

**CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST**  
**4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**28 January 2024**

Sunday cycle  
Readings Year B

Weekday readings

Year 2

Divine Office  
Week 4



***TODAY'S MASS***

**Unlike the scribes, he taught  
them with authority**

**...and they were astonished at his teaching for he taught them as one who had authority...**

**Mark 1.22**

“What does ‘with authority’ mean?” – asks Pope Francis - “It means that in the human word of Jesus the strength of the Word of God was felt, the same authoritativeness of God, the inspirer of the Holy Scripture, was felt. And one of the characteristics of the Word of God is that it carries out that which it says. ... He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him. The word of God astonishes us with that strength. It really astonishes us. The Gospel is the word of life: it does not oppress people, on the contrary, it frees those who are enslaved by so many evil spirits in this world: vanity, the attachment to money, pride, sensuality...The Gospel changes the heart! It changes life; it transforms the inclination to evil to resolutions of good. The Gospel is capable of changing the hearts of the people. Always remember that the Gospel has the power to change life! Do not forget this! That is the good news that transforms us when we allow ourselves to be transformed by it!”

Who Jesus is unmistakable to the man possessed by an unclean spirit. To say that he was uncomfortable is an understatement. The Word of God, present before him, astounded him. He recognised the Lord Jesus, the creator of the universe. The word of Jesus, spoken with authority saved him. New life begins in the man. We too, each one of us, is called into new life, called forth, in some way to be delivered from the things that get us stuck in ourselves and our obsessions.

The fathers of the Second Vatican Council reminded us that “when the holy scriptures are read in Church, it is Christ himself who speaks”. (Sacrosanctum Concilium 7). So we stand when the ordained minister gives voice to the words of Jesus, alert, longing to welcome words spoken into us to bring us new life. For his words – as it was at the dawn of Creation accomplish what he says. There is a staggering immediacy.

The Lord Jesus gave his authority to his Church. He declared that all authority in heaven and on earth had been given to him. Go make disciples, baptizing them.... (Matt 28.18-20). In his authority, with boldness, the church continues to call people to Jesus, to baptise and teach. When she does so, it is Jesus in our midst speaking and baptising. He has a claim on each person. He gave his authority in a particular way to Peter whose successor continues to protect the deposit of faith and guide the Church for the salvation of souls. He gave his authority to the Apostles, to our Bishops as their successors, so that they can continue to teach with Jesus’ authority.

And each of us has the opportunity of encountering the Word of God ourselves in the gospels in prayer, person to person. How is the Lord longing to bring you new life? How is he the Author of new life for you?

With every best wish and prayers

Fr David

# PARISH NEWS

**Welcome to the parish of Hemel West. If you are new to the parish, please make yourself known to Fr David, by speaking to him after Mass or by contacting him on 01442 391 759.**

**SACRISTANS NEEDED FOR WEEKEND AND WEEK DAY MASSES:** Thank you to those who have volunteered to be Sacristans. The duties include opening the Church (you'll need a key code) 30 minutes before Mass, turning on the lights and sound system, lighting candles, setting up the tray with the Chalice behind the Altar etc. After Mass vessels need to be returned to the safe and the lights and sound system turned off and the Church locked again. Please email Shirley at [shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk) with your contact details and she will pass these onto Fr David.

**GAZA & WEST BANK APPEAL:** Thank you very much for your kind generosity last weekend for the Gaza West Bank Appeal, we raised £1,378.05. If you have not yet been able to make a donation there is still time. Please use the envelopes provided at the back of the church, or put your donation into a marked envelope and put it through the presbytery door to ensure your money goes to the correct fund. May God bless you.

**MASS INTENTIONS:** There is a lot of availability for Mass intentions at the moment. If you would like to book a Mass for someone, please email Shirley in the parish office and she will book this for you.

**BINGO:** Come and join the Knights of St Columba on Thursday 1 February, 1.30pm in the Parish Centre Boxmoor, for our monthly Bingo session. Refreshments are provided and all are welcome. All enquiries to Tom Joyce at 07825 173878.

