

# CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST

## 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

17 December 2023

Sunday cycle  
Readings Year B

Weekday readings

Year 2

Divine Office  
Week 3



### ***TODAY'S MASS***

**'There stands among you the  
one coming after me'**

Gospel John 1:6-8,19-28

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness,

as a witness to speak for the light,

so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light,

only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:

Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

# PARISH NEWS

## MASS TIMES ON CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY

This year Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday, therefore the Christmas Eve Family Mass will be on Sunday 24 December, 5pm at Ss Mary & Joseph. Christmas Day Mass times are as follows: Monday 25 December, 8.30am & 9.45am at Ss Mary & Joseph and 11.45am at St Mark's.

**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr David Cherry has been appointed parish priest of Hemel Hempstead West and will join us on 13 January 2024. Fr David was the assistant priest to Fr John Byrne at St Lawrence in Feltham.

**FR BRIAN REYNOLDS:** Fr Brian would like to thank all of the parishioners of Hemel West for the cheque he has gratefully received from the parish. Fr Brian would like you all to know that he has happily settled into St Vincent's and is enjoying his work there.

**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.

**ANNELISE MCENTEE:** Annelise's family would like the parish to know that Annelise sadly passed away last weekend. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

**KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA:** Please take a poster from the table at the back of the church to display at home.

**PARISH OFFICE:** Please note that the parish offices of Hemel West and Hemel East will be closed from Monday 18 December, until Tuesday 2 January and reopen on Wednesday 3 January.

**NEWSLETTER:** The next newsletter will be on the weekend of 6/7 January 2024.

**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'.

**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 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](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com) - or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

**ST CUTHBERT MAYNE SCHOOL:** Currently there are vacancies in Years 3 and 4. To apply for a school place, please complete an In-Year Admissions Form available from the school website: In-Year Admissions Form - St Cuthbert Mayne School. Applications should be submitted to the school office or to [admin@cuthbertmayne.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@cuthbertmayne.herts.sch.uk)

**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

**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](mailto:swilliams@loreto.herts.sch.uk).

### Prayer

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation to recognise that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice love and peace.

Amen

(From Pope Francis's Encyclical Laudato Si')

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 Dec</b>	<b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>(SMSJ)</b> 5pm (Sat vigil) <b>(SMSJ)</b> 8.30am <b>(SMSJ)</b> 9.45am <b>(SM)</b> 11.45am	For Vocations in the Priesthood & Religious Life Peggy & John West (RIP ANNIV) Elizabeth Pratt (RIP ANNIV) People of the Parish
<b>WED 20 Dec</b>	Advent feria	<b>(SMSJ)</b> 10am	NO MASS Celebration of the Word
<b>SAT 23 Dec</b>	Advent feria	<b>(SMSJ)</b> 5pm	Tom McCarthy (RIP)
<b>SUN 24 Dec</b>	<b>4th Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>(SMSJ)</b> 8.30am <b>(SMSJ)</b> 9.45am <b>(SM)</b> 11.45am	People of the Parish Trevor Heatley (RIP) People of the Parish
<b>SUN 24 Dec</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>(SMSJ)</b> 5pm	People of the Parish (Family Mass)
<b>Mon 25 Dec</b>	<b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>	<b>(SMSJ)</b> 8.30am <b>(SMSJ)</b> 9.45am <b>(SM)</b> 11.45am	People of the Parish People of the Parish People of the Parish

**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](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.

### MAKING CONTACT AT HEMEL WEST CATHOLIC PARISH

**Parochial Administrator:** Fr Kim Addison (emergencies only) (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<sup>o</sup>: 233699*