

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR C

Sunday cycle
Readings Year C
Weekday readings
Year 1
Divine Office
Week 1



First Sunday of Advent

TODAY'S MASS

*That day will be sprung on
you suddenly, like a trap*

Fr Brian writes...

STAY AWAKE!

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of the new liturgical year, so Happy New Year! Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. The key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice. Today we hear Jesus speak to his disciples about the need for vigilance and prayer as they wait for the coming of the Son of Man in glory. This passage marks the conclusion of a lengthy dialogue in which Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, warns about the persecution and tribulations to follow, and identifies the signs that will signal the coming of the Son of Man in glory. Though Jesus predicts a time of destruction and fear, Jesus indicates that others will be frightened; Jesus' disciples are not to fear, but are to stand tall. Yet Jesus does not promise deliverance from anxiety or tribulations. He encourages his disciples to pray for strength. Jesus' predictions about the end times may sound dire, but in the next paragraph Luke tells us that people woke early to listen to Jesus' teaching in the Temple area. In his person and in his message, those who heard Jesus found strength and consolation and no doubt heeded his warnings about the risks of taking their 'eye off the ball' if not living as God invites us to do. Like the first Christians, we may encounter events and circumstances that could lead us to despair. Through prayer, however, we find strength and consolation in Jesus' words and in his continuing presence with us to endure all things and to witness to the action of God in our world, as a people of hope. Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

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

Remember! Sunday Mass times and venues have changed from 21 November.

Saturday 6pm (Vigil) at Ss Mary & Joseph

Sunday 8.30am & 10.15am at Ss Mary & Joseph

Sunday 12 noon at St Mark's

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT: Monday 20 December, 7.30pm at Ss Mary & Joseph Church. This will be followed by Mulled Wine & Mince Pies in the Parish Centre, Boxmoor. All are welcome.

Taizé for Advent: There will be two Taizé services in Advent. Friday 3 December and Friday 17 December. We will meet at 7pm at Ss Mary & Joseph church for song, prayer, silence and reflection.

SICK & RETIRED PRIEST'S FUND: There are more than 80 sick and retired priests who receive support after a lifetime of service to parishes across the diocese. By 2025 the number of priests in retirement is set to double, at time when vocations to the priesthood are declining and active priests are being asked to do more, such as when parishes are merged or paired. Most priests offer their resignation as a parish priest at the age of 75, but many continue to serve in a limited way in our parishes, schools, hospices, and hospitals. At this time, they are dependent on the Diocese for their care – for essentials like housing, any health needs and other essentials. Parish priests are supported directly from parish funds by way of a monthly stipend and the upkeep of the presbytery. Sick and retired priests have given a life time of service through administering the sacraments and in other ways. They have given to us all and now, in their old age or sickness, they need us to give back. By giving to the Sick &

Retired Priests' Fund, you can ensure our priests are cared for. You can take a donation envelope as you leave Church today, but the envelopes and posters also feature a 'QR Code' that you can scan with a phone camera to give online, reducing the risks to everyone of handling cash. Please continue to pray for all our clergy: active, retired or ill.

SYNODAL PATHWAY: As part of the Westminster Synodal Pathway we are invited to join Bishop Paul McAleenan at an Area Listening Event on Monday 29 November at Garston Parish, Crown Rose, Garston, Watford WD25 ONE. Pope Francis has invited the worldwide Church to a time of listening and of listening deeply to each other as we walk side by side, telling our stories of faith. Here in our local Church, our Diocese, this is just what we are doing. This Area Listening Event is an opportunity to listen, to share, and to dream about the Church we are called to be. All are welcome, and places can be booked by emailing catadmin@rcdow.org.uk.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE: The members of the Catholic Women's League will be selling raffle tickets at all Masses as from the weekend of the 27 November. The proceeds will go towards their CWL charitable funds.

GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE FORTHCOMING WEEK:

Mon: Matthew 8:5-11

Tues: Matthew 10:21-24

Wed: Matthew 15:29-37

Thurs: Matthew 7:21-27

Fri: Matthew 9:27-31

Sat: Matthew 9:35- 10:1-8

Sunday: Luke 3:1-6

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

Envelopes	£121.00
Loose Cash & Contactless	£1,314.55
Standing Orders	£4,646.17
Total	£6,081.72

INTENTIONS: Please can Lois Strawn contact Shirley in the parish office.

SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION GROUP: They meet in the Parish Centre, Boxmoor Tuesday from 2pm until 4pm to read and reflect on the following Sunday's readings. Come and Join them.

4TH BOXMOOR SCOUT GROUP: We are now fully up and running again and looking forward to getting back into parish life. We are the only Catholic group sponsored by the church in Hemel. We have places in all 3 sections and run on a Monday and Friday evening. If you would like to join us please contact us at Join4thboxmoor@virginmedia.com for more details. We are also looking for adult help in all 3 sections.

CAFOD: At the back of the Church you will find copies of CAFOD'S World Gifts Catalogues, The True Spirit of Christmas Giving, wonderful gifts for everyone. Please take a catalogue and consider buying a Christmas Gift. You can order by phone on 0800 1400 014 or online at cafod.org.uk/worldgifts. Order by 15 December for free Christmas delivery.

YEAR BOOK: The Westminster 2022 Year book is available to purchase from the parish office at the cost of £4.50.

FOUNDATION GOVERNOR: St Rose's Governing Board is seeking to appoint a Foundation Governor. No previous experience is necessary, and applications are welcome from current parents/carers at the school as well as other candidates in the parish community. For a role description email Dr Sarah Kelly, Chair at sarahk@stroses.herts.sch.uk or call the school direct.

MASS INTENTIONS: Hemel West has been experiencing IT problems over the past few weeks. If you have booked a Mass intention and do not see it appear on the newsletter, please contact Shirley in the parish office on 01442 391 759 option 2. Thank you.

CONFIRMATION 2022: Applications for the Hemel Confirmation Course are now open and will close on 9 January 2022. Please email Callum Moore at cmoore@jfk.herts.sch.uk for a registration form.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE FOR INFANT SCHOOL: If you are a parent who is

looking to have your child attend a Catholic school in September 2022, you will find it helpful to read the guidance for the issuing of such a document, on the Hemel West parish website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/> and click on the link [hemel Hempstead West/parish-forms/certificate-of-catholic-practice/](https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemel Hempstead West/parish-forms/certificate-of-catholic-practice/) Request's for CCP will **open** on Monday 22 November and will **close** on Friday 17 December. Please do not request a certificate before this date as your request will not be accepted. The **closing** date to **collect** certificates will be 17 December 2021. Please contact the parish office on 01442 391 759 and select option 2 to collect your certificate.

Prayer

Lord, let me be still and at peace, just for a few moments, in the busy-ness of my day.

Let me be attentive to where I have been and where I am headed. And, let me be where You have been present in my life today.

Amen

Office Hours and Telephone cover for Hemel West.	
Email: shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk	
Phone: 01442 391 759 option 2	
Telephone cover for 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 9.30am-3.30pm
Thursday 9.30am-3.30pm	Thursday 9.30am-12.30pm
Friday 9.30am-3.30pm	Friday 9.30am-12.30pm

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS

SUN 28 Nov	1st Sunday in Advent	6pm (Vigil) 8.30am 10.15am 12 noon	John Sweeney (RIP ANNIV) Pro Populo Bernard Lewis (RIP)
MON 29 Nov	Advent feria	10am	Watkins Family (INT)
TUE 30 Nov	ST ANDREW	10am	
WED 1 Dec	Advent feria	11.30am	Catholic Women's League (INT)
THU 2 Dec	Advent feria		NO MASS (Father's rest day)
FRI 3 Dec	St Francis Xavier	10am	Watkins Family (INT)
SAT 4 Dec	Advent feria	6pm (Vigil)	
SUN 5 Dec	2nd Sunday in Advent	8.30am 10.15am 12 noon	Pro Populo Mike Prindiville (RIP)

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 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: **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 (Opt 3)


Deacon: Rev Simon Wright simonwright@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Shirley Bailey shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk (Opt 2)

Hall Bookings: via Shirley or 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^o: 233699