**HOSPITALITY AT ST MARK'S:** Hospitality during February and March at St Marks will be donated to CAFOD. Everyone is welcome to stay for tea/coffee after Mass.

**RENNIE GROVE PEACE HOSPICE:** Two Year 7 girls from JFK school will be selling home-made bracelets after Mass on Sunday 4 February, at St

Marks. Lauren and Freya are hoping to raise money for Rennie Grove Peace Hospice Care as part of a wider class project. Please bring along some extra coins and support their charitable efforts.

**DAVID JANACEK:** There will be a celebration for the life of David Janacek on Saturday 2 March, 11am at the John F Kennedy Catholic School. David was Head of English and Drama at the John F Kennedy school and he will be greatly missed. All are welcome. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

**BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS:** If you are a new parent, congratulations! You should now be thinking about having your child baptised. You will need to prepare for this important sacramental event, for when your child becomes a member of God's family. Please go to the Events page on the parish website for up and coming Baptism Preparation classes, or follow the link: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/events/>

**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.

**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](mailto:shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk) and she will arrange a certificate for you.

**THE BIG WALK:** Challenge yourself and take on The Big Lent Walk for CAFOD. Walk when, and where you choose, over 40 days, alone, or with friends. Raise money to help people as they overcome poverty. Search for 'The Big Lent Walk' at

## GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE FORTHCOMING WEEK:

Mon. Mark	5: 1 – 20
Tues. Mark	5: 21– 43
Wed. Mark	6: 1 - 6
Thurs. Mark	6: 7 - 13
Fri. Mark	6: 14 - 29
Sat. Mark	6: 30 - 34
Sun Mark	1: 29 - 39

cafod.org.uk and sign up and take on a challenge like no other this Lent.

**DIVINE MERCY AFTERNOON:** The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Divine Mercy Afternoon of Reflection on Saturday 10 February, 1.30pm until 4.30pm at St George's R.C. Cathedral, Westminster Bridge Road, London. SE1 7HY. The Reflection will include teachings on the Message of Mercy, Holy Mass, The Way of the Cross, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All Welcome. Please call Millie on 07957594646 for more information.

**KNOCK PILGRIMAGE:** Escorted Tour to Knock and Co Mayo, from 10 March 2024. The cost is £899 person and includes flights, 10kg hold luggage, 5 nights in 4\* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick & Ashford Castle. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com

**Racial Justice Sunday 28 January: "Seeing one another in the life of the Church".**

<https://www.carj.org.uk/>

### Prayer

God of our past, present and future, you created each one of us in your image and likeness, help us to recognise you in each person.

As we pray for an end to suffering caused by racism, lead us this day to walk with one another, pray with one another and work together, so that we create a future based on justice and healing where all can fulfil the hope you have for all peoples. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

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
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

<b>SUN 28 Jan</b>	<b>4th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	<b>(SMSJ)</b> 5pm (Sat Vigil) <b>(SMSJ)</b> 8.30am <b>(SMSJ)</b> 9.45am <b>(SM)</b> 11.45am	People of the Parish Betty Kehoe (RIP) For Everyone in Care Homes (INT) Sally Howes (RIP)
<b>Mon 29 Jan</b>	Feria	<b>(SMSJ)</b> 10am	Bishop Paul McAleenan (INT)
<b>Tues 30 Jan</b>	Feria	<b>(SMSJ)</b> 10am	
<b>Wed 31 Jan</b>	Saint John Bosco	<b>(SMSJ)</b> 10am	
<b>Thurs 1 Feb</b>	Feria		NO MASS (Father's rest day)
<b>Fri 2 Feb</b>	THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD	<b>(SMSJ)</b> 10am	
<b>SAT 3 Feb</b>	Saints Laurence, Dunstan and Theodore	<b>(SMSJ)</b> 5pm (Sat Vigil)	Tadeusz (Ted) Buras (8th RIP ANNIV)
<b>SUN 4 Feb</b>	<b>4th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	<b>(SMSJ)</b> 8.30am <b>(SMSJ)</b> 9.45am <b>(SM)</b> 11.45am	People of the Parish

**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 David Cherry      [davidcherry@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:davidcherry@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<sup>o</sup>: 233699*