

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday cycle
Readings Year C
Weekday readings
Year 1
Divine Office
Week 2



TODAY'S MASS

*"A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord."*

Fr Brian writes....

Background on the Gospel Reading Luke 3:1-6

John preaches repentance and baptizes in the region of the Jordan. The Gospel reading from Luke invites us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. John baptizes for repentance and for forgiveness of sins, preparing the way for God's salvation. John the Baptist is presented as the figure who bridges the time before Christ and prepares the way for Christ's own ministry. Luke shows that salvation is for all people and situated in world events. Therefore, Luke lists the political and religious leaders at the time of John's appearance in the desert. Salvation is understood as God's breaking into this political and social history. He is as present in it now as he was then. John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus, we too are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives the coming of the Lord, as John did. What needs to change in us, what patterns of sin need to be repented of (perhaps requiring sacramental absolution by a priest) so that we can prepare the way of the Lord?

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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Carols by Candlelight: Attendance at the Carols by Candlelight on 20 December 2021, is by booking only. Please follow the link to reserve your place. <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempesteadwest/events/carols-by-candlelight/>

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 PRIESTS COLLECTION: Today's second collection is for the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund. Please give generously and help ensure our sick and older priests are financially supported, having given us a lifetime of dedicated service. They have baptised us, welcomed us into the church, and offered comfort and prayer at times of sorrow. Now we have a chance to give back and ensure they have peace of mind during their senior years, when they may be facing failing health and declining mobility. Please give generously using the envelopes in the church. You can also donate online at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations - the envelopes and posters feature a 'QR Code' that you can scan with a phone camera to give online, reducing the risks to everyone of handling cash. Thank you in advance for your kindness.

COVID-19 (Coronavirus): As you will be aware a new Covid variant - Omicron - has been identified, and there are concerns that it could be more infectious and less responsive to vaccines. As responsible citizens we continue to do our bit to control the virus. At the time of writing (Monday 29th November) the wearing of masks in church remains voluntary, but strongly recommended. If you sing it is mandatory. Do continue to use the sanitiser at the entrance to the church. When you

come up for Holy Communion, please remove your mask just before you get to the minister (priest/deacon/EMHC), so that the Lord can be received as reverently as possible, then replace your mask. Whilst it is good to see our community return to the celebration of the Sunday Mass, we need to be mindful of our physical behaviour in church. When coming up for Holy Communion and circulating in the church try as best as you can to give each other space. It is difficult at Boxmoor as there are no side aisles and the church is narrow. If you would prefer some space left next to you on the pew/seat, then do take one of the signs from the desk at the back of the church to indicate that. Please do not leave any items behind, as these will be disposed of as waste, unless they are gold bars or keys to the latest BMW M7! Please take your newsletter away with you as well. Masses will be livestreamed on Sundays at 10.15am and 12pm for the benefit of those who are housebound, or are particularly vulnerable to the virus on account of age or a specific chronic health condition. If you are showing any of the known symptoms of Covid infection, a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature) a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for

GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE FORTHCOMING WEEK:

Mon: Luke 5:17-26
Tues: Matthew 18:12-14
Wed: Matthew 11:28-30
Thurs: Matthew 11:11-15
Fri: Matthew 11:16-19
Sat: Matthew 17:10-13
Sunday: Luke 3:10-18

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

more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual) a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal, then please stay at home and join in with the Mass via livestream.

HOUSEBOUND OR SICK? If you or any member of the parish are sick, or housebound and unable to get to Mass, do please let Fr Brian know.

CHARITY CURRY NIGHT: We raised £430 and funds are being split between Salvation Army and Girl Guides at Leverstock Green. Thank you for your support.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE: The members of the Catholic Women's League will be selling raffle tickets after all Masses.

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

CAFOD: Human Rights Day Friday 10 December, CAFOD is asking us to ponder and pray on this. Human rights defenders help to keep Governments and businesses in check, put people ahead of profits, and protect our planet. Yet in return for their work, in their communities, they face criminalisation, harassment, and violence. Please pray for human rights defenders who are working in their Countries for this right. CAFOD's 2021 on-line Advent Calendar of daily prayer and reflection offers an opportunity to pause, reflect, pray and take action as we prepare for Christmas. Each day, the calendar will be sharing Bible reflections, stories of our global neighbours, prayers and practical ideas for action, as we create a space to prepare for the coming of Christ. Sign up for daily Advent calendar reflections straight to your inbox by clicking here: <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Advent-calendar>.

MY PRAYER BOOK: We hope to run this course again. If you have been curious about the course, we would like you to join us on Tuesday 7Decembr or Tuesday 14 December from 6pm until 7pm in the Parish Centre, Boxmoor. Join us for a cup of tea and hear Fr Brian's talk and have a look at prayer books and chat to the families who

have been attending. We look forward to seeing you.

CONFIRMATION 2022: Applications for the Hemel Confirmation Course are 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. Request's for CCP **opened** on Monday 22 November and will **close** on 17 December. The **closing** date to **collect** certificates will be 17 December 2021.

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES: If your child has recently been baptised and you need a baptismal certificate, please send the full name 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.

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 5 Dec	2nd Sunday in Advent	6pm (Vigil) 8.30am 10.15am 12 noon	SMJ SMJ SMJ STM	Harry Bailey (Birthday) Pro Populo William & Bella Hegarty (RIP ANNIV) Mike Prindiville (RIP)
MON 6 Dec	Advent feria	10am		
TUE 7 Dec	St Ambrose	10am		
WED 8 Dec	THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	11.30am		People of the Parish
THU 9 Dec	Advent feria			NO MASS (Father's rest day)
FRI 10 Dec	Advent feria	10am		Colin Wood (RIP)
SAT 11 Dec	Advent feria	6pm (Vigil)		Martin Quigley (RIP)
SUN 12 Dec	3rd Sunday in Advent	8.30am 10.15am 12 noon		Pro Populo Brendan & Monica Byrne (RIP) Austin & Tess Cameron (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 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/hemelhempsteadwest/>

01442 391 759

Diocese of Westminster Charity N^o: 233699