

**CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST**  
**28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B**

Sunday cycle  
Readings Year B  
Weekday readings  
Year 1  
Divine Office  
Week 4



***TODAY'S MASS***

***Give everything you own to  
the poor, and follow me***

Fr Brian writes...

In today's Gospel, an unnamed man approaches Jesus and inquires about what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus replies that one must follow the commandments of the Law of Moses. The man acknowledges that he has observed all of these since his childhood. Jesus then says that only one thing is lacking: he must give his possessions to the poor and follow Jesus. Jesus makes two requirements of the wealthy man who approaches him. First, he must give up his possessions. Throughout history, some Christians have taken this literally, such as St Francis of Assisi, whose feast day we celebrated on Monday. Their example witnesses to us a radical commitment to the Gospel of Jesus. Some have read this as a particular requirement directed to this specific individual. Still others have sought to explain the meaning intended by the word possessions as those things that prevent one from following Jesus. Christians have generally understood that at the least, following Jesus requires that believers hold material possessions loosely and remain vigilant against seeking security in accumulating possessions. In religious life this has been practiced through the discipline of asceticism and denial of self. However, in the latter part of the last century some religious orders sought self-actualisation rather than a renewed asceticism. We all know where that took religious life, with thousands of religious (including priests) leaving their vocations. The second requirement Jesus makes of this man is the invitation that Jesus extends to all would-be disciples: "follow me." Jesus very much wants this man to be his disciple. We believe that the Christian faith is one in which each believer is in a personal relationship with Jesus. Just as this Gospel tells us that Jesus loves the man and is sad when he departs, so too, Jesus loves us and is saddened when we are unable to follow him. Peter replies to Jesus by boasting that the disciples have already given up everything. Jesus acknowledges that those who have given up everything for the sake of the Gospel will be rewarded. This reward begins now, in the new community that one will gain in this life, and will continue in the eternal age to come. Our personal relationship with Jesus is also an invitation to the community of faith, the Church.

# PARISH NEWS

**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.**

## **HEMEL WEST REVISED MASS TIMES**

As of Saturday 21 November, Sunday Mass times in the parish of Hemel West will be as follows:

**Saturday** 6pm (Vigil) at Boxmoor

**Sunday** 8.30am & 10.15am at Boxmoor

**Sunday** 12 noon at Warners End

**MASS COUNT:** You may have noticed that the steward has been counting the numbers of parishioners in the church at Mass on Sunday? This is an activity that takes place in all Catholic churches at this time of the year. The numbers are sent to the diocese, who then forward them to Rome. Pre-COVID (2019) our parish Mass count was 620 across all four Sunday Masses. Last year it was 120, because of COVID and the suspension of the Sunday Obligation. It is good to see that this year we are up to 250 across the four Sunday Masses. It will be interesting to see if we get back to a Mass count of 620 again once the Sunday Obligation is reinstated on the First Sunday of Advent and we introduce our revised Mass times.

## **PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL & SYNOD OF BISHOPS:**

Our first meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will be on Monday 11 October. It will get cracking with consultation of the parish as preparation for the Synod of Bishops in 2023 on the theme of "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission." You will have heard the Cardinal's pastoral letter to us all last week. The Synod will only be as successful as the degree of involvement from the laity. That's YOU! At the moment we are struggling to get someone from the parish to represent us at the opening liturgy at the cathedral on Saturday 16 October and play a key role on the Parish Pastoral Council. Could it be YOU!? Do call me if you would like to discuss. Read all about the Synod here: <https://rcdow.org.uk/synod/>

**CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE:** If you have requested a certificate, please contact Shirley in

the parish office to arrange collection before Friday 15 October.

**CHURCH INTERIOR & ST MARY & JOSEPH:** I'd like to put a small working group together to look at the interior of the church. I have ideas related to the structure at the back of the church, on which rests the statues of Mary and St Joseph and the immediate area around it. Also, the regular use of the walls either side of the tabernacle as well as cleaning and perhaps replacing statues and other items. If you'd like to join me, drop me a line at [brianmcmahon@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:brianmcmahon@rcdow.org.uk).

**ACCOMPANIMENT OF CHILDREN TO THE TOILET:** Please ensure that children are accompanied by an adult when going to the church toilet. Thank you.

**CONFIRMATION 2022:** Applications for the Hemel Confirmation Course are now open and will close on 9 January 2022. The course will take place in JFK school main hall, and will run on Monday evenings from 5pm until 6.30pm, from the 7 February until the 28 March, with the exception of half term. There will be a parent's information evening on 29 November 2021 in St Mark's church at 7pm. Please email Callum Moore at [cmoore@jfk.herts.sch.uk](mailto:cmoore@jfk.herts.sch.uk) for a registration form. We are also looking for parents or parishioners who would be open to journeying

## **GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE FORTHCOMING WEEK:**

Mon:	Luke	11:29-32
Tues:	Luke	11:37-41
Wed:	Luke	11:42-46
Thurs.	Luke	11:47-54
Fri:	Luke	12:1-7
Sat:	Luke	12:9-12
Sunday:	Mark	10:35-45

## **PARISH FINANCES**

**PLANNED GIVING:** Thank you to all those who have made the switch to donating by Standing Order. For those who wish to donate in this way, the details are:

*Account Name:* **WRCDT Hemel West**  
*Sort Code:* **40-05-20**  
*Account No.:* **31095048**

with our young people as Catechists. If you're interested, please contact Callum for more details. All catechists will need to have a valid up to date DBS check to work with the young people and the parish Safeguarding team can arrange for this for you.

