

Sunday cycle
Readings Year B

Weekday readings

Year 2

Divine Office
Week 3

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

18th February 2024

Alive through the waters of Baptism. We die to the world and live to God through the waters of baptism. We will still be tempted as Christ was in the wilderness, but if we repent and really believe the Gospel then we have nothing to fear. God is faithful to those who keep their promises to him and we are promised to God through baptism.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 2 March, at Ss Mary & Joseph

9am Mass (no Adoration & Confessions)

Saturday 2 March, at Our Lady's

10am Penitential Mass, Adoration & Confessions
(2 priests) – Our Lady's.

Saturday 9 March

Pilgrimage Walk to St Alban's Cathedral. We will meet at 9am at The Church of the Resurrection Grovehill and will be leaving at 9.30am. For more details contact Callum.

Saturday 16 March, at Ss Mary & Joseph

9am Mass: Penitential Mass with Confessions & Benediction (with 2 priests).

Saturday 16 March, at John F Kennedy School

St Joseph's International Food Night at 6pm. Bring and share food night.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SUNDAY MARCH 24 UNTIL 31 MARCH

Saturday 27 April, at St Mark's

5pm Mass for First Holy Communion Candidates and Families.

Saturday 25 May, at St Mark's

5pm Mass for First Holy Communion Candidates and Families.

Saturday 1 June, at Ss Mary & Joseph Corpus Christi Flower Festival:

11am Mass of Our Lady and blessing of the Shrine

Sunday 2 June, at Ss Mary & Joseph CORPUS CHRISTI

10am Mass with Procession and Benediction.
12 noon parish lunch bring and share.

Saturday 6 July & Saturday 13 July at Ss Mary & Joseph. 11am & 2pm Mass with First Holy Communion.

Dear friends in Christ

I invite you to ponder the words of our Holy Father, Pope Francis on Ash Wednesday. You can find the full text of his homily on the Vatican website.

The ashes bespeak the emptiness hiding behind the frenetic quest for worldly rewards. They remind us that worldliness is like the dust that is carried away by a slight gust of wind. Sisters and brothers, we are not in this world to chase the wind; our hearts thirst for eternity. Lent is the time granted us by the Lord to be renewed, to nurture our interior life and to journey towards Easter, towards the things that do not pass away, towards the *reward* we are to receive *from the Father*. Lent is also a journey of healing. Not to be changed overnight, but to live each day with a renewed spirit, a different "style". Prayer, charity and fasting are aids to this. Purified by the Lenten ashes, purified of the hypocrisy of appearances, they become even more powerful and restore us to a living relationship with God, our brothers and sisters, and ourselves.

Prayer, humble prayer, prayer "in secret" (Mt 6:6), in the hiddenness of our rooms, becomes *the* secret to making our lives flourish everywhere else. Prayer is a dialogue, warm in affection and trust, which consoles and expands our hearts. During this Lenten season, let us pray above all by looking at the Crucified Lord. Let us open our hearts to the touching tenderness of God, and in his wounds place our own wounds and those of our world. Let us not be always in a rush, but find the time to stand in silence before him. Let us rediscover the fruitfulness and simplicity of a heartfelt dialogue with the Lord. For God is not interested in appearances. Instead, he loves to be found in secret, "the secrecy of love", far from all ostentation and clamour.

If prayer is real, it necessarily bears fruit in *charity*. And charity sets us free from the worst form of enslavement, which is slavery to self. Lenten charity, purified by these ashes, brings us back to what is essential, to the deep joy to be found in giving. Almsgiving, practised far from the spotlights, fills the heart with peace and hope. It reveals to us the beauty of giving, which then becomes receiving, and thus enables us to discover a precious secret: our hearts rejoice more at giving than at receiving (cf. Acts 20:35).

God bless each of us with perseverance and hope in our keeping of Lent.

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.

FR DAVID: Fr David will be on retreat from the afternoon of Sunday 18 February, until Thursday 22 February. There will be a week day Mass at 9.30am on Monday 19 February, Tuesday 20 February and Wednesday 21 February, but there will not be Adoration. There will not be a Mass on Thursday 22 February, while Fr David is away. Fr David will be back to say Mass on Friday 23 February and Adoration will resume at 8.30am.

FOODBANK COLLECTIION: With the full agreement of DENS, our foodbank collections in the near future will be going to local families through St Roses School. The school will keep us informed on when this arrangement will be set up.

YOUTH MINISTRY

LITTLE CHURCH LITURGY: If you have not made your First Holy Communion, you are invited to join Little Church which runs during the 10am Mass during term time. From 3 March, we will be running the Children's Liturgy at the 10am Mass for any young people who are post First Holy Communion up to the age of 11.

LENT AND HOLY WEEK

CARDINAL'S LENTEN APPEAL FEBRUARY 2024: Thank you for your generous support for the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal. This year's funds will be shared between the four pillars of the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal: Marriage & Family Life; Youth & Evangelisation; The Education Service and Caritas Westminster, as well as initiatives run by parishes. Thanks to your generosity, we can continue this work throughout our Diocese.

