



LOVE IN ACTION!

Hello friends!

Starting this weekend, we 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)**. Our faith calls us to love God and to love our neighbours in every situation, especially our sisters and brothers living in poverty. Do remember that poverty comes in many different disguises. 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 are introduced to the six principles of CST through Sunday Mass starting this weekend. The programme includes an introductory week to Love in Action, and then each week we 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 homily period the Parish Pastoral Council will invite you 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 01482 391 759.

MASS STEWARDS: We are keen to invite volunteers to welcome parishioners to the 10.15am Mass. This would be on a rota. Please contact Callum at cmoore@jfk.herts.sch.uk for more details.

FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HOUR: There will be a Holy Hour following on from the 10am Mass on Friday 3 February. 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.

PRAY HEMEL: Pray Hemel started 20 years ago and was wonderfully supported from the very beginning by the parish of Hemel West. Pray Hemel is led by a different church each month. It is always held on the first Saturday of each month. The objective of Pray Hemel is to pray for the people and the needs of Hemel Hempstead. Our hope is that as we pray together, and we lift the needs of the town to God and together we grow in unity, blessed by each other and our different approaches to prayer. There is a rich blessing in being together in this way. I do hope that we will see you at Ss Marys & Josephs on Saturday 4 February. We will meet in the Parish Centre, Boxmoor at 8am for bacon rolls and tea/coffee.

SAVE THE DATE: ST JOSEPH'S INTERNATIONAL FOOD CELEBRATION: Saturday 18 March, 6pm until 9pm in the Parish Centre, Boxmoor. To celebrate one of our parishes patron saints after the 6pm Mass. Please bring and share international food. There will be a quiz on the night and further details will follow.

CAFOD: The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, are looking people join us as volunteers here in the Westminster diocese. Could you help us raise awareness about our work across the developing world tackling poverty and injustice. Find out by joining our meeting this

Wednesday 1 February, from 2.30pm until 4.30pm in Oakwood, North London, N14 4HE. Please contact Tony at westminster@cafod.org.uk for more details.

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.

CROCHET HOOKS WANTED: If you have any unwanted crochet hooks at home, these are needed for a friendship group working with refugees/asylum seekers. Please call Camille on 07443844553 to arrange collection.

CATHOLIC THEOLOGY LECTURES AT HEMEL WEST: Please bring food and a donation. Check the Hemel West website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempestadwest/> for more details. Please see below the dates and times. All events will take place in the Parish Centre, Boxmoor.

18 February, Early Church History, Fr Peter Dwyer
22 April, Later Church History, Fr Peter Dwyer
29 April, New Testament, Fr John Deehan (Kentish Town Parish)

20 May, Old Testament, lecturer, Fr John Hemer (Mill Hill Missionary/Allen Hall).

STARR SWIFT: Congratulations and Good Luck to Starr Swift a recent convert to the faith in JFK sixth form has been successful in applying to do a mission year working at Castlerigg Youth Retreat Centre. Please keep her and her ministry in your prayers.

CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Money Courses:

A free course to help you manage your money better and learn to budget, save and spend well. Courses run for 3 weeks and are free. These will be held at the Liberty Tea Rooms & Community Hub (Bank Court, Hemel): Course One Mondays 12.15pm - 2.30pm on 6, 13 & 20 February. Course Two Wednesdays 6.45pm - 9.00pm: on 8, 15, & 22 February. To book call Janet on 07944 203918.

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.

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.

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.

Prayer for Christian Unity

We pray that our hearts will be open to see and hear the many ways in which racism continues to destroy lives, and to discern the steps we can take, as individuals and communities, to heal the hurts and build a better future for everyone.

Lord, give us strength and courage to seek out those standing in need of justice, allow us to see their need and provide help.

Gather us into the one fold of Jesus Christ, our Shepherd.

Amen

"Do good; Seek justice" Isaiah 1:17

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	5:1 - 20
Tues.	Mark	5:21 - 43
Wed.	Mark	6:1 - 4
Thurs.	Mark	6:7 - 13
Fri.	Mark	6:14 - 29
Sat.	Mark	6:20 - 34
Sun	Matthew	5:1 - 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 29 Jan	4th Sunday in Ordinary Time	(SMSJ) 6pm (Sat vigil) (SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 10.15am (SM) 12 noon	Jacintha Bawanie Francis (RIP) Pro Populo Devika Parente` (RIP) Marjie Pieris (RIP)
MON 30 Jan	feria	(SMSJ) 10am	Eileen Whitehouse (INT)
TUE 31 Jan	St John Bosco	(SMSJ) 10am	For the Blessing of Being a Parent
WED 1 Feb	feria	(SM) 1.30pm	
THU 2 Feb	THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD		No public Mass
FRI 3 Feb	Ss Laurence, Dunstan & Theodore	(SMSJ) 10am (SMSJ) 10.30am	Patrick O'Toole (RIP) Holy Hour, Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction
SAT 4 Feb	feria	(SMSJ) 6pm	
SUN 5 Feb	5th Sunday in Ordinary Time	(SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 10.15am (SM) 12 noon (SM) 12 noon	Pro Populo Robert Frampton (4th RIP ANNIV) Baptism

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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