

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

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



TODAY'S MASS

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

Fr Brian writes...

Today we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In today's Gospel, as in the other Gospel accounts of Jesus' baptism, we hear John the Baptist address the confusion of the people who thought that John might be the Messiah. In response, John contrasts the baptism that he performs with the Baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John the Baptist says that he has baptized with water, but that someone will come and baptize with the Holy Spirit. The type of baptism that John performed was not yet a Christian Baptism; it was a preparation for Christian Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received. The baptism of Jesus was an event of great significance for Jesus. The Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus during his time of prayer after his baptism. Through his Gospel, Luke will show Jesus to be a person of prayer who withdraws regularly from the crowds and his disciples to pray to his Father. How's your prayer life? The baptism of Jesus is considered a manifestation of God in Jesus, another "epiphany." On this, the last day of the Christmas season, our Gospel reveals to us Jesus' relation to God: the son of Mary and Joseph is also God's own Son. In Luke's Gospel, all three members of the Trinity are manifested here: God the Father in the voice, the Holy Spirit descending like a dove, and Jesus the Son. At the beginning of his Gospel, Luke is communicating to us important information about the identity of Jesus. We, the children of Adam and Eve, are again made children of God through Baptism. Remember to celebrate your own and your children's baptism on their anniversaries. Do you remember the date of your baptism, the moment when you became an adopted member of God's family?

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 01482 391 759.

THANK YOU! Thank you for your cards, greetings and gifts to me for Christmas 2021! I hope you had a restful time over the Christmas and New Year. My children, Bernie and Daniel, came and stayed with me. I bought the food and drink - but made them do all the cooking and cleaning up!

PARISH NEWSLETTER: As from this weekend there will be a substantially reduced number of newsletters printed each week. Wasting paper, ink and toner doesn't make economic or environmental sense. Do go to the parish website to sign up for parish e alerts, so that you can get notified when the newsletter is published and of other topical news items. Please do not take a printed copy of the newsletter, but leave them for parishioners who do not use the internet.

SYNOD ON SYNODALITY 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in October 2023. Thank you to those who participated in the initial Listening Sessions held during the period of Advent. The diocese has extended the period for responding, so your contributions will be sent to the diocese towards the end of next week. I'll make sure they're published on the Parish website and let you know via an e alert. The Parish Pastoral Council will meet towards the end of this month and decide on the best way to incorporate elements into overall parish pastoral planning, along with insights from the parish raised at the pre-covid gathering in 2020. Synodality is still a new concept for the Catholic Church, and its main principles of Communion, Participation and Mission are to be worked though, using the gifts of discernment, imbued with the 'sense of the faithful.' We can make these principles the hallmark of how we proceed as a parish under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Whilst we get on with things here in the parish of Hemel West, we'll keep an eye on the diocese and the wider Church to take account of applicable insights from there. And I must not forget - a big

thank you again to the members of the Parish Pastoral Council for facilitating the initial Listening Sessions! Towards the end of this month the names and short biographies of the PPC members will be communicated. Keep up to date with all things synod in the diocese at this link: <https://rcdow.org.uk/synod/>

PARISH FINANCES 2021 THANK YOU! Just a note to say thank you to everyone for your generosity in the weekly Offertory Collection during 2021. We have ended the year in a fairly strong position, with money in the bank and a surplus of income over expenditure, buoyed up by the increasing numbers of parishioners returning to Mass who make their Offertory donation in cash, the return of those hiring the parish centre and hall and the last payment on the parish loan from the diocese for the construction of the presbytery and adjoining retired priests' accommodation. Shirley will be working on the Annual Financial Review (AFR) this month, which must be submitted to the diocese for financial auditing purposes by the end of January. Once all the necessary reconciliations etc are made and figures balanced, the Finance Committee will release a detailed overview of income v expenditure for 2021, with a 'heads up'

GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE FORTHCOMING WEEK:

Mon:	Mark	1:14-20
Tues:	Mark	1:21-28
Wed:	Mark	1:29-39
Thurs:	Mark	1:40-45
Fri:	Mark	2:1-12
Sat:	Mark	2:13-17
Sunday:	John	2:1-11

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**

for spending plans in 2022. A reminder that there are various ways in which you can make your weekly contribution, in order of preference:

1. Standing Order, with Gift Aid if you are a tax payer. For every £1 you give, the parish can claim 25p at no cost to you from HM Govt - free money! Details here: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/donate/>
2. Use the contactless machine as you enter the church.
3. Offertory Envelopes
4. Cash

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.

PEACE SUNDAY 16 JANUARY: This year Pope Francis asks us to think about 'Education, Work and Dialogue between generations. Tools for building lasting peace'. In this country we have an active Catholic peace movement in Pax Christi, which does a great deal of good work to promote peace and nonviolence through parishes, schools and social media. Find out more at pax.christi.org.uk

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.

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

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

Reflection

God is the mystery at the core of human identity. To pursue the depth of meaning in our personal life, is to uncover the face of God, the source of our own image and likeness looking back at us with love.

The truth is that the poorest and weakest among us possess the same dignity.

Everyone is neighbour, brother and sister, a child of God and is to be received as such.

If we love one another, we will find the face of God and our own true selves.

(Taken from Pencil Preaching, NCR, "The Face of Glory".)

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS

SUN 9 JAN	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	(SMSJ) 6pm (Vigil) (SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 10.15am (SM) 12 noon	Maura Hegney (RIP) John West (RIP) Pro Populo Maureen & Barry Albert (RIP)
MON 10 Jan	feria	(SMSJ) 10am	Martin Reilly (RIP)
TUE 11 Jan	feria	(SMSJ) 10am	George & Mary Gardner (RIP)
WED 12 Jan	feria	(SMSJ) 11.30am	Holy Souls
THU 13 Jan	feria		NO MASS (Father's rest day)
FRI 14 Jan	feria	(SMSJ) 10am	Eileen Paul (RIP)
SAT 15 Jan	feria	(SMSJ) 6pm	Margaret McMahon (RIP)
SUN 16 Jan	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	(SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 10.15am (SM) 12 noon	Pro Populo Betty Fernandes (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/hemelhempesteadwest/>



01442 391 759

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