

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
8 January 2023

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

TODAY'S MASS

'This is my Son, the Beloved'



Gospel Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism from you' he said 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him.

As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'

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.

FRIDAY 20 JANUARY: Please note there will not be a 10am Mass on Friday 20 January, at Ss Mary & Joseph church due to electrically works being carried out in the church.

THANK YOU! A Big Thank You to everyone who played a part in preparing our churches for the celebration of Christmas and contributed to the prayerful and joyful celebration of our Masses. It was very encouraging to see over several hundred people in Church over Christmas. Thank you also for your generosity in the Offertory Collections. As you may be aware at Christmas and Easter this collection is not subject to the usual 'diocesan assessment' percentage that the diocese takes on a weekly basis, but is retained in the parish to contribute towards paying the priest's annual taxable stipend of £9,900, so thank you!

STATUE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MOTHER OUTSIDE THE CHURCH: As many of you may be aware a person or persons unknown smashed our statue of the Blessed Mother to bits over the weekend. It was very securely attached to its plinth and would have required deliberate force to remove it. A Votive Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary was offered on Wednesday morning as an act of reparation for the blasphemy of 'The Offenses of Those Who Directly Outrage Her in Her Holy Images.' Evil cannot triumph where our Blessed Mother is concerned. Many local people have expressed their disgust at this blasphemous act of vandalism. I intend to build back better! Watch this space...

MARY'S MEALS COLLECTION: Mary's Meals would like to thank everyone in the parish for their wonderful generosity. We spoke at the end of each Mass last weekend and were delighted by the total given – a terrific £680.90! This will feed 41 children one good meal every school day for a whole year. However, our 'Double the Love' campaign means all donations (up to £1.5 million

before 31 January 2023) will be matched so the parish effectively doubles the number of children being fed from 41 to 82! Please continue to pray for our work. God bless you all.

PEACE SUNDAY: Next Sunday, 15 January, is PEACE SUNDAY and this year the message from Pope Francis tells us: 'No one can be saved alone. He asks us: 'What did we learn from the pandemic? What new paths should we follow to cast off the shackles of our old habits, to be better prepared, to dare new things? What signs of life and hope can we see, to help us move forward and try to make our world a better place?' A vaccine has been found for Covid-19, says the Holy Father, but we still need to tackle the virus of war, and of inequality, and this can only be done together. In this country we have an active Catholic peace movement in Pax Christi, which aims at working together to promote peace through parishes, schools and social media. Their website suggests ways we can all become better peacemakers. Do visit it at <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2023>

WHITE FLOWER APPEAL THIS WEEKEND: Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC). SPUC is asking for your financial and moral support this weekend as it holds its annual appeal. SPUC wants a world where abortion is unthinkable and is raising the widespread problem of abortion coercion. According to an independent poll, 86% of GPs are concerned that the Government's "pills by post" scheme leaves women vulnerable to coerced abortion. SPUC is calling on the Prime Minister to condemn this abhorrent tragedy. Please be as generous as you can in the retiring collection to assist SPUC defend unborn babies and support their mothers. Similarly, do take a card White Flower Appeal 2023 card, fill in your details and post it to SPUC. They will forward your card and all those received onto the Prime Minister. We welcome Sinead from SPUC to our Mass today to make the appeal.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Hamper Raffle which raised £352 for our CWL charities. The

winners are: Miley Gurney, Jim French, Kristina Steven, Amanda Glynn and Kim Wade.

CAFOD: The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, are looking people to join us in our mission here in the Westminster diocese. Could you volunteer and help us raise awareness in either parishes or schools about our work across the developing world tackling poverty and injustice. Find out more by joining one of our volunteer meetings in Lambeth London on Saturday 21 January, or Oakwood, North London on Wednesday 1 February. Please contact Tony at CAFOD for further details at westminster@cafod.org.uk or call 0208 449 6970.

CHURCH OPEN FOR PRAYER DURING THE DAY:

Just a reminder that Ss Mary & Joseph church is open during the day until 5pm for personal prayer (not communal prayer). The only exception is Thursday or closure for operational reasons. Do pop in and say a prayer. Invite your friends to join you and light a votive candle for your deceased relatives and friends.

SCRIPTURE GROUP: We meet in the Parish Centre, Boxmoor on Tuesdays from 2.15pm until 4pm to read and discuss the readings for the following Sunday. All are welcome to join us.

YEAR BOOK: The Westminster 2023 Year book is available to purchase from the parish office at the cost of £5.

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 do her best to accommodate it.

A Prayer for the New Year

May you cross this new threshold with memories that sustain without holding you back. With faithful companions to encourage and affirm with a heart that embraces and amplifies love with a vision that sees potential and opportunity, so that, this New Year Thresholding may bless your life's pilgrimage and greet you with hope and joy as adventure's annual renewal begins.

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. 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
Sun John	1: 29 - 34

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 8 Jan	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	(SMSJ) 6pm (Sat vigil) (SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 10.15am (SM) 12 noon	Peggy & John West (RIP) Therese D'Osfay (RIP) Pro Populo
MON 9 Jan	feria	(SMSJ) 10am	Pray for the Utilities Companies
TUE 10 Jan	feria	(SMSJ) 10am	Fr Brian McMahon (INT)
WED 11 Jan	feria	(SM) 1.30pm	Justice & Peace
THU 12 Jan	feria		No public Mass
FRI 13 Jan	feria	(SMSJ) 10am	Ted Turvey (RIP ANNIV)
SAT 14 Jan	feria	(SMSJ) 6pm	Edward Stokes (RIP ANNIV)
SUN 15 Jan	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	(SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 10.15am (SM) 12 noon	Pro Populo Margaret McMahon (RIP) Pray for Media & Telephone Companies

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.

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