**YOUTH ASSISTED MASS AT ST MARY & ST JOSEPH:** We are very keen to take the growth in the Youth Ministry and involve it more in parish life. We are planning on doing this is by having the 10.30am Mass at Ss Mary & Joseph assisted by our young people on the 3rd Sunday of every month. This will involve our young people providing the music, readings, welcome and teas/coffee for the Mass. There will be an opportunity for them to come together afterwards. The next Youth Mass will take place on 17 October.

**BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS:** If you are a new parent, congratulations! You should now be thinking about having your child baptised. You will need to prepare for this important sacramental event, for when your child becomes a member of God's family. Full details can be found at the link

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemel Hempsteadwest/sacramental-prep/baptism-preparation/> or go to the parish website.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME:** Our First Holy Communion Programme is based around the importance of parents passing on their faith to their children, and we are here to help and guide you in this journey. This means we rely on parents being disciples of Christ diligent in their duty and ready to pass on their faith to their children. A disciple is simply a follower, who listens, who learns and who imitates. A follower of Christ is someone who follows him and is open to all that being a follower entails. To that end we are inviting parents to take some time to pray and discern as they complete a self assessment of their own readiness to carry out this important task. If you would like to consider joining the programme this year, please use the link below to complete the self assessment before Sunday 10 October. <https://form.typeform.com/to/nOGlrXh8?typeform-source=parish.rcdow.org.uk>

**CARITAS:** The Monthly Teas for the Elderly will restart on Sunday 17 October. We meet in the

Parish Hall at Our Lady's from 2pm until 4pm. Social distancing measures will be in place. Our usual guests will be contacted by telephone and we would like to welcome new guests and new volunteers to help with driving, catering and helping at future meetings. Please contact Paul on 07711 384 061 if you are interested.

**HEMEL JUSTICE & PEACE:** Homeless Sunday 10 October. This day gives us time to reflect upon homelessness and the issues surrounding it, here in our Town and in our wider community. We pray for all homeless people.

**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. Please keep your item to no more than 60 words. Please email Shirley by Wednesday 12 Noon and she will do her best to accommodate it.

**PARISH OFFICE:** Please note that the parish office will be closed from Monday 18 October until Friday 22 October and will reopen on Monday 25 October.

<b>Office Hours and Telephone cover for Hemel West.</b>	
<b>Email: <a href="mailto:shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk">shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk</a></b>	
<b>Phone: 01442 391 759 option 2</b>	
<b>Telephone cover for West</b>	<b>Hemel West Office Hours</b>
<b>Monday 12 noon-6pm</b>	<b>Monday 3pm-6pm</b>
<b>Tuesday 9.30am-3.30pm</b>	<b>Tuesday Closed</b>
<b>Wednesday 9.30am-3.30pm</b>	<b>Wednesday 9.30am-3.30pm</b>
<b>Thursday 9.30am-3.30pm</b>	<b>Thursday 9.30am-12.30pm</b>
<b>Friday 9.30am-3.30pm</b>	<b>Friday 9.30am-12.30pm</b>

# HOLY MASS INTENTIONS

<b>SUN 10 Oct</b>	<b>28th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	6pm (Vigil) 9am 10.30am 12 noon	Olga Foenander & Deceased Members of the Gerreyrn Family Kathleen Diviney (RIP ANNIV) Pro Populo
<b>MON 11 Oct</b>	feria		No Public Mass
<b>TUE 12 Oct</b>	feria		No Public Mass
<b>WED 13 Oct</b>	<b>ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR</b>	10am	Funeral Service for William Devlin (RIP)
<b>THU 14 Oct</b>	feria		NO MASS (Father's rest day)
<b>FRI 15 Oct</b>	St Teresa of Jesus	10am	George Gardner Senior (RIP)
<b>SAT 16 Oct</b>	feria	6pm (Vigil)	
<b>SUN 17 Oct</b>	<b>29th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	9am 10.30am 12 noon	Pro Populo Bridget Joyce (RIP ANNIV)

**MASS INTENTIONS:** If you would like a Mass offered for a deceased family member or a friend, or for any other intention, do let Shirley Bailey know by emailing her at [shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk) or you can call her on 01442 391 759. It is customary to make an offering and the diocese recommends £10 per Mass and the proceeds go to support our priest. If this is unaffordable for you, please feel free to make an offering you can afford.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** **Friday:** 6.30pm– 7pm and **Saturday:** 5pm-5.30pm at Ss Mary & Joseph church.



Please switch off  
all mobile phones

## MAKING CONTACT AT HEMEL WEST CATHOLIC PARISH

**Parish Priest:** Fr Brian McMahon      [brianmcmahon@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:brianmcmahon@rcdow.org.uk) ( Opt 3)


**Deacon:** Rev Simon Wright      [simonwright@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:simonwright@rcdow.org.uk)

**Parish Administrator:** Shirley Bailey      [shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk) ( Opt 2)

**Hall Bookings:** via Shirley or [hemelwesthallbookings@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:hemelwesthallbookings@rcdow.org.uk) (In Office Hours)

**Address:** The Presbytery, 186 St John's Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. HP1 1NR

**website:** <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempestadwest/>

 **01442 391 759**

*Diocese of Westminster Charity N<sup>o</sup>: 233699*