

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST

3RD SUNDAY IN LENT

20 MARCH 2022

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



TODAY'S MASS

***'Leave the Fig Tree
One More Year'***

Fr Brian writes....

Background on the Gospel Reading . Luke 13:1-9

This Sunday the Gospel reading prepares us to hear Lent's call to conversion and repentance. Today's reading is found in the chapters of Luke's Gospel that describe Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. Jesus responds to those who question and challenge his authority and actions. Luke tells us that some among the crowds report to Jesus a massacre of Galileans by Pilate. The intention of the crowd seems to be to ask Jesus to explain why these people suffered. Jesus replies that even a fatal accident, a natural disaster, ought not to be interpreted as punishment for sin. Jesus' words at first appear to have a fire-and-brimstone quality, they are almost offensive to the modern ear that prefers to have little mention of sin (if at all) and would focus exclusively on God's love in a therapeutic sense, as if there comes a time in this life when we stop sinning, and it doesn't really matter anyway as we are all going to heaven when we die! By the way, that last bit is called Universalism, more Oprah Winfrey than the teaching of the Catholic Church! Jesus says in essence, "Repent or perish as these people did; all are sinful before God and deserving of God's punishment." The tone changes, however, in the parable that follows. The parable of the barren fig tree contrasts the patience and hopefulness of the gardener with the practicality of the property owner. When told to cut down the fig tree because it is not producing fruit, the gardener counsels patience. If properly tended, the barren fig tree may yet bear fruit. This is why we never stop praying for those who are given over to a life of grave sin, because in this life the mercy of God can achieve the impossible. Throughout his journey to Jerusalem, Jesus has been teaching about the Kingdom of God. In this parable, we find an image of God's patience and hopefulness as he prepares his Kingdom. God calls us to repent, and it is within his power to punish us for our failure to turn from our sinfulness. And yet God is merciful. He delays punishment and tends to us so that we may yet bear the fruit he desires from us in this life. This, then, is our reason for hope: Not only does God refuse to abandon us, he chooses to attend to us even when we show no evidence of his efforts in this life. Pray for sinners!

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

HOLY HOUR: (with Confessions, Adoration & Benediction) 7pm Fridays at Ss Mary & Joseph. This will also be Livestreamed. Please note there will not be Confessions, Adoration & Benediction on 18 March and 8 April.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Please come and join St Mark's for the Way of the Cross, 7pm every Tuesday in Lent. If you cannot make it then please watch the Livestream on the YouTube account <https://www.youtube.com/c/HemelWestCatholic>

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Every Thursday 11am at Ss Mary & Joseph lead by the Catholic Women's league.

TAIZE SERVICE at Ss Mary & Joseph Friday 18 March and Friday 8 April at 7pm.

LENTEN BUNTING: I hope you like the Lenten bunting adorning the sanctuary and the area around it. I do! It has been prepared by our friends, the children at St Cuthbert Mayne school. It contains their Lenten promises, acts of kindness and Lenten prayers etc. Well done children!

EASTER FLOWERS FOR THE CHURCH: If you would like to contribute to the purchase of EASTER FLOWERS, do take an envelope marked EASTER FLOWERS DONATION and pop your donation in it and then place it in the offertory collection basket at the entrance to the church. Thank you.

CHANGE OF WEDNESDAY MASS TIME: As from Wednesday 16 March, Mass will be at **10am** every Wednesday.

MOG (Men Only Group): I've heard it said that men are like icebergs. Most of their emotions, thoughts and feelings are submerged beneath the surface of their lives. Many men do not open up about themselves and what is going on for them at work, in their families, in their lives in general and in the Church etc. They suffer silently. A MOG is an opportunity to support each other in a way that

is not therapeutic, but based on solidarity, deep listening, respect and action. Confidentiality is the cornerstone for openness and trust. We could all come together when the MOG wants to meet up – no Agenda, Minutes, bureaucracy, rules or regulation, except that of respect and solidarity. Get togethers could have a speaker who addresses issues that impact men in particular, followed up by discussion on say leadership, authentic masculinity etc, action, a breakfast fry-up with the smoking of cigars and the drinking of whiskey (that's a joke that last bit...maybe?) and occasional weekends away to undertake varying challenges that build resilience, solidarity, brotherhood and discipleship with Jesus Christ who calls us to sacrifice ourselves, following his authentic model of strong leadership. If you think this is something you'd like to get involved in, a Men Only Group (MOG), give me a call on 01442 391 759. Don't email me, I won't reply if you do. I want to talk with you!

PRAYING OF THE ROSARY AFTER MASS: Some parishioners stay after weekday Mass and pray the

GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE FORTHCOMING WEEK:

Mon:	Luke	4:24-30
Tues:	Matthew	18:21- 35
Wed:	Matthew	5:17-19
Thurs:	Luke	11:14-23
Fri:	Mark	12:28- 34
Sat:	Luke	18:9-14
Sunday:	Luke	15: 1-3, 11-32

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.

rosary. This is excellent and I encourage you to stay on those occasions you come to daily Mass. We should bear in mind the admonition of Our Lady of Fatima during her appearances to the seers at Fatima in 1917, "Pray the Rosary every day in order to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war." As you can imagine, this seems apposite at this moment in world history.

CAFOD - Ukraine Appeal: Families affected by the conflict in Ukraine urgently need food, water and shelter. CAFOD is working closely with Caritas Ukraine, Caritas Poland and others, who are already there delivering practical help to those most in need. You can be part of the Church's response by giving to CAFOD's Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ukraine. Please also continue to pray for peace in Ukraine.

CAFOD: Thank you for giving to CAFOD's Lent Appeal. Your generous gifts will ensure that CAFOD's local experts, like Sister Anthonia in Sierra Leone, can support families with training in growing and making healthy food so that children can grow up big and strong. Thank you so much for your generosity, and prayers for CAFOD and the work they do.

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.

GOING TO HOSPITAL? If you are going into Hospital do ask to see Theresa Taylor-Brookes the Catholic Chaplain. Please call the Chaplaincy office on 01923 217994 or 07776598704 for Watford and St Albans.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS: When submitting an item for the newsletter, please send the details and

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

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.

E-ALERT: Please sign up for the parish e-alerts and keep up with all the parish news.

Prayer

We are Family

Loving God, I devote this season of Lent to You. Help us to overcome our indifferences.

Let us receive Your love with open hearts, as there are no outsiders or enemies in God's family. Amen

Love in Action Pray, Fast, Give

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS

SUN 20 Mar	3rd Sunday of Lent	(SMSJ) 6pm (Vigil) (SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 10.15am (SM) 12 noon	Pro Populo The Ukraine Crisis (INT) Elizabeth Rea (RIP)
MON 21 Mar	Lent feria	(SMSJ) 10am	
TUE 22 Mar	Lent feria	(SMSJ) 10am	Funeral for Mary Elizabeth Rae (RIP)
WED 23 Mar	Lent feria	(SMSJ) 10am	Varghese Ulahannan Kurikunnel (RIP)
THU 24 Mar	Lent feria	(SMSJ)	No Public Mass
FRI 25 Mar	THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	(SMSJ) 10am	Herman Fernandes (RIP ANNIV)
SAT 26 Mar	Lent feria	(SMSJ) 6pm	
SUN 27 Mar	3rd Sunday of Lent	(SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 10.15am (SM) 12 noon	Pro Populo Constance & Fred Smallwood & Minnie Jackson (RIP ANNIV) Jimmy Cash (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/hemelhempesteadwest/>

 **01442 391 759**

Diocese of Westminster Charity N^o: 233699