

**CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST**  
**EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION**  
**9th April 2023**

Sunday cycle  
Readings Year A

Weekday readings

Year 1

Divine Office  
Week 1



***TODAY'S MASS***

**He must rise from the dead**

**Gospel Reading John 20:1-9**

**Mary of Magdala finds that the stone has been removed from Jesus' tomb.**

**Background on the Gospel Reading**

Today we begin the Easter Season, our 50-day meditation on the mystery of Christ's Resurrection. Our Gospel today tells us about the disciples' discovery of the empty tomb. It concludes by telling us that they did not yet understand that Jesus had risen from the dead. Thus, the details provided are not necessarily meant to offer proof of the Resurrection. The details invite us to reflect upon a most amazing gift, that is faith in Jesus and his Resurrection.

Each of the four Gospels tells us that Jesus' empty tomb was first discovered by women. This is notable because in first-century Jewish society women could not serve as legal witnesses. In the case of John's Gospel, the only woman attending the tomb is Mary of Magdala. Unlike the Synoptic accounts, that is the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, John's Gospel does not describe an appearance of angels at the tomb. Instead, Mary is simply said to have observed that the stone that had sealed the tomb had been moved, and she runs to alert Simon Peter and the beloved disciple. Her statement to them is telling. She assumes that Jesus' body has been removed, perhaps stolen. She does not consider that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

Simon Peter and the beloved disciple (presumably the young John) race to the tomb, presumably to verify Mary's report. The beloved disciple arrives first but does not enter the tomb until after Simon Peter. This detail paints a vivid picture, as does the detail provided about the burial cloths. Some scholars believe that the presence of the burial cloths in the tomb offers evidence to the listener that Jesus' body had not been stolen (it is understood that grave robbers would have taken the burial cloths together with the body).

The Gospel passage concludes, however, that even having seen the empty tomb and the burial cloths, the disciples do not yet understand about the Resurrection. In the passage that follows, Mary of Magdala meets Jesus but mistakes him for the gardener. In the weeks ahead, the Gospel readings from our liturgy will show us how the disciples came to believe in Jesus' Resurrection through his appearances to them. Our Easter faith is based on their witness to both the empty tomb and their continuing relationship with Jesus—in his appearances and in his gift of the Holy Spirit. Alleluia - He is risen!

# 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:** Please note that the Mass on Sunday 9 April, at St Mark's will be at **12.30pm**.

**SS MARY & JOSEPH:** Please note that there will **not** be a 10am Mass at Ss Mary & Joseph on Friday 21 April.

## **PLANNED GIVING DRIVE 2022 AND GENERAL FINANCES:**

Thank you to everyone who responded to the Planned Giving Drive in November 2022. It has given us additional money to help us keep the parish going, to pay our bills and more importantly pay our three hard- working staff of Shirley, Mick and Callum. Thank you! And of course, thank you to everyone who donates to the parish at the time of the Sunday Offertory and gave Mass stipends of £16k. This also includes stipends at Christmas, Easter, funerals, baptisms and marriages etc and other stipends in regard to the administration of the sacraments. It is very much appreciated! God bless you! It is preferable if you can please make your Sunday Offertory collection via a Bank Standing Order. Forms are at the back of the church, or contact Shirley in the parish office for assistance. Standing Order increases the security element in connection with the collection, transporting, handling, counting and transporting of cash to the bank. Thank you to our teams of counters for their excellent voluntary work. Please consider making your weekly Sunday Offertory collection via Standing Order. Last financial year (ending in December) we spent £160k against an income of £187k, with savings of £27k added to our bank account holding of £207k. £30k was sent to the diocese to assist its operations. This is a mandatory collection which all parishes are expected to participate in, according to its income so that the diocese and its bishops are properly supported. Even if I protest - they'll still take the money! Thank you for what you offer in keeping your parish church on the road! God Bless you! Fr Brian.

**NEWSLETTER:** That there will **not** be a newsletter on the weekend of 15/16 April.

**FR BRIAN AWAY:** Fr Brian will be on holiday after the Masses on Easter Sunday, until Monday 24 April. In the event that a priest is urgently required i.e. a matter of end of life, outside of a hospital stay, then please contact Fr Kim at Hemel East parish on 210 610 or Fr Joseph at Berkhamsted on 01442 863 845.

**HELPERS AT MASS:** It would be good to have a few more helpers to open and close the church for Mass, and assist the priest to set-up for Mass on those occasions that Fr Brian will be away. Do call Fr Brian to discuss on 391 759.

