

# CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST

## 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday cycle  
Readings Year C  
Weekday readings  
Year 1  
Divine Office  
Week 3



### **TODAY'S MASS**

*'Someone is coming who will baptize  
you with the Holy Spirit and fire'*

### **GAUDETE SUNDAY**

Fr Brian writes...

Recall that last week's reading described John's appearance in the desert and established his connection with the prophetic tradition of Israel. If we were to read Luke's Gospel continuously, we would learn about John the Baptist challenging the crowds who came to him and calling upon them to show evidence of their repentance. John tells his listeners that they cannot rely on their lineage as Israelites because children of Abraham can be raised up from stones. Repentance, rather, must be observable in one's actions. Here, Luke is continuing to set up two important themes of his Gospel message: the Christian faith is expressed in one's actions, and the call to salvation is extended to everyone, Jews and Gentiles. In today's Gospel reading, the crowds ask John the Baptist for specifics. What evidence of repentance is required? John replies by naming concrete actions: crowds should share their food and cloaks; tax collectors should be just; soldiers should act fairly. The concern for justice is a hallmark of Luke's Gospel and a characteristic of this season. When the crowd begins to wonder if John the Baptist might be the Messiah, John makes it clear that his ministry is in preparation for the Messiah. John the Baptist knows his place and role in God's plan of salvation, John's teaching also suggests that each person has a role to play in God's salvation. It is the great mystery of our salvation that God permits and even asks for human cooperation in his divine plans. That's awesome! The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is a Latin word that means "rejoice." This name is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass, which is also echoed in today's second reading from the Paul's letter to the Philippians. We mark this Sunday by lighting a rose- coloured candle instead of a purple one on our Advent wreath. Clergy also wear rose coloured vestments. It is a reminder that the Advent season is predominately a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand. So, stay awake!

# 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/hemel Hempsteadwest/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.

**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.

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

**DENS:** Thanks to everyone who sponsored Nicky Mansfield for her Sleepout for DENS. £890 was raised.

**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.

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

**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](mailto: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. The **closing** date to **collect** your certificate will be on Friday 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](mailto:shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk) and she will arrange a certificate for you.

**PARISH OFFICE:** Please note that the parish office will be closed from Monday 20 December until Monday 3 January and will reopen on Tuesday 4 January.

## GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE FORTHCOMING WEEK:

Mon: Matthew 21:23-27  
Tues: Matthew 21:28-32  
Wed: Luke 7:19-23  
Thurs: Luke 7:24-30  
Fri: John 5:33-36  
Sat: Matthew 1:18-24  
Sunday: Luke 1:39-45

## 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**

### Prayer

Dear God, wherever believers struggle to declare their faith openly without risking prosecution, keep them safe, and if words cannot be spoken, may lives speak of your gracious love, and this, your unspoken truth, touch both mind and soul as your gentle Spirit flows from one heart to another.

Amen



**Office Hours and Telephone cover  
for Hemel West.**

**Email: [shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk)**

**Phone: 01442 391 759 option 2**

<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>

### CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES AT HEMEL WEST

<b>Date</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Time</b>
24 December	Ss Mary & Joseph	Carols at 8.30pm followed by Mass at 9pm
25 December	Ss Mary & Joseph	8.30am
25 December	Ss Mary & Joseph	10.15am
25 December	St Mark's	12 noon
26 December	Ss Mary & Joseph	8.30am
26 December	Ss Mary & Joseph	10.15am
26 December	St Mark's	12 noon

# HOLY MASS INTENTIONS

<b>SUN 12 Dec</b>	<b>3rd Sunday in Advent</b>	<b>(SMSJ)</b> 6pm (Vigil) <b>(SMSJ)</b> 8.30am <b>(SMSJ)</b> 10.15am <b>(SM)</b> 12 noon	Martin Quigley (RIP) John & Peggy West (RIP ANNIV) Brendan & Monica Byrne (RIP) Pro Populo
<b>MON 13 Dec</b>	St Lucy	<b>(SMSJ)</b> 10am	Miss Anne Onyinyechukwu Igboaka (Return to Good Health)
<b>TUE 14 Dec</b>	St John	<b>(SMSJ)</b> 10am	Miss Anne Onyinyechukwu Igboaka (Return to Good Health)
<b>WED 15 Dec</b>	Advent feria	<b>(SMSJ)</b> 11.30am	Miss Anne Onyinyechukwu Igboaka (Return to Good Health)
<b>THU 16 Dec</b>	Advent feria		NO MASS (Father's rest day)
<b>FRI 17 Dec</b>	Advent feria	<b>(SMSJ)</b> 10am	Miss Anne Onyinyechukwu Igboaka (Return to Good Health)
<b>SAT 18 Dec</b>	Advent feria	<b>(SMSJ)</b> 6pm (Vigil)	Miss Anne Onyinyechukwu Igboaka (Return to Good Health)
<b>SUN 19 Dec</b>	<b>4th Sunday in Advent</b>	<b>(SMSJ)</b> 8.30am <b>(SMSJ)</b> 10.15am <b>(SM)</b> 12 noon	Pro Populo Austin & Tess Cameron (RIP ANNIV) Miss Anne Onyinyechukwu Igboaka (Return to Good Health)

**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:** **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/hemelhempsteadwest/>

 **01442 391 759**

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