

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST

1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

27 November 2022

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



TODAY'S MASS

**The Son of Man is coming at
an hour you do not expect**

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Fr Brian writes....

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of a new liturgical year for the Church. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. It is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. Key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice. In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Matthew will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle A). In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus speak about the need for wakefulness, for watchful waiting, for the coming of the Son of Man.

The passage from Matthew we read today is rather straightforward. No one knows the precise time of the coming of the Lord in glory, so watchful waiting and vigilance are required. The passage speaks to the uselessness of looking for signs; there will be none. As a thief sneaks in during the night, so will the Lord's coming in glory be.

Today's passage speaks more about the manner of waiting, rather than the details of the preparation. Jesus compares the vigilance required of Christians to the vigilance of a homeowner who knows the plans of the thief. If one knows that the thief's action is imminent, one remains watchful. As Christians, we know that our Lord is coming even if we cannot know the precise timing. Jesus calls us to be watchful and vigilant, like the homeowner. If we become lax in our Christian living, we may be caught unprepared. Charity must take us forward in thought, word and deed. As we prepare for the coming of Christmas, these reflections by Jan Such-Pickard, a poet and storyteller living in the Isle of Mull and a member of the ecumenical Iona Community, may be stimulating. Thanks to the cross-parish J&P Group for sharing. Iona Community Members have written and published reflections on Israel-Palestine in an "Advent Calendar", one for each day of Advent. It is available in paper or e- formats. <https://www.ionabooks.com/product/in-gods-time-downloadable-book/><https://www.ionabooks.com/product/in-gods-time/>

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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2023:

A number of parents have failed to pay their 'Administrative Fee' for the programme in a timely manner. Please ensure that your payment is made by **Sunday 27 November**. Payment can be made on the parish website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/> click on the 'Donate' button on the top right-hand side and select 'Other ways to give.' Scroll down to the 'Donate with Dona' button and click on it. Then select 'First Holy Communion' and put £30 into the 'What would you like to give?' box and select 'Donate' and 'Confirm' your payment. Please select 'Do you want to leave a message with your donation?' and enter your child's full name in the message box as the payment reference. Please do not enter any other details. If you are have difficulty affording the 'Administrative Fee' then please notify Fr Brian, so that you are not chased!

PLANNED GIVING DRIVE & PARISH CENSUS:

Thank you for giving consideration to the messages over the last three weeks as to how you can renew your commitment to the parish of Hemel West for the next three years, in terms of what you offer from your time, talents and treasure. The Census will take place at St Mark's church next week. If have not completed a Census Form please do so. There are plenty at the back of the church. Jut fill it in and then fold it up and pop it in the offertory basket. Early next year we will get back to you if you have offered your time and talents to the parish, so that they can suitably utilised. Do remember to send the second half of the planned giving leaflet to your bank, so that

your Standing Order instruction can be dealt with. The first half is for parish records. Some forms contain errors, such as lacking signatures etc, so we will be in contact with you to rectify those errors, before your Standing Order and/or Gift Aid can be processed. If you are a parishioner and have not been with us over the last few weeks, can I kindly ask you to review what you offer the parish in terms of your time, talents and treasure (offertory collection) and if wishing to start a monthly standing order and gift aid if a tax payer, to contact Shirley Bailey our parish administrator, who will help you. Thank you again to everyone for what you do contribute and will contribute to the parish of Hemel West over the next three years.

FUNERAL: There will be a funeral for Maureen Lucy on Monday 28 November, 11am at Our Lady's. May she rest in peace.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Our next meeting will be on Thursday 1 December, 7.30pm in St Joseph's Hall. We will have an Advent reflection, followed by mince pies. All are welcome.

FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HOUR: There will be a Holy Hour following on from the 10am Mass on Friday 2 December. The Holy Hour will be in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, with Eucharistic Adoration and concluding with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 11.30am. The sacrament of reconciliation (confession) will be celebrated between 9.15am and 9.45am.

