

LOVE IN ACTION (LIA)

I am very pleased that Bishop Paul McAleenan, Area Bishop for Hertfordshire, has accepted my invitation to visit us on Sunday 5 March and celebrate at all our Masses. His visit will close the Mass preaching cycle, the first part of **Love In Action (LIA)**. We look forward to welcoming him! Mass times may change a little, so that we can accommodate his fatherly presence amongst us. Do keep your eye on the Mass schedule in the newsletter for Sunday 5 March.

Love in Action is a parish 'current of grace' designed to introduce us to the principles of **CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING**. The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the many challenges of modern society; especially as impacted by COVID and other world affairs. Modern Catholic social teaching has been articulated through a tradition of papal, conciliar, and episcopal documents. At the heart of **Catholic Social Teaching** are several key themes, which you have been hearing about at very 'high-level' at the time of the homily, backed up with various colour handouts and displays in the church. Here's a link to give you another perspective on the topic: <https://youtu.be/XNcBCPVbYDU>

This weekend, a few days before Ash Wednesday (**Lent 2023**), we move into week 4 of the priest's preaching cycle as part of LIA. The topic is **CARE OF CREATION**. As in previous weeks do take home the handouts. Deliver what you need to your workplaces and neighbours. Please read them. Pray about them with your family to see what the Holy Spirit is saying to you in prayer. Then come to the **LIA BIG MEET UP on Tuesday 28 March, in the Parish Centre, Boxmoor 7pm until 9.30pm. Do come! Do note please that any previous dates shared with you are invalid and events will not occur on those previously advertised dates.** I have had to juggle a few dates with other events – so check your diaries!

After participating in this 'current of grace' we will have the tools to reflect on the needs of our community and establish for ourselves a path forward for the increase of the Gospel, as we recover from Covid. This 'current of grace' from the Holy Spirit will be the umbrella focus for all the different projects undertaken by you in the parish and those existing in the wider area, with each of the homiletic topics resonating. All that is currently good and beautiful amongst parish service to the wider community can be incorporated. Nothing is invalid as everything leads us to God. 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**. We start in our parish!

As I have mentioned over several weeks of homiletic preaching, this is also a 'current of grace' that will result over the years ahead in a time of change in the parish. That is a, change to the parish culture, in terms of what we **do** and **say**: **See-Judge-Act!** It's not a problem if it fails or succeeds, which priest is the parish priest, or who the pope is, or who leaves us for other parishes or joins us, as quite simply: **Colossians 3:23!**

As a reminder! ----- ➡

The chief principles of Catholic Social Teaching are:

- DIGNITY OF ALL HUMAN BEINGS
- COMMUNITY AND PARTICIPATION
- DIGNITY OF WORKERS
- SOLIDARITY AND PEACE
- CARE OF CREATION
- OPTION FOR THE POOR

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.

CAFOD: The CAFOD Lenten Family Fast Day is Friday 3 March, and there will be an appeal at all Masses on the weekend of 25/26 February.

LENT 2023

SS MARY & JOSEPH: During Lent, Stations of the Cross will be on a Friday morning at 10.30am after the 10am Mass at Ss Mary & Joseph.

ST MARK'S: During Lent, Stations of the Cross will be at 7pm on a Thursday evening at St Mark's. Please contact Callum at cmoore@jfk.herts.sch.uk if you're interested in helping lead.

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS: The next Baptism Preparation Class will be on Thursday 23 February, 7pm in St Mark's Parish Room. Please go to the link on the Hemel West website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/events/baptism-preparation-class-13/> to book.

BAPTISM: There will be baptisms on 21 May, at St Mark's. Please go to the Events page <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/events/> on the parish website for more details. If you have attended a baptism Preparation Class, please contact Shirley in the parish office for a baptism information form and for details on how to book for baptism.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN: Dear children please pick up a copy of My Day by Day and My Day by Day Junior from the table at the back of the church. One is for you and one for your parents. Enjoy!

PILGRIMAGE TO NORTHAMPTON CATHEDRAL SATURDAY 1 APRIL: Get ready for Holy Week with a walk through the countryside. There will be time for reflection, a meal, Mass and hopefully a tour of Northampton Cathedral. Email Callum at cmoore@jfk.herts.sch.uk for more information.

ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY: Westminster Cathedral Saturday 13 May, at 2.30pm. The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2023. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please email the following details to Shirley by Friday 24 March: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

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.

CATHOLIC THEOLOGY LECTURES AT HEMEL WEST: **22 April**, Later Church History, lecturer Fr Peter Dwyer

29 April, New Testament, Fr John Deehan (Kentish Town Parish, MA, STB, LSS)

20 May, Old Testament, lecturer, Fr John Hemer (Mill Hill Missionary, LSS)

The Parish of Hemel West will be hosting the Catholic Theology lecture series. We are inviting expert theologians as lecturers to look at Catholicism holistically. Let's know God so we can truly love Him! The lecture is free to attend but we would appreciate **a pot of food to share and a donation for the lecturers**. Any help on the day will be gratefully received i.e putting out chairs, tidying up, coffee/tea etc. All lectures will be in the **Parish Centre, Boxmoor, HP1 1NR, next to Three Blackbird pub, from 10am until 3pm**. To register please go to the link: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/> and select the date of the lecture you wish to attend.

ST ALBERT THE GREAT NURSERY TOUR: St Albert the Great Primary school invites you to join them for a school tour of the Nursery for 2023: Thursday 23 February, at 9.15am and Tuesday 7 March, at 2.30pm. Please call 264 835 or email admin@albertthegreat.herts.sch.uk to book.

Applications open on Monday 20 February and close on Friday 24 March. Please see the school website for more details.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE FOR ST ALBERT THE GREAT NURSERY 2023: If you are a parent who is looking to have your child attend St Albert the Great Nursery in September 2023, you will find it helpful to read the guidance for the issuing of such a document, on the Hemel West parish website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/> please click on the link [hemelhempsteadwest/parish-forms/certificate-of-catholic-practice/](https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/parish-forms/certificate-of-catholic-practice/).

Requests for CCP will close on Friday 24 March. The closing date to collect certificates from the parish office, behind the Parish Centre, Boxmoor, will be Monday 27 March.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: This will be held at the Hemel Hempstead Methodist Church, Northridge Way, HP12AU on Friday 3 March, at 3pm. Help is needed with the service on the day. If you can help please email Sheila Daly at sheilaandnaly@hotmail.com or call 07775644960.

THE PASSION: Trafalgar Square 7 April. The Wintershall performances are at 12 noon and 3.15pm. For more details go to the link <https://www.wintershall.org.uk/passion-jesus-london>.

For those who unable to get to Trafalgar Square the performances will be livestreamed on their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Wintershallplay>

Church Action on Poverty Sunday 19 February. Give, Act, Pray.

Reflection

Whatever action the Church takes should first be examined for its impact on the poor. The law of compassion acting out the Gospel. We need to recognise the dignity of others in our common work of Justice. **Pope Francis**

Prayer

Christ Jesus, you came and you spent time with those on the margins. Open our hearts to reach out to our brothers and sisters living in poverty. Through our encounter with them, may we be transformed.

Amen

Matthew 25:40 "Whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me."

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 9:14 - 20
Tues. Mark 9:30 - 37
Wed. Matthew 6:1-6,16-18
Thurs. Mark 9:41 - 50
Fri. Mark 10:1 - 12
Sat. Mark 10:13 -16
Sun Matthew 4: 1 - 11

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 19 Feb | 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time | (SMSJ) 6pm (Sat vigil) (SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 10.15am (SM) 12 noon (SM) 12 noon | George & Yvonne Xavier (RIP) Pro Populo Dr Ranjan De Zoysa (RIP) Bernard Lewis (RIP) Baptism |
| MON 20 Feb | feria | (SMSJ) 10am | Holy Souls |
| TUE 21 Feb | feria | (SMSJ) 10am | Mick Eames (RIP) |
| WED 22 Feb | ASH WEDNESDAY | (SMSJ) 11am | |
| THU 23 Feb | Lent feria | | No public Mass |
| FRI 24 Feb | Lent feria | (SMSJ) 10am | For The Persecuted Church |
| SAT 25 Feb | Lent feria | (SMSJ) 6pm | David Bloomfield in Thanksgiving |
| SUN 26 Feb | 1st Sunday of Lent | (SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 10.15am (SM) 12 noon | 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.

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/>



01442 391 759

Diocese of Westminster Charity N^o: 233699