

## 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 **have** changed 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, we move into week 5 of the priest's preaching cycle as part of LIA. The topic is The Dignity of Workers. 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.

**ST MARK'S 12 NOON MASS:** Please note that on **SUNDAY 5 MARCH**, Mass will be at 12.30pm at St Mark's and **NOT** 12 noon. This is to enable Bishop Paul McAleenan to be able to spend time with all of our parishioners in the parish after each of the Sunday Masses.

**CARDINAL'S LENTEN APPEAL 4/5 March 2023:** Funds raised this year will be shared between the four pillars of the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal: Marriage & Family Life; Youth & Evangelisation; The Education Service and Caritas Westminster. The effects of the pandemic, followed by the cost of living crisis, are still making daily life harder for all. Price rises last year meant many families faced an impossible choice: HEAT or EAT? And this crisis is far from over. The Church continues to respond, with thousands of people putting their faith into action by serving those in need. Cardinal Nichols has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. And for those who can't give financially, your time is a priceless commodity. Please see the poster in the church porch on how you can volunteer in the diocese and help those in need. Please take a donation envelope today, for more information and return it next weekend. You can also use the QR code on the poster in the church porch to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity.

## 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](mailto:cmoore@jfk.herts.sch.uk) if you're interested in helping lead.

**Sr Goretti OP (RIP):** Sr Goretti OP, who used to live in the convent in Boxmoor has died. Many of our parish family will have known her. She was involved pastorally in the Hemel East parish. Her funeral will be on Monday 27 February, 10am at Rosary Priory Convent, 93 Elstree Road, Bushey, WD23 4EE. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

**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!

**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 [sheilaanndaly@hotmail.com](mailto:sheilaanndaly@hotmail.com) or call 07775644960.

**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](mailto: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 also be a quiz on the night. Tickets are of £5 per adult and £2 per child and can be purchased from the Hemel West parish office behind the Parish Centre, Boxmoor.

**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, on Tuesday 7 March, at 2.30pm. Please call 264 835 or email [admin@albertthegreat.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@albertthegreat.herts.sch.uk) to book. Applications opened on Monday 20 February and will 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/please-click-on-the-link-hemel Hempsteadwest/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.

**THE MARRIAGE ACT 2022:** The Marriage (Minimum Age) Act 2022 was passed by the UK Government on 28 April 2022. The Act comes into force on Monday 27 February 2023. The Act will raise the age of marriage to 18 years in England and Wales to protect children from the scourge of forced marriage. This means that 16 to 17-year-olds will no longer be able to marry under any circumstances, including with parental or judicial consent. It is an offence under the law of England and Wales if he or she carries out “any conduct” which assists the child to enter into marriage before the age of 18 years. It is therefore not permitted, under this Act, for any person who acts on behalf of the Church to engage with a person who petitions for marriage who is not 18 years of age in any form for preparation for, or celebration of, matrimony.

Please join us for tea/coffee, in St Joseph's Hall after the 10.15am Mass. All are welcome.	
<b>E-ALERT:</b> Please sign up for the parish e-alerts and keep up with all the parish news.	
<b>GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE FORTHCOMING WEEK:</b> Mon. Matthew 25:31 - 46 Tues. Matthew 6:30 - 37 Wed. Luke 11:29-32 Thurs. Matthew 7:7 - 12 Fri. Matthew 5:20 - 26 Sat. Matthew 5:43 -48 Sun Matthew 17: 1 - 9	
<b>PARISH FINANCES</b> <b>PLANNED GIVING:</b> 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:  <i>Account Name: WRCDT Hemel West</i> <i>Sort Code: 40-05-20</i> <i>Account No.: 31095048</i>  The offertory collection Income figures are published on a monthly basis once the bank reconciliation is completed.	
<b>Office Hours and Telephone cover for Hemel West.</b> <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk">shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk</a> <b>Phone:</b> 01442 391 759 option 2	
<b>Telephone cover for West</b>	<b>Hemel West Office Hours</b>
<b>Monday</b> 12 noon-6pm	<b>Monday</b> 3pm-6pm
<b>Tuesday</b> 9.30am-3.30pm	<b>Tuesday</b> Closed
<b>Wednesday</b> 9.30am-3.30pm	<b>Wednesday</b> 9.30am-3.30pm
<b>Thursday</b> 9.30am-3.30pm	<b>Thursday</b> 9.30am-12.30pm
<b>Friday</b> 9.30am-3.30pm	<b>Friday</b> 9.30am-12.30pm

## HOLY MASS

<b>SUN 26 Feb</b>	<b>1st Sunday of Lent</b>	<b>(SMSJ) 6pm (Sat vigil)</b> <b>(SMSJ) 8.30am</b> <b>(SMSJ) 10.15am</b> <b>(SM) 12 noon</b>	David Bloomfield in Thanksgiving In Thanksgiving for the Book of Joy Michael Sheehan (RIP) Pro Populo
<b>MON 27 Feb</b>	Lent feria	<b>(SMSJ) 10am</b>	For the Lonely (INT)
<b>TUE 28 Feb</b>	Lent feria	<b>(SMSJ) 10am</b>	For the Unknown (INT)
<b>WED 1 Mar</b>	ST DAVID	<b>(SM) 1.30pm</b>	For Preparation of Death
<b>THU 2 Mar</b>	Lent feria		No public Mass
<b>FRI 3 Mar</b>	Lent feria	<b>(SMSJ) 10am</b>	Eamonn McCluskey (RIP ANNIV)
<b>SAT 4 Mar</b>	Lent feria	<b>(SMSJ) 6pm</b>	Michael Flanagan ( RIP 40 years ANNIV)
<b>SUN 5 Mar</b>	<b>2nd Sunday of Lent</b>	<b>(SMSJ) 8.30am</b> <b>(SMSJ) 10.15am</b>  <b>(SM) 12.30pm</b>	Pro Populo In Thanksgiving for the Xavier Family Lily Martin (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](mailto: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](mailto:brianmcmahon@rcdow.org.uk) ( Opt 3)

**Parish Administrator:** Shirley Bailey      [shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk) ( Opt 2)

**Parish Catechetical Coordinator & Pastoral Assistant:** Callum Moore      [cmoore@jfk.herts.sch.uk](mailto:cmoore@jfk.herts.sch.uk)

**Hall Bookings:** via Shirley or [hemelwesthallbookings@rcdow.org.uk](mailto: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<sup>o</sup>: 233699*