

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

30th April 2023

Sunday cycle
Readings Year A

Weekday readings

Year 1

Divine Office
Week 4



TODAY'S MASS

**I am the gate of
the sheepfold**

Gospel Reading John 10:1-10. Jesus is the gate for his sheep.

Fr Brian writes....

This fourth Sunday of the Easter season is called Good Shepherd Sunday because in each of the three lectionary cycles, the Gospel reading invites us to reflect on Jesus as the Good Shepherd. The readings are very beautiful and well aligned with the annual collection for men in training for the priesthood for this diocese, whether they are being trained at the seminaries in London or Rome.

Today's reading falls between the stories of Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus. Both of these stories were proclaimed in the Gospels found in this year's season of Lent. Following the controversy that ensued when Jesus healed the man born blind, Jesus directs his allegory about the sheep and the shepherd toward the Jewish religious leaders of his time, the Pharisees.

Throughout John's Gospel the Pharisees fail to accept Jesus' ministry and teaching. They show themselves to be "robbers and thieves" because they try to lead the sheep without entering through the gate. That gate is Jesus. Jesus is telling his listeners that those who follow him and his way will find abundant life. He identifies himself both as the shepherd and the gate. The shepherds who are faithful to him are the ones whom the sheep (Jesus' disciples) should follow.

Today's Gospel also gives us the opportunity to reflect on Christian leadership. Jesus' words suggest to us that those who will lead the Christian community will be known by their faithfulness to Jesus. The leaders will recognise that Jesus is the gate for all of the sheep and that having a good relationship with Jesus is the primary characteristic of a Christian leader. Jesus' allegory also suggests that faithful Christian leadership requires a good relationship with the community: the shepherd knows his sheep, and they know him. Christian leaders follow the example of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, by being faithful to him and by being a good shepherd. I hope I'm doing okay!

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.

PRIEST TRAINING FUND: This Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday and our second collection will support the Priest Training Fund. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. There are currently 48 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 14 of whom are from our own Diocese, and two men are studying in Rome, also from our Diocese. Last year 5 men who studied at Allen Hall were ordained to the priesthood to serve as our future priests. The fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Your gift ensures we can provide training for these men responding to Christ's call to dedicate their lives to serve God's people. Please be as generous as you can. Please also pray for vocations and for all our priests. If you do not have a donation envelope, plenty are still available at the back of the church. You can also use the QR code on the poster in the church porch, or you can make your donation online or visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations. Thank you for your generosity.

BINGO IS BACK!! The Knights of St Columba are pleased to announce the return of their Bingo sessions in Parish Centre, Boxmoor. This will be in the same venue, but please note the different day and time. We will start on Thursday 4 May, at 1.30pm and then every first Thursday of the month at 1.30pm. Come and join us for fun, tea and cake. Any enquiries please contact Tom Joyce on 07825 173878.

FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HOUR: There will be a Holy Hour following on from the 10am Mass on Friday 5 May. The Holy Hour will be in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, with Eucharistic Adoration and concluding with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 11.30am. The Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) will be celebrated between 9.15am and 9.45am.

CHANGE OF DATE!!! ANNUAL PARISH PARTY & PARISH MASS: Our Annual Parish Party and Parish Mass will now take place on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi on Sunday 11 June, at 11am in the grounds of John F Kennedy school accessed via Hollybush Lane, HP1. Please God the rain holds off! **Do note this is a change of date.** Callum Moore our Pastoral Assistant Catechetical Co-Ordinator is in charge of the Event and may well ask for some of us (you!) to help. Do pop your name and contact details on the sheet at the back of the church as soon as possible, so that Callum can start planning this week. Immediately after the Mass there will be a short but solemn procession around the school playing fields with the Blessed Sacrament to honour the Lord on this day, followed by a party. Please bring your friends and neighbours, especially anyone who has not been to church before, or is thinking of a way of reconnecting with their faith that doesn't require them to enter a church building. **Very important** - do bring anyone who is sick and wishes for physical, spiritual and emotional healing as the Lord passes by in the monstrance during the procession. If we are expectant, miracles will follow. Why should Lourdes have all the fun!? Do please note that there will only be **one Mass on this day** and **NO OTHER SUNDAY MASSES** in the Hemel West parish.

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.

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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2023

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

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.

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.

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.

Prayer

God of Justice, give me the courage to stand up for what I believe. May I speak your truth and amplify the voices of The vulnerable and oppressed.

St Oscar Romero pray for us.

Amen

Reflection

"We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song."

(St Augustine in an Easter sermon to his diocese In Hippo.)

As an Easter people our faith calls us to imitate Jesus in our daily lives, in the way we speak, think and act.

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.	John	10:11 - 18
Tues.	John	10:22 - 30
Wed.	John	12:44 - 50
Thurs.	John	13:16 - 20
Fri.	John	14:1 - 6
Sat.	John	14:7 -14
Sun	John	10:1 - 10

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 30 Apr	4th Sunday of Easter	(SMSJ) 6pm (Sat vigil) (SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 10.15am (SM) 12 noon (SM) 12 noon	Daniel Seminario Guzman (RIP ANNIV) John Durcan (5th RIP ANNIV) Ann Rothery (RIP ANNIV) Pro Populo Baptism
MON 1 May	Easter feria	(SMSJ) 10am	
TUE 2 May	St Athanasius	(SMSJ) 10am	Paula Gallagher (RIP)
WED 3 May	SS PHILIP & JAMES		No Mass
THU 4 May	THE ENGLISH MARTYRS		No public Mass
FRI 5 May	Easter feria	(SMSJ) 10am (SMSJ) 10.30am	For The Persecuted Church Holy Hour, Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction
SAT 6 May	Easter feria	(SMSJ) 6pm	Bridie McDonagh (RIP)
SUN 7 May	5th Sunday of Easter	(SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 10.15am (SM) 12 noon	Pro Populo Kevin Gavin (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 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 (Opt 4)

Email: 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/>



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