

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

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

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year B

25th July 2021

Fr Brian writes....

Background on the Gospel Reading *John 6:1-15*

In John's Gospel, Jesus' multiplication of the loaves and the fishes is presented as a sign of his authority and divinity. Jesus interprets the meaning and significance of this miracle as a sharing of his Body and Blood. This chapter is sometimes called the "Bread of Life Discourse.", John's Gospel uses the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes to teach about the Eucharist. John is teaching us that each time we celebrate the Eucharist, we are anticipating the eternal banquet of heaven. Yep! That's what we are doing at Mass on Sunday.

Recall that John's Gospel tells the story of the Last Supper differently than the other Gospels. Instead of describing the meal and Jesus' actions with the bread and cup, John describes how Jesus washed his disciples' feet. We hear this Gospel when we remember the Last Supper on Holy Thursday. This recollection of Jesus' action at the Last Supper complements the institution narrative of the Synoptic Gospels and Paul's Letters that we hear repeated at each Mass.

In both stories about the Eucharist—the washing of the disciples' feet and the multiplication of the loaves and the fishes—the Gospel of John teaches us that the Eucharist is an action. Our word Eucharist is taken from the Greek language and describes an action: "to give thanks." In the Eucharist we are fed by Jesus himself, and we are sent to serve others. Do we reflect the latter in our actions as a parish community?

The story of the multiplication of the loaves and the fishes recalls a particular aspect of the Mass. In this miracle, Jesus transforms a young boy's offering of five barley loaves and two fish. In the offertory at Mass, we present the fruits of our labours, represented by bread and wine. I like to make the Offertory prayers silently (as the rubrics allow the priest) so that in that period of silence you can fill it with what you wish to offer to the Lord along with the gifts. These gifts, given to us first by God as grain and fruit, are returned to God in our offering of thanksgiving. God in turn transforms our gifts, making this bread and wine the very Body and Blood of Jesus. We also offer ourselves in this exchange, and we, too, are transformed by the Eucharist to go on Mission in Hemel Hempstead!



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.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Before all weekday Masses: 9.30am to 9.45am

Friday: 6.30pm to 7pm

Saturday: 5pm to 5.30pm

Confessions can also be heard at other times by arrangement with Fr Brian.

Live Streaming of Masses

The Sunday 12 noon Mass will be the only live streamed Mass.

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 Jesuit Refugee Service UK operates a hosting scheme called 'At Home' which sees volunteers host destitute refugees. The volunteers receive full support in making introductions and throughout the three-month period of hosting from the JRS Liaison Officer. A number of refugees are currently in need of more hosts as temporary accommodation provided during the pandemic comes to an end, leaving refugee friends of JRS facing a return to street homelessness. If you have a spare room or know of a religious community or a family who might be interested in helping, please email Hannah at uk@jrs.net or visit <https://www.jrsuk.net/at-home-hosting-scheme/>.

Hemel Justice & Peace: The Ecumenical Climate Prayer Service at Westminster Cathedral on Friday 6th August, 3.30pm-4.00pm will be welcoming the Young Christian Climate Network (YCCN). Relay to London on way to the UN Climate negotiations, COP26 in Glasgow in November, started in Cornwall after G7 Meeting in June. The relay route reaches Hemel Hempstead and Tring, on 10th August. To find out more about the YCCN Relay, the route, events at all the Churches, and how to sign up to join the walkers or to support the Relay for a day visit <https://www.yccn.uk/>.

Gospel readings for the week, beginning Monday 26th

July:

Mon: Matthew 13:31-35

Tues: Matt. 13:36-43

Wed: Matt. 13:44-46

Thurs: Matt. 13:47-53

Fri: Matt. 13:54-58

Sat: Matt. 14:1-12

Sunday: John 6:24-35

Mass Times and Intentions this Week

Sat 24 th	6pm Hyacinth Isaacs RIP Sacrament of Reconciliation 5pm to 5.30pm
Sun 25 th	9am Pro Populo 10.30am Mass 12 noon Mary Gardner RIP (Livestreamed)
Mon 26 th	No Mass
Tues 27 th	No Mass
Wed 28 th	10am Mary Gardner RIP Sacrament of Reconciliation 9.30am to 9.45am
Thur 29 th	No Mass
Fri 30 th	10am Mass Sacrament of Reconciliation 9.30am to 9.45am & 6.30pm to 7pm
Sat 31 st	6pm Mass Sacrament of Reconciliation 5.00pm to 5.30pm
Sun 1 st	9am Pro Populo 10.30am Mass 12 noon Mass (Livestreamed)

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.

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly 2021: The inaugural World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly falls on Sunday 25th July. Pope Francis has given it the theme “I am with you always” from the Gospel of Matthew (Mt 28: 30).

Lord Jesus
 you were born of the Virgin Mary.
 the daughter of Saints Joachim and Anne.
 Look with love on grandparents the world over.
 Protect them! They are a source of enrichment for families,
 for the Church and for all of society.
 Support them as they grow older.
 May they continue to be for their family’s strong pillars of
 Gospel faith, guardians of Nobel domestic ideals, living
 treasuries of sound religious traditions.
 Make them teachers of wisdom and courage, that they may
 pass on to future generations the fruits of their mature
 human and spiritual experience.
 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/>



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