

**CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST**  
**4TH SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**19 March 2023**

Sunday cycle  
Readings Year A  
Weekday readings  
Year 1  
Divine Office  
Week 4



***TODAY'S MASS***

**The blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored**

**Gospel Reading**

John 9:1-41

Jesus heals the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man.

In today's Gospel, the healing of the man born blind invites us to focus on the physical and spiritual aspects of sight and light. In the first part of today's Gospel, we hear Jesus' response to a prevalent belief of his time: that misfortune and disability were the result of sin. That belief is why Jesus is asked the question of whose sin caused the man's blindness—his own or his parents'. Jesus does not answer directly, but instead gives the question an entirely different dimension—through this man's disability, God's power will be made manifest. Jesus then heals the man.

The healing is controversial because Jesus heals on the Sabbath. The Pharisees, the religious authorities of Jesus' time, understood that the law of Moses forbade work (including healing) on the Sabbath. They also have trouble believing that Jesus performed a miracle. To determine whether the man was really born blind, the Pharisees question him and his parents. The man challenges the leaders of the synagogue about their assessment of the good that Jesus has done. In turn, they expel the man for questioning their judgment.

The final revelation and moment of enlightenment comes when the man born blind encounters Jesus again. Having heard the news of his expulsion, Jesus seeks out the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man. In this moment, the man born blind shows himself to be a man of faith and worships Jesus. Jesus replies by identifying the irony of the experience of many who encounter Jesus: Those who are blind will now see, and those who think they now see will be found to be blind.

As in last week's Gospel about Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman, today's reading has many allusions to Baptism. The washing of the man in the pool of Siloam is a prototype for Christian Baptism. Through the man's encounter with Jesus, the man born blind is healed, his sight is restored, and his conversion to discipleship begins. The man born blind gradually comes to a greater understanding about who Jesus is and what it means to be his disciple, while the Pharisees (those who should see) are the ones who remain blind. This is the power and necessity of baptism, the power that gives us strength to live Love In Action!

# 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.**

## 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.

**CAFOD:** Don't forget your returned CAFOD envelopes this Weekend. Thank you for your generosity.

**PARISH OFFICE:** Please note that the parish office will be closed on Thursday 23 March and Friday 24 March. Newsletter items will need to be sent to Shirley by Monday 20 March, to appear in the newsletter on the weekend of 25/26 March.

**GOVERNMENT'S ILLEGAL MIGRATION BILL:** Bishop Paul McAleenan, Lead Catholic Bishop for Migrants and Refugees has made the following comment on the Government's Illegal Migration Bill: Everyone who makes a dangerous journey across the Channel to build a better life here has a name, a face, and a story. People are driven from their homes by poverty, conflict, persecution, natural disasters, or other factors that prevent their flourishing. Many have links to the UK or family members already living here. Yet, far too often, there are no safe routes open to them. While we all wish to end dangerous Channel crossings, this new legislation treats migrants and refugees as a problem to be solved rather than brothers and sisters towards whom we have responsibilities. Establishing more safe routes, and genuinely understanding people's individual circumstances are essential to meeting these. As Christians and Catholics, we call for the human person, made in the image and likeness of God, to be put at the heart of public policy.

**LITTLE CHURCH:** Little Church will be restarting at this Sunday's 10.15am Mass. Activities will

primarily be aimed at 4-7-year olds. Provisional forthcoming dates are: 16 & 30 April and 14 & 28 May. There will be provision for children during the 3pm Good Friday Service at Ss Mary & Joseph.

**ST ROSE'S NURSERY ADMISSIONS 2023:** If you have a child who is born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020 now is the time to apply. Admissions close on Friday 24 March. There is an opportunity to visit our school on Tuesday 21 March, at 9.30am. There is also a virtual tour on the website: Admissions | St Rose's Catholic Infant School ([secure-primarysite.net](https://secure-primarysite.net)). Please email [admin@stroses.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stroses.herts.sch.uk) to book onto a tour.

**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.

**THE BOOK OF HEAVEN:** The Call of the Creature to the Order, The Place and the Purpose for which He was Created by God: as revealed by Jesus to Luisa Piccarreta. - Living in the Divine Will - an introduction. Please join Jim Fitzpatrick in the Parish Centre, Boxmoor on Tuesday 4 April, at 7.30pm.

**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.

**TOYS NEEDED:** We have a growing number of families with young children and would like to offer further care by having an assortment of small toys for them to play with during the tea/coffee after Mass. If you have any going spare please contact Callum at [cmoore@jfk.herts.sch.uk](mailto:cmoore@jfk.herts.sch.uk)

**HOUSEBOUND OR SICK?** If you or any member of the parish are sick, or housebound and unable to get to Mass, do please let Fr Brian know.

**SCRIPTURE GROUP:** We meet in the Parish Centre, Boxmoor on Tuesdays from 2.15pm until 4pm to read and discuss the readings for the following Sunday. All are welcome to join us.

**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.

**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.

**Prayer**

Truly you say to us Lord:  
Faith, without works is dead. May the world know your people by the ways we radically embody your love through tangible action. May the guiding question throughout our days be: "How have I loved?" and not, "What have I obtained?"

Amen

**Bible Verse**

Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us?  
Malachi 2:10



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.	Luke 4:24 - 30
Tues.	Matthew 18:21 - 35
Wed.	Matthew 5:17-19
Thurs.	Luke 11:14 -23
Fri.	Mark 12:28 - 34
Sat.	Luke 18:9-14
Sun	John 9: 1 - 41

<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:</i> <b>WRCDT Hemel West</b>	
<i>Sort Code:</i> <b>40-05-20</b>	
<i>Account No.:</i> <b>31095048</b>	
<b>The offertory collection Income figures are published on a monthly basis once the bank reconciliation is completed.</b>	

<b>Office Hours and Telephone cover for Hemel West.</b> Email: <a href="mailto:shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk">shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk</a> Phone: 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 19 Mar</b>	<b>4th 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>	Giuseppe & Iolanda Gazzano (RIP ANNIV)   Pro Populo
<b>MON 20 Mar</b>	<b>ST JOSEPH, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>	<b>(SMSJ) 10am</b>	
<b>TUE 21 Mar</b>	Lent feria	<b>(SMSJ) 10am</b>	
<b>WED 22 Mar</b>	Lent feria	<b>(SM) 1.45pm</b>	
<b>THU 23 Mar</b>	Lent feria		No public Mass
<b>FRI 24 Mar</b>	Lent feria	<b>(SMSJ) 10am</b>	John Luke-McDonald (1st RIP ANNIV)
<b>SAT 25 Mar</b>	THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	<b>(SMSJ) 6pm</b>	Herman Fernandes (RIP ANNIV)
<b>SUN 26 Mar</b>	<b>5th Sunday of Lent</b>	<b>(SMSJ) 8.30am</b> <b>(SMSJ) 10.15am</b> <b>(SM) 12 noon</b>	Pro Populo  Constance & Fred Smallwood & Minnie Jackson (RIP ANNIV)

**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 (Opt 4)

**Email:** [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°: 233699*