PARISH OFFICE: The parish office will be closed on Friday 2 December.

FIRE DRILL IN DECEMBER: Get ready for a fire drill on the **3/4 December** at the end of all Masses! When you hear the alarm sound, leave the church calmly but immediately via the nearest fire exit, not stopping to collect any items. Please do not re-enter the church once you have left, but disperse from the area around exits, avoiding bottlenecks, to allow people behind you to get out of the church to a place of safety. This is a necessary exercise to fulfil our legal duty of care under fire safety legislation. We are aiming to completely evacuate the church within 2 minutes 30 seconds.

PARISH FUEL FUND - Assistance for parishioners:

A few small donations have enabled the parish to open a Parish Fuel Fund and make grants. If a little help towards your fuel bill means you have a little more for food and other necessities, please ask for assistance. Any parishioner requiring a small grant from the fund should contact Fr Brian on 01442 391 759. There will be no means-testing, or request to see your fuel bill. You simply need to be a member of the parish of Hemel West. If the assistance that the Government is paying to some individuals is more than you yourself urgently need, you may consider contributing to the fund so that parishioners in need can benefit. Do contact Shirley if you wish to contribute to the Parish Fuel Fund. I have 'restricted' the Parish Fuel Fund within the parish accounts so that it cannot be used for any other purpose.

CHURCHES TOGETHER: Churches Together in Hemel Hempstead will be Carol Singing in the Marlowes (near the Christmas tree) on Friday 16 December, 1.30pm until 2.30pm and Saturday 17 December, 1.30pm until 2.30pm in Bank Court (outside Liberty Tea Rooms).

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: If you would like to make our churches lovely for Christmas, do contribute to the Christmas Flower Fund by putting your donation in the dedicated envelope or you can donate online with the message: CHRISTMAS FLOWERS. Here's the link: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/donate/>

CONFIRMATION 2023: The parent's information evening will be on Monday 12 December, 6.30pm at St Marks Church.

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS: The next Baptism Preparation Class will take place on Monday 12 December, 7.30pm until 9pm via Zoom. You must provide your **email** address when making your booking to enable the Zoom link to be sent to you nearer the time. Full details can be found at link <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/sacramental-prep/baptism-preparation/> or go to the parish website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/> where your attendance can be booked on the Events page.

Please join us for tea/coffee, in St Joseph's Hall after the 10.15am Mass. All are welcome.

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

GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE FORTHCOMING WEEK:

Mon. Matthew 8: 5 -11
Tues. Matthew 10: 21-24
Wed. Matthew 15:29-37
Thurs. Matthew 7: 21,24-27
Fri. Matthew 9: 27-31
Sat. Matthew 9: 35-10:1,6-8
Sun. Matthew 3: 1-12

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.

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

HOLY MASS

SUN 27 Nov	1st Sunday of Advent	(SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 10.15am (SM) 12 noon	Pro Populo Yvonne Wicks (RIP ANNIV) Pauline Ward & Coskeran Family (RIP)
MON 28 Nov	Advent feria	(SMSJ) 10am	Kathy Wesch (RIP)
TUE 29 Nov	Advent feria	(SMSJ) 10am	Tom Mongan (12th RIP ANNIV)
WED 30 Nov	ST ANDREW	(SM) 1.30pm	Anna Doyle (RIP)
THU 1 Dec	Advent feria		No Public Mass
FRI 2 Dec	Advent feria	(SMSJ) 10am (SMSJ) 10.30am	Mary McInerney (RIP) Holy Hour, Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction
SAT 3 Dec	Advent feria	(SMSJ) 6pm	Mr & Mrs Shakour (INT)
SUN 4 Dec	2nd Sunday of Advent	(SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 10.15am (SM) 12 noon	Mary McInerney (RIP) Ken Herbert (RIP) Pro Populo

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)

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/hemelhempsteadwest/>

01442 391 759

Diocese of Westminster Charity N^o: 233699