



LOVE IN ACTION

Hello friends!

Starting this weekend, we will see the introduction of **LOVE IN ACTION!**

What is Love in Action?

Love in Action is an engagement programme which is designed to introduce the parish to the principles of **Catholic Social Teaching (CST)**. Once you have completed the programme, you will have the tools to start your own social outreach projects. Our faith calls us to love God and to love our neighbours in every situation, especially our sisters and brothers living in poverty. Following in the footsteps of Christ, we hope to make present in our unjust and broken world, the justice, love and peace of God.

What are the principles of Catholic social teaching?

Modern Catholic social teaching is said to have originated in 1891 with the encyclical letter, *Rerum Novarum*, written by Pope Leo XIII. Do read it my friends! https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_l-xiii_enc_15051891_rerum-novarum.html Since then, a wealth of teaching from the Church continues to give new life to the Scriptures and shape the Church's response to our modern world. From Catholic social teaching documents, we derive core principles. They are: **Dignity. Community and Participation. Dignity of Workers. Solidarity and Peace. Care of Creation. Option for the Poor.**

Why 'Love in Action'?

As members of the Catholic Church, we are all called upon to preserve the dignity of all human beings, to care for creation, and to reach out to our sisters and brothers in need. These principles form part of CST, a body of work developed by Church leaders over the centuries. Pope Francis emphasises that it is our duty to work together to bring about a more just and peaceful world: to put **love** into **action**.

How does it work?

Through **Love in Action**, we will be introduced to the six principles of CST through Sunday Mass and other events across the parish. The programme includes an introductory week to Love in Action, and then each week you will explore a different theme from CST, as preached in a homily during Sunday Mass by Fr Brian. So, stay awake!

What happens when the programme finishes?

At the end of the seven-week period of homilies, you will be invited to a workshop which will help you to consider how the principles of CST can be put into practice in this parish. There is much that you are doing every day and perhaps the Holy Spirit is calling us to get behind it. Thank you for that! You will be given the resources to help you work together to recognise the needs in your parish or local area, and to plan achievable and effective social actions. All this helps to show that Jesus is Alive!

Fr Brian

Parish Priest

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.

VESPERS IN THE CATHEDRAL TO HONOUR THE LIFE OF THE LATE POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT:

Next Tuesday, 24 January, at 5pm there will be a service of Vespers in the Cathedral to honour the life of the late Pope Emeritus Benedict, and to pray for the repose of his soul. Many of the Bishops of England and Wales will be attending, as well as ecumenical guests. Lord Williams of Oystermouth, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, will give an address.

OUR LOCAL CARITAS GROUP: The Caritas Annual General Meeting will be held via Zoom on Monday 23 January, at 7.45pm. The speaker will be Dena Tyler M.B.E. from Dacorum Community Trust. Please go to the link below to join the meeting. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89297160973>

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK: Saturday 11 February, is the 31st World Day of the Sick, the Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes. There will be a Mass for the Sick at the Cathedral at 2.30pm, celebrated by the Cardinal, during which Anointing of the Sick will be offered. To help us with planning for the Mass and the anointing, please can you book tickets through the simple booking system, using the link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mass-of-the-sick-with-anointing-tickets-513878322897> Your tickets will be posted to you directly from the Precentor's Office. Please note that when you have booked your tickets you will see a message saying 'your tickets will be waiting for you at the venue's pick-up location on the day of the event.' Unfortunately, this is a message we cannot remove from the Eventbrite website platform. Again, tickets will be sent to you in the post.

SUNDAY OFFERTORY & STANDING ORDERS: Contactless Sunday Offertory Collection or Standing Order with Gift Aid? The 'gold standard' of Sunday Offertory donation is a Standing Order with Gift Aid. Please do consider donating by Standing Order if you are member of the parish. Shirley Bailey, our Parish Administrator, can help

you set up a Standing Order. However, for those one-off donations I encourage you to use the contactless machine at the church entrance. It's very simple to use and similar technology to what we use in shops such as the supermarket. There are benefits to the parish when you use it, such as removing the need to have volunteers count and manually record cash and coin and then take it for banking, with the associated personal security risks. Contactless technology is the way forward. So please help us by swiping! You can also make other offerings i.e. Mass stipends using the same machine, when you have a Mass offered for the living or dead. Thank you for your weekly offering. It is very much appreciated in these remaining uncertain times!

THOSE UNWELL AT HOME, OR IN CARE HOMES: Just a reminder to please let Fr Brian know of anyone who is chronically unwell and unable to get to church, so that he can arrange to visit them.

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.

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.

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.

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

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES: If your child has recently been baptised and you need a baptismal certificate, please send the full name of the child, parents, godparents and Christian witnesses (if appointed) and full address to shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk and she will arrange a certificate for you.

Reflection

Many chasms divide our world today - between the rich and the poor, the powerful and marginalised, those with access to education and healthcare and those without. We are reminded by Catholic Social Teaching of God's call to have a special concern for the poor and powerless, to be aware of, and challenge the chasms that keep people apart and prevent them from flourishing. How might we bridge some chasms today?

Prayer

God, help us to be empowered by truth, understanding its ability to right wrongs and bring forth healing and restoration.
Amen

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	3:22 - 30
Tues.	Mark	3:31 - 35
Wed.	Mark	4:1 - 20
Thurs.	Mark	4:21 - 25
Fri.	Mark	4:26 - 34
Sat.	Mark	4:35 - 41
Sun	Matthew	5: 1 - 12

Sunday Offertory Collection, Contactless Payments and Standing Orders for December 2022.

Loose Cash & Contactless	£1,344.45
Standing Orders	£4,485.82
Total	£5,830.27

Thank you very much for your generous Sunday Offering. May God Bless you!

N.B Please consider making your Offering via Standing Order (with Gift Aid if a tax payer) or via Contactless, rather than loose cash.

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 22 Jan	3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	(SMSJ) 6pm (Sat vigil) (SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 10.15am (SM) 12 noon	Irene Wilkins (RIP) Michael Flannery (RIP ANNIV) Olga Percy (RIP) Pro Populo
MON 23 Jan	feria	(SMSJ) 10am	Michael, Bridget, Steve & Bridge McDonald (RIP)
TUE 24 Jan	St Francis de Sales	(SMSJ) 10am	Justice & Peace (INT)
WED 25 Jan	THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL THE APOSTLE	(SM) 1.30pm	Hemel West Parish Community
THU 26 Jan	Ss Timothy & Titus		No public Mass
FRI 27 Jan	feria	(SMSJ) 10am	Ann Edwards (RIP)
SAT 28 Jan	St Thomas Aquinas	(SMSJ) 6pm	Jacintha Bawanie Francis (RIP)
SUN 29 Jan	4th Sunday in Ordinary Time	(SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 10.15am (SM) 12 noon	Pro Populo Marjie Pieris (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.

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)

Parish Catechetical Coordinator & Pastoral Assistant: Callum Moore cmoore@jfk.herts.sch.uk

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/>



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