

**CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST**  
**24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**17 September 2023**

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



***TODAY'S MASS***

**To be forgiven,  
you must forgive**

**Fr Brian writes...**

**Today's Gospel Matthew 18:21-35**

**Jesus teaches that we must forgive one another as God has forgiven us.**

Last week's Gospel, in which Jesus taught the disciples how to handle disputes and conflict within the Christian community, gets a follow on today. Peter asks Jesus how many times one ought to extend forgiveness to another. Peter proposes a reasonable number of times, perhaps seven. Jesus replies by extending Peter's proposal by an enormous amount; not just seven times should one forgive, but 77 times. Get that! How we struggle with even once – if at all! I usually aim to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a month, if not more. God allows me to experience how horrible and horrid is my sinfulness to myself, others and the Church, so that he can show me in the Sacrament how much greater is his loving forgiveness. Oh, by the way, when did you last go to Confession!? Anyway, I digress.

Through the parable we hear today we come to understand the depths of God's mercy toward us and the results of our acceptance of God's forgiveness.

There is a temptation to quantify forgiveness as Peter tried to do, but Jesus' point is that forgiveness is not about quantity—the number of times we extend forgiveness to another. In the parable the king's forgiveness is like God's forgiveness, and it transforms us, helping us to be as forgiving as God. The lesson is clear: If we hoard God's mercy while showing no mercy to others, we risk forfeiting the effects of God's mercy in our lives. That would be eternally damning. The ultimate BAD NEWS! So, GO TO CONFESSION!

**CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY**

**IMPORTANT PARISH MEETING TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER,  
6.30PM IN THE PARISH CENTRE, BOXMOOR**

**CAP (Christians Against Poverty): LOVE IN ACTION:** Please come to a meeting with Simon Lee, a debt advisor with CAP (Christians Against Poverty) who is visiting the parish to give us a talk about CAP, and the help and advice they give people who are experiencing problems with debts. This includes becoming a Befriender to the person experiencing debt problems. CAP is based at the Liberty Tearooms in Bank Court, Hemel Hempstead.

# 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.**

**COMING SOON:** CAFOD Family Fast Day on Friday 6 October.

**RAFFLE:** There will be a raffle for Macmillan Cancer Support on Sunday 1 October, after the 11.45am Mass at St Marks. Tickets are £1 a strip.

**RED BOX:** We would like to collect your Red Box during September. There will be a large red box at the back of both churches for your boxes, or you can take one of the brown envelopes and empty your box into it and return it to church. Please make sure that you mark the envelope with your name and address. Contact Janice on 07847167969 if you have any queries or would like your box to be collected.

**MEDJUGORJE 4 OCTOBER FOR 7 NIGHTS:** Prices from £730. The price includes: return flights from Luton Airport with Easyjet. Return transfers to Medjugorje by a special coach accompanied with a guide. Half board accommodation in Marian Pilgrimages houses and a full scheduled program operated by Marian Pilgrimages. Call Marian Pilgrimages on 0203 8085156 to book or for more details.

**LATEST ISSUE OF MOSAIC'S:** Please take a copy from the back of the church.

**GOING INTO 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.

**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](mailto:cmoore@jfk.herts.sch.uk) or call 391759 and select option 4 for more information.

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

**CONFIRMATION PREPARATION PARENTS INFORMATION EVENING:** This will take place on Monday 2 October, 7pm at St Mark's.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARENTS INFORMATION EVENING:** This will take place on Monday 16 October, 7pm at St Mark's.

**REGISTRATION FORMS FOR SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION:**

**First Holy Communion Registration Form:** <https://forms.gle/FKaEwyExCCkBrjD7>

**Confirmation Registration Form:** <https://forms.gle/QEFXAx7GUNu91upG6>

Both of these links are google documents, and so please be aware the forms may not open on some browsers. If you encounter issues, I recommend that you open the link through Google Chrome. Please contact Callum at [cmoore@jfk.herts.sch.uk](mailto:cmoore@jfk.herts.sch.uk) or call 01442 391759 and select option 4 if you have any problems with this process or for more information.

## Prayer

Dear God,

Help us to hear your voice that counsels forgiveness, compassion, patience and dialogue. Help us to "thirst after ever greater justice," so that we might contribute to a peaceful world. Help us to act on behalf of peace, not only today, but all of the days of our life. Amen

"Foxes has holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

Matthew 8:20

## SCHOOLS

### CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE FOR

**SENIOR SCHOOL 2024:** If you are a parent who is looking to have your child attend a Catholic school in September 2024, you will find it helpful to read the guidance for the issuing of such a document, on the Hemel West parish website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/> and click on the link: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/parish-forms/certificate-of-catholic-practice/> Requests for CCP will close on Monday 25 September. The closing date to collect certificates from the parish office, behind the Parish Centre, Boxmoor, will be Friday 29 September 2023.

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

<b>Loose Cash &amp; Contactless</b>	<b>£1,715.00</b>
<b>Standing Orders</b>	<b>£4,417.02</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£6,132.02</b>

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.

### GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE FORTHCOMING WEEK:

Mon. Luke	7:1–10
Tues. Luke	7:11 –17
Wed. Luke	7:31 - 35
Thurs. Luke	7:36 - 50
Fri. Luke	8:1 - 3
Sat. Luke	8:4 - 15
Sun Matthew	20:1 – 16

Please join us for tea/coffee, after the 9.45am & 11.45am Masses. All are welcome.

**E-ALERT:** Please sign up for the parish e-alerts and keep up with all the parish news.

**DONA DONATIONS:** To help support our parish of Hemel West, we are providing you with an Online Donations Webpage. The donation page works across browsers, on a mobile phone, desktop and tablet devices, so that you can donate from home. Please scan the QR code to donate. Thank you for your continued support.



## 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](mailto:shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk)

Phone: 01442 391 759 option 2

Telephone cover for Hemel 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 17 Sep</b>	<b>24th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	(SMSJ) 5pm (Sat vigil) (SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 9.45am (SM) 11.45am	John Ward (RIP) Pro Populo Margaret Howard (RIP ANNIV)
<b>WED 20 Sep</b>	St Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn	(SMSJ) 10am	
<b>FRI 22 Sep</b>	feria	(SMSJ) 10am	Pauline Thaha (RIP)
<b>SAT 23 Sep</b>	St Pius of Pietrelcina	(SMSJ) 5pm	Peter Moore (7th RIP ANNIV)
<b>SUN 24 Sep</b>	<b>25th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	(SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 9.45am (SM) 11.45am	Pro Populo William Devlin (2nd RIP ANNIV) (Known as Bill)

**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: 4pm-4.30pm 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*