

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST
PENTECOST SUNDAY
28th May 2023

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



TODAY'S MASS
As the Father sent me, so am I
sending you: receive the Holy Spirit

Gospel Reading. John 20:19-23. **Jesus appears to his disciples and gives them the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

Fr Brian writes....

The Season of Easter concludes with today's celebration, the Feast of Pentecost. On Pentecost we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles gathered in the upper room in Jerusalem; this event marks the beginning of the Church. The Church has a birthday and it's today - hurrah! The story of Pentecost is found in the Acts of the Apostles, today's first reading. You'll hear the opening bit during Mass. Why not read whole of Chapter 2 today with your family and invoke the presence of the Holy Spirit? The account in today's Gospel, John 20:19-23, also recounts how Jesus gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to his disciples. Jesus fulfilled his promise to send to his disciples a helper, an advocate, who would enable them to be his witnesses throughout the world. We already heard today's Gospel proclaimed on the Second Sunday of Easter this year. That Gospel passage, however, also included the description of Jesus' appearance to Thomas. In that context, we were led to reflect on belief and unbelief. In the context of the Feast of Pentecost, John 20:19-23 reminds us about the integral connection between the gifts of peace and forgiveness and the action of the Holy Spirit. Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace. Jesus then commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." He breathes the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and sends them to continue his work of reconciliation through the forgiveness of sins. Jesus' act of breathing the Holy Spirit mirrors God's act of breathing life into Adam at the time of Creation. In fact, both the Greek and Hebrew words for "spirit" can also be translated as "breath." This Gospel reminds us that the Church is called to be a reconciling presence in the world. The reconciling presence of Christ is celebrated in the Church's sacramental life. In the Sacrament of Baptism, we are cleansed of sin and become a new creation in Christ. In the Sacrament of Penance, the Church celebrates the mercy of God through the forgiving of sins. Oh, by the way, when did you last make your Confession? I usually go to Confession every six to eight weeks. This reconciling presence is also to be a way of life for Christians. In situations of conflict, we are to be agents of peace and harmony among people.

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.

FIRST RECONCILIATION FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN: For those who do not attend St Cuthbert Mayne primary school, your First Reconciliation (Confession) will be celebrated in the parish church at Boxmoor between 4.30pm and 5pm every Saturday until Saturday 8 July. All candidates for First Holy Communion must celebrate their First Reconciliation before celebrating their First Holy Communion.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION & SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION: Many of our children who have been in the First Holy Communion programme since the autumn, will make their first Sacrament of Reconciliation at St Cuthbert Mayne school soon, in preparation for their First Holy Communion later in July in the parish church. Please do not come to these Masses, as numbers in the church will be strictly limited.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: Next weekend we welcome Bishop Paul McAleenan, who will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on our young people. We offer them all our love and best wishes at this time. We look forward to seeing them at Mass on a regular basis and getting involved! Please do not come to these Masses, as numbers in the church will be strictly limited to parents, immediate family and candidates.

NO 6PM MASS ON SATURDAY 3 JUNE AT SS MARY & JOSEPH: To allow proper time for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation, there will be no Vigil Mass at 6pm. If you would prefer an evening Mass, then please consider going to either of the 5pm Masses at Berkhamsted or Adeyfield. But do come back!

SCRIPTURE GROUP: The Scripture Group will not be meeting on 30 May. We will resume on Tuesday 6 June, 2.15pm in the Parish Centre, Boxmoor.

NEWSLETTER: Please note that there will not be a newsletter on the weekend of 10/11 June.

BINGO: Please join the Knights of St Columba on Thursday 1 June, at 1.30pm in the Parish Centre, Boxmoor for their monthly Bingo session. Tea and cake will be provided!! Any enquiries please contact Tom Joyce on 07825 173 878.

FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HOUR: There will be a Holy Hour following on from the 10am Mass on Friday 2 June. 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.

CORPUS CHRISTI ANNUAL PARISH CELEBRATION: Our annual parish celebration will take place on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi at 11am on Sunday 11 June, in the grounds of JFK secondary school. Immediately after Mass there will be a short procession in the grounds with the Blessed Sacrament. Do invite anyone you know, especially non-Christians, or people of other religious persuasions, who desire healing of any type of illness. As Jesus passes by in the monstration, he may be busy! Invite your friends to come and join our community, gathered together as one parish. Then time for food and fellowship. 18c with a day of full sunshine! Bring something to sit on. Food will be provided. Thank you to everyone who has offered help for the day. If you're missing, I'll notice!

CAP (Christians Against Poverty): There will be two free money management courses over 3 weeks. One will be on a Wednesday from 7pm until 9pm or Mondays from 10am until noon. These will teach you budgeting skills and a simple, weekly money system. For more information and to book contact Janet Wright on 07944 203918 or capmoney@Libertytearooms.co.uk

CHURCH OPEN FOR PRAYER DURING THE DAY: Just a reminder that Ss Mary & Joseph church is open during the day until 5pm for personal prayer (not communal prayer). The exceptions are only Thursdays or closure for operational reasons. Do pop in and say a prayer. Invite your friends to join you and light a votive candle for your deceased relatives and friends.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2023

The last First Holy Communion session will be on **Saturday 24 June**, at 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.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday: 5pm -5.30pm at SS Mary & Joseph church and by appointment.

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.

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.

LAUDATO SI WEEK - 20-28 MAY

Creator God of all living beings great and small teach us to cherish your creation with your divine tenderness and depth.

Amen

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky".

Genesis 1:20

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.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC? If you're over the age of 18 and would like to make your Confirmation or become a Catholic, we will be running our Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) course from October 2023. Please contact Callum at cmoore@jfk.herts.sch.uk or call 391759 and select option 4 for more information.

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

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|-------------------|--|---|---|
| SUN 28 May | PENTECOST SUNDAY | (SMSJ) 6pm (Sat vigil) (SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 10.15am (SM) 12 noon | Pro Populo Emerson Dall'Armellina (1st RIP ANNIV) Michael Kelly (8th RIP ANNIV) |
| MON 29 May | The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church | | No Mass |
| TUE 30 May | feria | (SMSJ) 10am | Catherine Simmons (Better Health) |
| WED 31 May | THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY | | No Mass |
| THU 1 Jun | OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST | | No public Mass |
| FRI 2 Jun | feria | (SMSJ) 10am (SMSJ) 10.30am | Jayden Fernandes (Birthday) Holy Hour, Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction |
| SAT 3 Jun | St Charles Lwanga and Companions | | No Mass |
| SUN 4 Jun | THE MOST HOLY TRINITY | (SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 10.15am (SM) 12 noon | Pro Populo |

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.

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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Diocese of Westminster Charity N°: 233699