**LOVE IN ACTION (LIA):** Thank you to all the parishioners who came along and participated in the **LIA BIG MEET UP** in the parish centre on 28 March, following on from Bishop Paul's visit to close the preaching phase of LIA. We were about 25-30 in total in the parish centre. The immediate outcome after discussion is that a small group will pull together a two-page summary of all key content discussed. I will then put in place a **LIA Action Plan** to realise **Catholic Social Teaching** in our parish, following consultation with YOU the parish during the remainder of this year. I will roll into the **LIA Action Plan** other findings from our initial parish meet-up soon after I arrived, before we were overcome by the Covid lockdown. Remember that!? There will be regular meet - ups for you to attend and give your views on the progress of the parish against living Catholicism, under the guiding hand of the **Parish Pastoral Council**, in way that meets the challenges around us.

**VOCATIONS OPEN EVENING:** On Wednesday 17 May, there will be an open evening at St James, Spanish Place, for any men interested in learning about or discerning a vocation to priesthood. The regular evening Mass will be at 6pm, and will be followed by a gathering downstairs in the Social Centre for a short presentation and informal conversations and refreshments. Do come and join us if you can. The nearest tube stations are Bond Street and Baker Street.

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2023

The next dates for the First Holy Communion sessions are as follows:

**Saturday 22 April**

**Saturday 20 May**

**Saturday 24 June**

St Cuthbert Mayne School, Clover Way, Gadebridge Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. HP1 3EA. Group A will meet at 11am and Group B will meet at 12.45pm.

**The First Holy Communion Masses will take place on the following dates and times below:**

**Saturday 15 July 10am**

**Saturday 15 July 2pm**

**Sunday 16 July 12pm**

**Sunday 16 July 3pm**

The First Holy Communion Masses will be held at Ss Mary & Joseph Church, Boxmoor. Please contact Callum Moore on 391 759 and select option 4 or email [cmoore@jfk.herts.sch.uk](mailto:cmoore@jfk.herts.sch.uk).

**SHARING OUR TIME & TALENTS:** A massive thank you to all who have offered their skills to help enrich our parish, following the Planned Giving Drive last year. We have contacted everyone we have been able to, and will be arranging training and opportunities in the coming month or so. If you are keen to be involved and are new to the parish or we have not been in touch, please email Callum at [cmoore@jfk.herts.sch.uk](mailto:cmoore@jfk.herts.sch.uk) or call 391 759 and select option 4.

**THANK YOU FROM CAFOD:** Thank you to The Parish of Hemel West who have helped to raise £468 for CAFOD.

**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 with no more than 60 words. Please email Shirley by Wednesday 12 Noon and she will do her best to accommodate it.

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. Matthew 28:8 - 15

Tues. John 20:11 - 18

Wed. Luke 24:13 - 35

Thurs. Luke 24:35 - 48

Fri. John 21:1- 14

Sat. Mark 16 :9-15

Sun John 20:19- 31

## Sunday Offertory Collection, Contactless Payments and Standing Orders for March 2023.

**Loose Cash & Contactless** £1,747.20

**Standing Orders** £4,491.74

**Total** £6,238.94

Thank you very much for your generous Sunday Offering. May God Bless you!

**N.B** Please consider making your Offering via Standing Order (with Gift Aid if a tax payer) or via Contactless, rather than loose cash.

## 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
<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 9 Apr</b>	<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>	<b>(SMSJ) 8.30pm (Sat vigil)</b> <b>(SMSJ) 8.30am</b> <b>(SMSJ) 10.15am</b> <b>(SM) 12.30pm</b>	Easter Vigil Pro Populo In Thanksgiving for Retirement
<b>MON 10 Apr</b>	<b>OCTAVE OF EASTER</b>		NO MASS
<b>TUE 11 Apr</b>	<b>OCTAVE OF EASTER</b>		NO MASS
<b>WED 12 Apr</b>	<b>OCTAVE OF EASTER</b>		NO MASS
<b>THU 13 Apr</b>	<b>OCTAVE OF EASTER</b>		No public Mass
<b>FRI 14 Apr</b>	<b>OCTAVE OF EASTER</b>	<b>(SMSJ) 10am</b>	For The Persecuted Church
<b>SAT 15 Apr</b>	<b>OCTAVE OF EASTER</b>	<b>(SMSJ) 6pm</b>	
<b>SUN 16 Apr</b>	<b>2nd Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>(SMSJ) 8.30am</b> <b>(SMSJ) 10.15am</b> <b>(SM) 12 noon</b>	Pro Populo For all Leaders of Faith

**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<sup>o</sup>: 233699*