

## LOVE IN ACTION (LIA)

We are very pleased this weekend to welcome Bishop Paul McAleenan, Area Bishop for Hertfordshire. His visit will close the Mass preaching cycle, the first part of **Love In Action** (LIA). Welcome, Bishop Paul! Please join Bishop Paul McAleenan, in the Parish Centre, Boxmoor after the 8.30am and 10.15am Masses for tea/coffee and refreshments. After this weekend we move onto the second stage of getting together as a parish to look into the future and bring about necessary change.

**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. 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. This weekend, we move into week 6 of the preaching cycle as part of LIA. The topic is the **Option for the Poor**.

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!

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**.

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:** The funds raised this weekend 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.

**IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM DENS:** Thank you to everyone who has recently supported our Foodbank with generous donations. We are now extremely well stocked, with enough provisions to meet the needs of our community for the coming months. Therefore, we ask that if you are able to, please make a financial donation to help cover the staff and operational costs of our vital service. If you still wish to donate food or hygiene items, please ensure they are on the High Needs List, which you can find at: <https://www.dens.org.uk/our-services/foodbank/>

**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.

**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).

**MISSIO (Red box):** Thank you to all of you who are still putting money into your red boxes. We will be collecting the money during March. There will be a large box at the back of both churches for your boxes, or you can take one of the envelopes, empty your box into it and return it to church. Contact 07847167969 if you have any queries or would like your box to be collected.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASSES:** Booking-in will open via the parish website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemel Hempstead west/> on the Events page on Friday 30 June, at 7pm and close on Monday 10 July, at 5pm. Please see below the days and times of the First Holy Communion Masses at Ss Mary & Joseph.

**Saturday 15 July, at 10am**

**Saturday 15 July, at 3pm**

**Sunday 16 July, at 2pm**

**Sunday 16 July, at 5pm**

**CAFOD:** There will be appeals at all Masses on the weekend of 11/12 March for CAFOD's Lent Fast Day.

**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.

**FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT:** Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. This year's campaign which will highlight the message that whatever your budget and wherever you shop, when you choose Fairtrade, you support farmers to take care of the environment through Fairtrade's Price, Premium and Programmes.

**Do You Want to Fast This Lent? In the words of Pope Francis.**

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.  
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.  
Fast from anger and be filled with patience.  
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.  
Fast from worries and have trust in God.  
Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.  
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.  
Fast from bitterness, fill your heart with joy.  
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.  
Fast from grudges and be reconciled.  
Fast from words; be silent and listen.  
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. Luke 6:36 - 38

Tues. Matthew 23:1 - 12

Wed. Matthew 20:17-28

Thurs. Luke 16:19 - 31

Fri. Matthew 21:33 - 46

Sat. Luke 15:1-3,11 -32

Sun John 4: 5 - 42

### 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: WRC DT 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](mailto: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

<b>SUN 5 Mar</b>	<b>2nd Sunday of Lent</b>	(SMSJ) 6pm (Sat vigil) (SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 10.15am (SM) 12.30pm	Michael Flanagan ( RIP 40 years ANNIV) Pro Populo In Thanksgiving for the Xavier Family Lily Martin (RIP)
<b>MON 6 Mar</b>	Lent feria	(SMSJ) 10am	In Thanksgiving for the Book of Joy
<b>TUE 7 Mar</b>	Lent feria	(SMSJ) 10am	For the Lonely (INT)
<b>WED 8 Mar</b>	Lent feria	(SM) 1.30pm	For the Preparation of Death
<b>THU 9 Mar</b>	Lent feria		No public Mass
<b>FRI 10 Mar</b>	Lent feria	(SMSJ) 10am	
<b>SAT 11 Mar</b>	Lent feria	(SMSJ) 6pm	Paul Bailey (INT)
<b>SUN 12 Mar</b>	<b>2nd Sunday of Lent</b>	(SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 10.15am (SM) 12 noon	Pro Populo Stephen Gardner (RIP) Carmel Bowe-Saunders (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*