CAFOD LENTEN FAST DAY 23 FEBRUARY: CAFOD'S Fast Day Appeal, will be made at all Masses this Weekend. Please take an envelope home with you and return next Weekend. You can also donate by scanning the volunteers Lanyards or by donating on line at cafod.org.uk. Thank you for your generosity.

COME JOIN THE CHOIR FOR HOLY WEEK: We are starting to prepare the music for the Holy Week liturgies. If you are interested in joining us as a singer or musician you are very welcome. We practise on a Monday evening in the presbytery, from 7.30pm and finish by 9pm the

latest. Please contact Jane at bert7252@aol.com for more details.

ACROSS THE DIOCESE

LENTEN MESSAGE: In his Lenten message Pope Francis says that Lent is a time for action, but also a time "to pause" - to pause in prayer, and to pause "in the presence of a wounded brother or sister". Pope Francis went on to say that "Love of God and love of neighbour, are one love", and that the contemplative dimension of Lent can help us release new energies, to be more sensitive to one another: in the place of threats and enemies, we discover companions and fellow travelers.

DIVINE MERCY LENTEN RETREAT: The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Divine Mercy Lenten Retreat on Saturday 24 February, 1.30pm until 4.30pm at St Lawrence Church, 1 Hamilton Road, DA15 7HB. All are welcome. Please call Millie on 07957594646 for more details.

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

ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY: Westminster Cathedral Saturday 25 May, at 2.30pm. The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2024. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please email the following details to Shirley by Friday 8 March: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

HOSPITAL CONTACTS

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.

PRAYER

GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE FORTHCOMING WEEK:

Mon. Mathew	25: 31 – 46
Tues. Mathew	6: 7 – 15
Wed. Luke	11:29 - 32
Thurs. Mathew	7: 7 - 12
Fri. Matthew	5 20 – 26
Sat. Mathew	5: 43 - 48
Sun Mark	9: 2 - 10

PRAYER: I bring to you the spiritually hungry; those who need you to be their light; those in temptation, in sorrow or in pain. And I pray that the whole world will take you for its healing; and claim you for its King.

Amen (Sr Dorothy Bell)

ACT OF CONTRITION

Oh Lord, forgive me my sins, the sins of my youth, the sins of my age, the sins of my soul. The sins of my body, my idle sins. My serious voluntary sins, the sins I know, the sins I do not know. The sins I have concealed so long and which are now hidden from my memory. I am truly sorry for every sin, mortal and venial, for all the sins of my childhood up to the present hour. I know my sins have wounded your tender heart. Oh my Saviour, let me be freed from the bonds of evil, through the most bitter passion of my Redeemer. Oh, my Jesus, forget and forgive what I have been. Amen.

FINANCE

Sunday Offertory Collection, Contactless Payments and Standing Orders for January 2024.

Loose Cash & Contactless	£2,903.15
Standing Orders	£4,587.02
Total	£7,490.17

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.

NOTICE

PHONES: Please remember to turn off Your mobile phones during Mass. Thank you.

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**

Or you can use the QR code to make your weekly offertory donation. The offertory collection Income figures are published on a monthly basis.

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

Please join us for tea/coffee, after the 10am & 11.30 am Masses. All are welcome.

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.

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/>

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 18 Feb	1st Sunday of Lent	(SMSJ) 5pm (Sat Vigil) (SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 10am (SM) 11.30am	Jane Parisi (RIP) Holy Souls in Purgatory Michael Flannery (ANNIV) People of the Parish
Mon 19 Feb	Lent Feria	(SMSJ) 9.30am	Martin Ward ((23rd RIP ANNIV)
Tues 20 Feb	Lent Feria	(SMSJ) 9.30am	Mass
Wed 21 Feb	Lent Feria	(SMSJ) 9.30am	Hilary Sweetman (RIP)
Thurs 22 Feb	THE CHAIR OF SAINT PETER THE APOSTLE		NO MASS (Father's rest day)
Fri 23 Feb	Lent Feria	(SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 9.30am (SMSJ) 10am	Adoration Mass Stations of the Cross
SAT 24 Feb	Lent Feria	(SMSJ) 9am (SMSJ) 9.30am (SMSJ) 5pm (Sat Vigil)	Mass Adoration & Benediction Jakub Pawlina (Birthday)
SUN 25 Feb	2nd Sunday of Lent	(SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 10am (SM) 11.30am	People of the Parish Julieta Gomes Family (INT) Mary & Ronnie Fernandes (1st RIP ANNIV)



Please switch off
all mobile phones

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.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday: 9.30am & 4pm at SS Mary & Joseph church and by appointment.

MAKING CONTACT AT HEMEL WEST CATHOLIC PARISH

Parish Priest: Fr David Cherry davidcherry@rcdow.org.uk (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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