

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

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

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year B

5th September 2021

Courage!

Fr Brian writes...

'*Courage! Do not be afraid! Look, your God is coming, he is coming to save you.*' ISAIAH 35:4-7. Those words from this Sunday's First Reading should fill us with great hope, as we return to worship, now that the summer has passed. **Welcome back!** Already, we are seeing an increase in Mass attendance. This is very good to see. I encourage all parishioners to return to Mass. I really can't see any reason to stay away. Can you? We miss you! The heart of our Catholic faith is the corporate celebration of the Eucharist. It is anticipated that the Sunday Obligation will be reinstated on the First Sunday of Advent. But why wait until then? There is much to do as we live our faith as One Body and give witness in our world, whether that is in our workplace, our educational establishments or community groups. I don't need to spell out the details of the great distress the world has gone through since the start of the pandemic. Now it needs to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ and see the witness of his love in us as a gathering of his disciples.

A significant focus for us, along with the Universal Church, will be playing our part in preparing for the two-year 'synodal' process taking place in the Catholic Church from October 2021 that culminates in the final **Synod Gathering of Bishops in Rome in October 2023**. The overall theme is "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission". The process begins in each diocese and then moves to the level of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. From there, discernment takes place within the European Council of Bishops' Conferences (CCEE) – before moving to the Universal Church with the final Synod Gathering of Bishops in 2023. As part of preparations at a diocesan level each parish will have input. I am hoping that the recently formed Parish Pastoral Council will play a significant role in facilitating our engagement in the process. Watch this space for more information! Please don't let this opportunity to influence how the Church meets the challenge of internal and external change and adaptation pass by. All aboard and make your views known! If you want to read a bit more background on the Synod process, then information can be found at this link: <https://bit.ly/3DBIq5>

As we head into autumn the **Season of Creation** is upon us. The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration of prayer and action for our common home. The season started on the 1st September and ends on the 4th October, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations. Perhaps someone amongst us may have read *LAUDATO SI*, the encyclical letter of Pope Francis on care for our common home, and feel inspired to raise our consciousness of what needs to be done. It could be you!?

Thank you for the excellent work that all our Mass **stewards** have done during the period of the pandemic. It is very much appreciated. Without you, we would not have been able to open the church. Stewards are now no longer required during weekday Masses. It would be appreciated if stewards could continue to provide a friendly-face of welcome at our Sunday Masses, by handing out newsletters and dealing with any general queries etc as well as checking the church after Mass for any lost property. On those occasions when I am away, it would be helpful if you could also help the visiting priest to set up for Mass and then tidy away after Mass has been celebrated, as well as securely locking the church. I will continue to set up for Masses by myself on all occasions.

Welcome back!

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.

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.

Newsletter Items: When submitting an item for the newsletter, please send the details and information as you would like to see it published in the newsletter. Space is limited in the newsletter and so please keep your item to no more than 60 words.

The Eucharist

Deacon Simon has arranged a meeting to explore the Eucharist as the New Passover, the Eucharist as the New Manna from Heaven, and the Eucharist as mysterious New 'Bread of the Presence.' The meeting will be held in the Parish Centre, Boxmoor and there will be three meetings to give everyone a chance to attend, (it is the same meeting each time). In particular I hope all our Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and those who are considering becoming one, attend as a precursor for (re)commissioning at a later date.

The dates and times for the meetings are:

Afternoon: Tuesday 21st September, 2pm

Evening: Tuesday 21st September, 7pm

Morning: Friday 24th September, 11am

To enable me to get an idea of numbers please could you sign up on the Events page of the Hemel West website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/events/>

You can also just turn up on the day.

Funeral of Catherine Mary O'Hanlon, known as Kay:

Some of our parishioners would have known Catherine who worshipped at Ss Mary & Joseph's church, until she moved from the area. Her funeral is to be conducted here, at Ss Mary & Joseph's Church, on Tuesday 14th September at 11am by Fr Daniel Rooke. Fr Daniel is the Assistant Priest from St Augustine's Church in High Wycombe. If you knew Catherine, you are welcome to attend the Funeral Mass. We pray for the repose of her soul and the comfort of her relatives.

Volunteer Pastoral Volunteer: Pastoral hospital volunteers are needed for the West Herts Trust. Please see the church notice board for more information or call 01923 217 994 Monday to Friday between 9am -4.30pm.

Certificates of Catholic Practice: If you require a Certificate of Catholic Practice, all the information you will need to obtain one can be found on the link <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/parish-forms/certificate-of-catholic-practice/> or go to the Hemel West website.

Mass Times and Intentions this Week

Sat 4 th	6pm Mass Sacrament of Reconciliation 5pm to 5.30pm
Sun 5 th	9am Thomas Diviney RIP ANNIV 10.30am Pro Populo 12 noon Andy Gavin RIP ANNIV (Livestreamed)
Mon 6 th	No Mass
Tues 7 th	No Mass
Wed 8 th	10am Mass Sacrament of Reconciliation 9.30am to 9.45am
Thur 9 th	No Mass
Fri 10 th	10am Mass Sacrament of Reconciliation 9.30am to 9.45am & 6.30pm to 7pm
Sat 11 th	6pm Mass Sacrament of Reconciliation 5.00pm to 5.30pm
Sun 12 th	9am Pro Populo 10.30am Margaret Howard RIP ANNIV 12 noon Members of the Barrett Family RIP ANNIV (Livestreamed)

Gospel readings for the week, beginning Monday 6th September:

Mon:	Luke	6: 6-11
Tues:	Luke	6:12-19
Wed:	Luke	6:20-26
Thurs:	Luke	6:27-38
Fri:	Luke	6:39-42
Sat:	Luke	6:43-49
Sunday	Mark	8:27-35

