

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10 December 2023

Sunday cycle
Readings Year B

Weekday readings

Year 2

Divine Office
Week 2



Second Sunday of Advent

TODAY'S MASS

**A voice cries in the
wilderness: prepare a
way for the Lord**

Gospel Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;

he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

PARISH NEWS

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 12 December. We will meet at 7pm in St Joseph's hall for song, prayer, silence and reflection.

WINTERSHALL NATIVITY STORY: Experience the Christmas story from 14 -18 December. Discover the true meaning of Christmas with an unforgettable event for all the family. It's a Nativity like no other, placing you in the middle of an immersive theatre experience. Stand with the shepherds, walk with Mary, Joseph and the donkey, journey with Roman soldiers and enter the stable to watch the miracle unfold. To book tickets go to: <https://www.wintershall.org.uk/nativity-journey-0>

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE: We will be selling raffle tickets after all Masses 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'.

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.

CHARITY CURRY NIGHT: Thank you for your support, we raised £965.

RETRouvaille: Do you need help in your marriage? Retrouvaille has helped many couples find new hope, nourishment and growth in their marriages. If you want to uncover or reawaken the love, trust and commitment that brought you together and work through difficult times in your marriage, contact Retrouvaille confidentially for more information about our 2024 programmes. There is no group therapy or group work. Our next programme commences with a Virtual weekend on 8 - 11 February 2024 or there is a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024. Call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443. You can also email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

CATHOLIC LISTENERS: Last month Catholic Listeners launched a website to respond to people, who are searching for answers about the Catholic faith. Please go to their website at Catholic Listeners or call 08004 480 704 for more information.

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.

GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE FORTHCOMING WEEK:

Mon. Matthew 1: 18 – 24
 Tues. Luke 1: 5– 25
 Wed. Luke 1: 26 - 38
 Thurs. Luke 1: 39 - 45
 Fri. Luke 1: 46 - 56
 Sat. Luke 1: 57 - 66
 Sun Luke 1: 26 - 38

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

Loose Cash & Contactless £2,216.08
 Standing Orders £4,432.02
 Total £6,648.10

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.

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.

LORETO COLLEGE: The Governors of Loreto College have recently agreed to propose some changes to their admissions criteria for 2025/2026. The full detail is available on the website. <https://www.loreto.herts.sch.uk/Admissions/Admissions-Consultation-2025/>

Written comments are welcomed by the closing date of the formal consultation, 9am on 31 January 2024. Please email them to swilliams@loreto.herts.sch.uk.

Prayer

Awaken us, loving Lord, to what can't wait this Advent. Reveal to us new possibilities, fill us with your hope and joy, so we may live with justice and compassion.

Amen (CAFOD)

Reflection

Advent is the time to anticipate what we cannot yet see, and to trust that it will come. Each day's grace will build on the last.

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 10 Dec	2nd Sunday of Advent	(SMSJ) 5pm (Sat vigil) (SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 9.45am (SM) 11.45am	Mary Carmel Kelly (RIP ANNIV) Holy Souls in Purgatory Elizabeth Crane (Sick) People of the Parish
WED 13 Dec	Advent feria	(SMSJ) 10am	NO MASS Celebration of the Word
SAT 16 Dec	Advent feria	(SMSJ) 5pm	For Vocations in the Priesthood & Religious Life
SUN 17 Dec	3rd Sunday of Advent	(SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 9.45am (SM) 11.45am	Peggy & John West (RIP ANNIV) Elizabeth Pratt (RIP ANNIV) 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/>



01442 391 759

Diocese of Westminster Charity N^o: 233699