

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST

5TH SUNDAY IN LENT

3 April 2022

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



TODAY'S MASS

'Let the one among you who has not sinned be the first to throw a stone'

Fr Brian writes....

Background on the Gospel Reading: John 8:1-11

Today we hear not a parable, but the report from John's Gospel of an encounter among Jesus, the scribes and Pharisees, and a woman caught in adultery. In the chapter preceding today's Gospel reading, Jesus was teaching in the Temple area. Feeling threatened by his teaching and his actions, the chief priests and the Pharisees are already sending guards to arrest Jesus. The guards return, however, without arresting Jesus because they have been impressed by his words. Even more than this, some among the crowds are considering the possibility that Jesus is the Messiah. Today's Gospel begins by reporting that Jesus is again teaching the crowds in the vicinity of the Temple. The scribes and the Pharisees approach Jesus, bringing a woman who has been caught in the act of adultery. They put to Jesus the question of what ought to be done in this case. The Pharisees state clearly that according to the Law of Moses, those caught in the act of adultery were to be stoned to death. Under Roman occupation, however, the Jewish people did not have the authority to execute people; this is cited in John's passion narrative. To answer the Pharisees' question, Jesus must propose an action that will be either contrary to the Law of Moses or contrary to Roman law. Either answer, yes or no, will support the Pharisees' case against Jesus. Jesus, after writing on the ground with his finger, addresses those who stand before him and suggests that the one without sin cast the first stone. Jesus then returns to his writing. I wonder what he was writing? Or maybe just doodling in the sand? There are no specific details about what he wrote. Left alone with the woman, Jesus asks where the accusers have gone. With no one remaining to condemn the woman, Jesus (the one who truly is without sin) sends the woman on her way, refusing to pass judgment on her and exhorting her to avoid future sin. Jesus' response to those who accuse the woman is more than a caution to us about making judgment of others. It is a profound lesson in divine mercy and forgiveness. As sinners, we are all unworthy to judge the sins of others and we would stand convicted by God for our transgressions. Yet Jesus, the one without sin and thus our judge, offers us who are sinners his mercy and forgiveness. Redeemed by Jesus' compassion, we are sent to sin no more and to live in God's love and peace.

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

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 on Friday 8 April at 7pm.

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.

CATHOLIC WOMENS LEAGUE: A reminder to all members and parishioners of the Lenten Reflection Thursday 7 April, 7.30pm in St Joseph's hall. This will be led by Jane Gonzalez. All are welcome.

FLOWER FESTIVAL: Saturday 30 April until Monday 2 May. As May is the month traditionally dedicated to Mary, the theme of the displays will reflect Our Lady in her many manifestations: Our Lady of Knock, Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Walsingham to name but three. This event is organised by the Hemel West Catholic Women's League and will take place on Saturday 30 April, 2pm to 6pm, Sunday 1 May 9.30am to 5pm and Monday 2 May, 9.30am to 5pm. The Mass schedule will continue as normal. Refreshments will be available. We are looking for people to help with refreshments on the days we are open; to help set up the church on Friday 29 April and to act as stewards. The Festival is being funded from generous donations from parishioners but if you would like to contribute as well please get in

touch. If you would like to sponsor a display please let us know. You can contact Anne at kannehanrahan@gmail.com or speak to a member of the CWL.

JUSTICE & PEACE: Apartheid was rightly condemned and ended in South Africa after vigorous public opposition. However, apartheid is "alive and well" and it is the Palestinian people who live under an apartheid system today, a fact confirmed in a recent report by Amnesty International and again by the U.N Special Rapporteur. Check out: www.amnesty.org.uk/EndIsraelsApartheid (amnesty.org.uk).

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.

GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE FORTHCOMING WEEK:

Mon:	John	8:12-20
Tues:	John	8:21- 30
Wed:	John	8:31-42
Thurs:	John	8:51-59
Fri:	John	10 :31-42
Sat:	John	11:45-56
Sunday:	Luke	19: 28-40

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.

Reflection -Pope Francis

“During this Lent, may we practise almsgiving by giving joyfully. God who “supplies seed to the sower and bread for food” enables each of us not only to have food to eat, but also to be generous in doing good to others. While it is true that we have our entire life to sow goodness, let us take special advantage of this Lenten season to care for those close to us and to reach out to our brothers and sisters who lie wounded along the path of life.”

Prayer

Dear God, please let me be always thankful for the many gifts I have, and let me always remember to share those gifts with my sisters and brothers who may not be as fortunate as me. Help me to be a "joyful giver".
Amen

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

HOLY WEEK & EASTER MASS TIMES

PLEASE TAKE A SCHEDULE FROM THE BACK OF THE CHURCH

	Date	Time	Church
Palm Sunday	10 April	8.30am	Ss Mary & Joseph
		10.15am	Ss Mary & Joseph
		12 noon	St Mark's
Mass of the Lords Supper	14 April	7pm. Watching at the altar of repose until 9.30pm.	Ss Mary & Joseph
Liturgy of Good Friday	15 April	3pm	Ss Mary & Joseph
		3pm (Ordinariate) All are welcome to join the Ordinariate community for their corresponding service.	St Mark's
Saturday Easter Vigil	16 April	9pm	Ss Mary & Joseph
		9pm (Ordinariate) All are welcome to join the Ordinariate community for their corresponding service.	St Mark's
Easter Sunday	17 April	8.30am	Ss Mary & Joseph
		10.15am	Ss Mary & Joseph
		12 noon	St Mark's

HOLY MASS

SUN 3 Apr	5th Sunday of Lent	(SMSJ) 6pm (Vigil) (SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 10.15am (SM) 12 noon	Sabine Eagles (RIP) Pro Populo Sean Joyce (1st RIP ANNIV) Antoinette Horsted (3rd RIP ANNIV)
MON 4 Apr	Lent feria	(SMSJ) 10am	
TUE 5 Apr	Lent feria	(SMSJ) 10am	
WED 6 Apr	Lent feria	(SMSJ) 10am	
THU 7 Apr	Lent feria	(SMSJ)	No Public Mass
FRI 8 Apr	Lent feria	(SMSJ) 10am	
SAT 9 Apr	Lent feria	(SMSJ) 6pm	
SUN 10 Apr	PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD	(SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 10.15am (SM) 12 noon	Pro Populo Jeff Knowles (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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