

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST
7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
20 February 2022

Sunday cycle
Readings Year C
Weekday readings
Year 2
Divine Office
Week 3



TODAY'S MASS

Love your Enemies

Deacon Simon writes...

Love of enemies

Today's Gospel reading, positioned immediately after the Beatitudes and Woes, could well be seen as the core of Jesus' teaching about the love and compassion that Christians should have towards others, and which they should demonstrate, especially through forgiveness. Throughout his earthly life, and particularly on the cross, Jesus sets an example for us: "In loving our enemies there shines forth in us some likeness to God our Father, who, by the death of his Son, ransomed from everlasting perdition and reconciled to himself the human race, which previously was most unfriendly and hostile to him".

In the opening verses (27–30), our Lord lists some trials and tribulations we might encounter and how we should respond to them. The Semitic style of teaching by way of drawing contrasts conveys very vividly this teaching, which is summed up in v. 31: "As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them."

Verses 32–34 prepare us for what Jesus will say is the real reason why we should act as he has described: it is the behaviour befitting a child of God (v. 35) who wants to imitate his or her merciful Father (v. 36). This verse ("Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful") parallels almost exactly what St Matthew records at the heart of the Sermon on the Mount: "You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Mt 5:48). Mercy is the way to a close union with God, and Jesus, the Son of God, is the incarnation of divine mercy: "Everyone wants to have mercy shown to them, but few show mercy to others. How can you dare to ask for what you are not prepared to give? He who desires the mercy of heaven should show mercy here on earth. There is earthly, human mercy and heavenly, divine mercy. What is human mercy? Human mercy is concern for the suffering of the poor. What is divine mercy? Divine mercy is forgiveness of sins. The human mercy we show during the pilgrimage of our life on earth will be repaid with divine mercy in our heavenly homeland. God suffers cold and hunger and thirst in the poor of this world, as he himself said: Whatever you do to the least of my people, you do to me. God, who gives all in heaven, wishes to receive from man in this world" (St Caesarius of Arles, Sermones, 25, 1).

The Navarre Bible: New Testament (p. 272).

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.

LENT 2022 – Ash Wednesday 2 March: Just over a week now until Lent begins. Ash Wednesday is on Wednesday 2 March. Masses will be celebrated at 11.30am (SSMJ) and 7.30pm (SM) with distribution of ashes. Members of the Ordinariate who worship at St Mark's church, will join us at our 7.30pm Mass. The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions) will be heard on Ash Wednesday between 10.30am to 11.15am (SSMJ) and 6.30pm to 7pm (SM). An early reminder that Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent, is an obligatory day of fasting and abstinence. This means that those parishioners aged between 18 until age 59 are obliged to **fast**. A person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal, in other words, reduced food intake. The norms concerning **abstinence** from meat are binding upon everyone, from age 14 onwards. We have to remember that the rules regarding fasting and abstinence were written when to be aged 60 or over was considered very old and life expectancy was not as great as it is now. On the basis of the rules, your parish priest is not required to fast! Meat was once regarded as luxury item. So, if you don't eat meat, perhaps you might consider something else? As well as fasting, we give more time to **prayer** and **alms** giving in particular. As St. John Chrysostom reminds us: "Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs.." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2446).

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 21 February – 6 March: What does Fairtrade do? Fairtrade works with farming co-operatives, businesses and governments to make trade fair. Together with Fairtrade farmers and workers we have a vision: a world in which trade is based on fairness so that producers earn secure and sustainable livelihoods. Fairtrade has a network of dedicated supporters

who help to raise awareness of the issues of unfair trade and fundraise to support us in our work. Fairtrade fortnight will be a show of solidarity with those on the frontline of the climate crisis. COP26 didn't deliver the change needed to stay within 1.5c, nor did it secure finance to directly support farmers and workers on the frontline, but the Fairtrade Foundation believes there is hope if we all act together. Fairtrade Fortnight is an opportunity for individuals, communities, and businesses around country to stand with farmers in low-income countries like Honduras and Uganda who are impacted daily by climate change. Together, by keeping the pressure on government and businesses, we can all ensure farmers benefit from fairer prices, fairer trading practices and the resources needed for tackling the climate emergency. Look out for the Fairtrade mark when you go shopping during this time.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASSES MAY 2022: First Holy Communion Masses will be celebrated on Saturday 14 May at 10am and 2pm and on Sunday 15 May at 2pm. Specific arrangements for

GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE FORTHCOMING WEEK:

Mon:	Mark	9:4-29
Tues:	Mark	9:30- 37
Wed:	Mark	9:38-40
Thurs:	Mark	9:41-50
Fri:	Mark	10:1- 12
Sat:	Mark	10:13-16
Sunday	Luke	6: 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**

The offertory collection income figures are published on a monthly basis once the bank reconciliation is completed.

allocating which Mass your child attends will be made known in March. All Masses will be celebrated at Ss Mary & Joseph's church. **SCRIPTURE GROUP:** We meet in the Parish Centre, Boxmoor on Tuesdays from 2pm until 4pm to read and discuss the readings for the following Sunday. All are welcome to join us.

THE PASSAGE a Catholic Charity, working with people who are homeless, is holding a St David's Day concert on Thursday 3 March, 7.30pm in Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Square with The London Welsh Male Voice Choir and soloist tenor Ryan Vaughan Davies. All tickets are £20. For tickets please call 020 75921856.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE: This will be held at the Methodist Church, 270 Northridge Way on Friday 4 March, at 11am. Join others from Churches Together in Hemel Hempstead in a global wave of prayer. All are welcome. If you would like to take a reading part please contact Lynn at Lynnbassett@gmail.com or call 07803 986716.

LENT FAST DAY - FRIDAY 11 MARCH: Coming soon to our parish.

ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING: Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony : Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 14 May 2022 at 3pm. The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) Wedding Anniversary of Catholic Marriage in 2022. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please email Fr Brian the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email) by Friday 25 March.

JOB OPPORTUNITY: Mary's Meals are looking for a 'Supporter Engagement Officer'. The job details can be found at <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/useful-links/work-for-us/supporter-engagement-officer-london>

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

JOHN F KENNEDY SCHOOL VACANCIES: Please visit www.jfk.herts.sch.uk for more details.

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 be do her best to accommodate it.

WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE - Reflection
We are not to simply bandage the wounds of victims beneath the wheels of injustice.

We are to drive a spoke into the wheel itself.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Prayer

Righteous God, help us to go deeper in our pursuit of justice. May we work not just to address the harm done, but also to dismantle the systems that produce harm.

Amen

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS

SUN 20 Feb	7th Sunday in Ordinary Time	(SMSJ) 6pm (Vigil) (SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 10.15am (SM) 12 noon	Edward Stokes (RIP ANNIV) Olive Quigley (RIP) Erminio Gazza (RIP) Pro Populo
MON 21 Feb	feria	(SMSJ) 10am	Families & Lost Children (INT)
TUE 22 Feb	THE CHAIR OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE	(SMSJ) 10am	Praise & Thanksgiving (INT)
WED 23 Feb	feria	(SMSJ) 11.30am	Justice & Peace (INT)
THU 24 Feb	feria		NO PUBLIC MASS
FRI 25 Feb	feria	(SMSJ) 10am	Christian Unity (INT)
SAT 26 Feb	feria	(SMSJ) 6pm	
SUN 27 Feb	8th Sunday in Ordinary Time	(SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 10.15am (SM) 12 noon	Pro Populo Kaz Sitkowski (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. 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 and by appointment.



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/>



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