

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST
1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
3rd December 2023

Sunday cycle
Readings Year B
Weekday readings
Year 2
Divine Office
Week 1

TODAY'S MASS
**If he comes unexpectedly, he
must not find you asleep**



Gospel Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

PARISH NEWS

PARISH OFFICE: Please note that the Hemel East and Hemel West parish offices will be closed on Monday 4 December.

BINGO: Come and join the Knights of St Columba for their monthly bingo session in the Parish Centre, Boxmoor on Thursday 7 December, at 1.30pm. Refreshments will be provided.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE: You are invited to join us for our Advent reflection at 7.30pm on Thursday 7 December, in St Joseph's Hall.

THE NATIVITY CRIB: The blessing of the crib will take place on Sunday 10 December, at 2pm. The crib is situated on the raised grass area beside Ceilys Hair Salon in the centre of Marlowes. This is a presence in our town to bear witness to the true meaning of Christmas.

TAIZE FOR ADVENT: There will be Taizé services on Tuesday 5 and Tuesday 12 December. We will meet at 7pm in St Joseph's hall for song, prayer, silence and reflection.

YOUNG ADULT ADVENT RETREAT: "Let there be peace on earth" a Young Adult Advent Retreat. Come and take time aside with other young adults aged 18-35 this Advent. We will have time to reflect and pray to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Prince of Peace. Saturday 16 December, 10.30am until 2.30pm at FCJ Spirituality Centre, 32 Phoenix Road, London. NW1 1TA (a short walk from London's Euston station). Facilitated by Sr Anouska Robinson-Biggin FCJ (The Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) are an International Congregation of Catholic Sisters founded by Marie Madeleine d'Houët in France in 1820). The cost is by donation. To book or for more information please use the QR code on the poster in the church foyer.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE: We will be selling raffle tickets after all Masses for the next three weeks for the Christmas Hamper draw in aid of the CAFOD Israeli - Palestinian crisis fund. The draw will be made at the Carol Concert on 18 December.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT: Please join us for Carols by Candlelight on Monday 18 December, 7.30pm in Ss Mary & Joseph's church. Followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the Parish Centre, Boxmoor.

PREPARING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS: We will prepare the church for Christmas on Saturday 23 December, from 8.30am. In addition to arranging flowers and greenery, we'll need people to help prepare the altar and clean the church. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of the church.

DENS: With Christmas fast approaching and DENS reporting a 56% increase in people using the food bank, we invite all parishioners to donate whatever they can to support families at Christmas. Please place your donations in the DENS boxes provided in church. Any donations, no matter how small, will be gratefully received. Please go to DENS website: <https://www.dens.org.uk/support-us/high-needs-list/> for the high needs list. 'For I was hungry and you gave me food'.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE: If you have submitted a CCP to the parish of Hemel West, you will be able to collect your certificate from the parish office, behind the Parish Centre, Boxmoor, on Wednesday 6 December, from 10am until 3pm.

CHRISTMAS MASSES: Please see the sign up sheet on the table at the back of the church for sacristans and readers for the Christmas Masses.

DIVINE MERCY ADVENT REFLECTION: The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Divine Mercy Advent Reflection on Sunday 10 December, from 2.30pm to 5.30pm led by the Marian Fathers at Sacred Heart Church, New Priory Quex Road, Kilburn London. NW6 4PS. The Retreat will include teachings on the Message of Mercy, Stations of the Cross, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. Please call Millie on 07957594646 for more details. All Welcome.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: If you would like to make our churches look lovely for Christmas, do contribute to the Christmas Flower Fund by putting your donation in the dedicated envelope at the back of the church. Please put your envelope into the collection basket. Thank you.

GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE FORTHCOMING WEEK:

Mon. Luke 5: 17 – 19
 Tues. Matthew 18: 12–14
 Wed. Matthew 11:28 - 30
 Thurs. Matthew 11: 11 - 15
 Fri. Matthew 11: 16 - 19
 Sat. Matthew 17: 10 –13
 Sun John 1: 6-8, 19-28

CAFOD: CAFOD World Gifts Catalogues can be found on the table at the back of the church at Boxmoor and in the entrance porch at St Mark's. Please do take one home with you and consider gifting one of these as Christmas presents to family and friends this year.

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES: If your child has recently been baptised and you need a baptismal certificate, please send the full name of the child, parents, godparents and Christian witnesses (if appointed) and full address to shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk and she will arrange a certificate for you.

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.

CAFOD Prayer for COP 28

We pray for the world we live in: that God may open our eyes to recognise the goodness of creation and help us to do what we can to restore and care for the wonderful gift we have been given.

"Quest for Common Good is paramount.

Everything is connected, everything is related, and the environmental question is inseparable from the social question".

Pope Francis

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

Phone: 01442 391 759 option 2

Telephone cover for Hemel 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 3 Dec	1st Sunday of Advent	(SMSJ) 5pm (Sat vigil) (SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 9.45am (SM) 11.45am	Harry Bailey (21st Birthday) Adrian (Birthday) For World Peace & Justice People of the Parish
WED 6 Dec	Advent feria	(SMSJ) 10am	NO MASS Celebration of the Word
SAT 9 Dec	Advent feria	(SMSJ) 5pm	Mary Carmel Kelly (RIP ANNIV)
SUN 10 Dec	2nd Sunday of Advent	(SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 9.45am (SM) 11.45am	Holy Souls in Purgatory Elizabeth Crane (Sick) People of the Parish

CELEBRATION OF THE WORD: There will be a Celebration of the Word with Holy Communion (Eucharistic Service) on Wednesday at Ss Mary & Joseph Church and on each subsequent Wednesday at 10am until further notice.

WEEKDAY MASSES: Please note that there will not be a weekday Mass at Ss Mary & Joseph until further notice. Please keep an eye on the parish newsletter for updates on Mass times at Ss Mary & Joseph. **Please note that there are weekday Masses at Our Lady's on a Monday and Tuesday at 10am, Thursday 10am at Grovehill and Friday 7pm at Our Lady's.**

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: There will not be Sacrament of Reconciliation at Ss Mary & Joseph until further notice. If you need to go to confession, you will be able to go to confession on a Saturday morning after the 10am Mass at Our Lady's. Please keep an eye on the Hemel East newsletter for any changes to the Hemel East Mass times.

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

Parochial Administrator: Fr Kim Addison (emergencies only) (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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