriage. The first question that everyone should ask before requesting these sacraments is, '*am I a disciple of Jesus Christ and how is that reflected in my moral life as well as at home, work and in the parish?*' The previous paradigm where there was automatic progression through the sacraments based on age, family tradition and culture, as if they were some commodities to be obtained as part of a rite of passage, with no real root in Christian living and Catholic practice, disconnected from discipleship with Jesus Christ, has mostly failed. Even pre-Covid our churches were not noticeably fuller, or vibrant, or growing as a full expression of conversion of heart to discipleship with Jesus Christ. If anything, they are probably dying. Covid has shown us that. Every year more people leave the Church than join. People are out shopping, in parks, working, going to sporting events, cinema and theatre, fussing about holidays, but we are not seeing a return to church or a wholesale momentum towards evangelisation. God is being pushed out of people's lives, no longer at the centre. If it takes the restoration of the Sunday Obligation for people to return, that smacks of coercion and failure to me. Perhaps the Church is becoming small, leaner, poorer, as Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI) prophesied. Those who came out of a sense of obligation and duty, or the commodification of the sacraments, perhaps never really believed, were never really disciples to Jesus Christ, so are drifting away never to return? Perhaps this is not such a bad thing, only to be expected. After all Jesus did say, "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many." Matthew 7:13. What do you think?

Perhaps the Holy Spirit is burning away with his purging fire all the lumber and baggage we carried that slowed us down, stripping us of all our attachments so that we are naked before the Lord, depending only on him, wanting only him as we reply with Peter, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." John N 6:68. All this is about sowing seeds. The establishment of our Pastoral Council will help us chart the course ahead. We have started a period of discernment inspired by Pope Francis' book. "Let Us Dream: The Path to a Better Future." Get yourself a copy! But just as seeds need time to come to fruition, so does the Kingdom of God. That is why in the Lord's Prayer, we pray, "thy kingdom come." We know that it will come in its fullness at the end of time. All we need is faith, **but** the soil must be prepared and we have a duty to plant in it only that which will grow and prepare it for fruitful growth.

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

Baptism

As part of the gradual relaxing of restrictions, 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.

Fr Bernard Writes: Fr Brian Reynolds and I are grateful for the many messages of congratulation on the occasion of Brentford FC's recent Wembley victory. Perhaps I should add that we were not actually playing in the match, just giving the Bees our vocal support.

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.

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

Envelopes	£156.00
Loose Cash & Contactless	£945.44
Standing Orders	£4,681.48
TOTAL	£5782.92

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!



Mass intentions this week. All Masses are subject to cancellation unexpectedly. Please check the parish website before you come to church!	
Sat 12 th	6pm Lorna Stiffle RIP
Sun 13 th	9am Pro Populo 10.30am Tommy Keegan RIP ANNIV 12 noon Simon Miller RIP
Mon 14 th	Parish Mass not Celebrated
Tues 15 th	Parish Mass not Celebrated
Wed 16 th	10am Mass
Thur 17 th	10am Mass not Celebrated
Fri 18 th	10am Joe Hegarty RIP Sacrament of Reconciliation 7.00pm to 8.00pm
Sat 19 th	6pm Coral Maclucas RIP Sacrament of Reconciliation 5pm to 5.30pm
Sun 20 th	9am Pro Populo 10.30am Mass 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 14th June:

Mon: Matthew 5:38-42
 Tues: Matt. 5: 43-48
 Wed: Matt. 6:1-6,16-18
 Thurs: Matt. 6:7-15
 Fri: Matt. 5:19-23
 Sat: Matt. 6:24-34
 Sunday: Mark 4:35-41

Prayer (CAFOD)

God of all, bless our elected leaders with listening ears that hear both the cry of the earth, and the cry of the poor. Bless them with open hearts that hunger and thirst for justice, and bless them with the courage to work together for the common good.
 We ask this through Christ our Lord.
 Amen

"Paraphrase quotation from Hamlet, Pope Francis says, 'to see or not to see' the effects of climate change in the lives of our brothers and sisters, 'is the question' that leads us to answer in action together".
 (Pope Francis)

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

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



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