

Sunday cycle  
Readings Year B

Weekday readings

Year 2

Divine Office  
Week 3

## CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST

### 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

3 March 2024

We preach a crucified Christ. Christ gave his life in love to his Father. In a way which we do not understand this death shows forth the wisdom of God. Christ rose again from the dead. This great miracle on which our faith depends shows that we believe that the message of eternal life is contained in Christ's death and resurrection.

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

##### **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**

6pm St Joseph's International Food Night. Bring and share food night. To contact Callum Moore.

##### **HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SUNDAY 24 MARCH , UNTIL 31 MARCH**

##### **Saturday 27 April, at Ss Mary & Joseph**

5pm Mass for First Holy Communion Candidates and Families.

##### **Saturday 18 May, at Ss Mary & Joseph**

12 noon Confessions for First Holy Communion Candidates.

##### **Saturday 25 May, at Ss Mary & Joseph**

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.

Confirmation dates to be confirmed.

On Tuesday last week (27 February) the Church celebrated St Gregory of Narek, an Armenian Saint who was made a Doctor of the Church by Pope Francis in 2015.

Pope Francis wrote in 2015, that St Gregory "gave voice to the cry, which became a prayer, of a sinful and sorrowful humanity, oppressed by the anguish of its powerlessness, but illuminated by the splendour of God's love and open to the hope of his salvific intervention, which is capable of transforming all things."

"Lord, you are goodness beyond telling,  
wonder-filled human kindness,  
astonishing forgiveness, perplexing forbearance,  
unending sweetness, glorious mildness.  
You, over whom compassion prevails, but  
do not feel restrained.

You are overwhelmed by mercy,  
but are not blamed.

You are constrained by human kindness,  
but are not disdained.

You are compelled by goodness,  
but are not cursed.

You act out of love,  
but are not ridiculed.

You seek my return to you,  
but do not grow weary.

You run after me in my obstinacy,  
but do not give up.

You call out to me though I do not listen,  
but do not lose patience.

You rush after me in my sloth and are not stopped.  
In the face of my evil, you are good.

In the face of my total indebtedness, you are forgiving.

In the face of my sinfulness, you are indulgent.

In the face of my darkness, you are light.

In the face of my mortality, you are life."

There is so much to lament, so many people and nations to pray for. Lent is the time for each of us to return to the Lord in honesty of heart, back to the God who is love. Now is the time to confess our sins and be reconciled; to bring to God the needs of his world and renew our hope in him.

St Gregory of Narek, pray for us.

*From "The Pillar"- a Catholic online journal.*

*Subscribe for free.*

# 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.

**BINGO:** Please come and join the Knights of St Columba for their monthly bingo session on Thursday 7 March, 1.30pm in the Parish Centre Boxmoor. Refreshments will be provided. For further details contact Tom Joyce on 07825 173878.

**DOGS AND HOTDOGS SATURDAY 9 MARCH:** For those who are not going on the walking pilgrimage to St Albans, come and meet Fr David after Benediction and walk round Boxmoor. Bring your wellies, your children, your dogs and have hotdogs in the presbytery afterwards.

**CHARITY NIGHT FOR SHINE:** Wednesday 27 March, 6pm at the Sahara Indian restaurant Gadebridge. The cost is £20 per head and you will pay extra for your drinks. Contact Maria Soares-Cabral on 07950362875.

**EASTER FLOWERS COLLECTION:** Please take an envelope from the back of the church if you would like to contribute to the flowers for Easter.

**SUPPORT THE ABORTION TIME LIMIT:** Ask your MP to support the abortion time limit reduction amendment. Support an amendment to reduce our abortion time limit from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Research indicates that a significant number of babies born at 22 or 23 weeks can now survive outside the womb, leaving a contradiction in our abortion law. Collect a postcard today from the back of the church and post it to your MP urgently in support of this amendment.

**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.

## LENT AND HOLY WEEK

**COME JOIN THE CHOIR FOR HOLY WEEK:** We are preparing 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 at the latest. Please contact Jane at bert7252@aol.com for more details.

**LENTEN MESSAGE FOR THE POPE:** The Pope's Lenten Message for 2024, released on 1 February and entitled 'Through the Desert God Leads us to Freedom', echoes the themes of the Pope's social encyclicals, 'Laudato Si'

and 'Fratelli Tutti'. He calls for "conversion" and urges attention to social justice, review of personal lifestyle, care for creation, and aiding the poor and marginalised. He says: "Today, the cry of so many of our oppressed brothers and sisters rises to heaven. Let us ask ourselves: Do we hear that cry? Does it trouble us? Does it move us? .... Love of God and love of neighbour are one love."

**LENT:** To fast, give alms and pray. Daily prayer is always an essential element of the Christian spiritual life, but never as important as during Lent.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

**LITTLE CHURCH:** If you have not made your First Holy Communion, you are invited to join Little Church, during the 10am Mass (term time). We are also running the **CHILDREN's LITURGY:** for young people, post First Holy Communion up to the age of 11 and they will meet in the Sacristy during the *Liturgy of the Word* and then join us in front for the *Liturgy of Eucharist*.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CATECHISTS NEEDED:** We are keen to develop our First Holy Communion programme, especially from September onwards. If you would like to help support our young people to prepare for this wonderful sacrament, please email Callum at cmoore@jfk.herts.sch.uk for further information.

## ACROSS THE DIOCESE

**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

**DISCOUNT TICKETS FOR ST JOHN PASSION:** Thursday 14 March, 7.30pm at Westminster Cathedral. Tickets at a discount of 30% available at the link below, using the password: SJP30. <https://www.ticketmaster.co.uk/event/1F00602BD7A81B4F?did=sjp30>

**DIVINE MERCY LENTEN RETREAT:** The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Divine Mercy Lenten Retreat on Saturday 16 March, from 1.30pm – 4.30pm at St Scholastica 17 Kenninghall Road, Clapton London, E5 8BS. 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. All Welcome. Please call Millie on 07957594646 for more information.

**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).

PRAYER

GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE FORTHCOMING WEEK:

Mon. John 4:24 – 30  
Tues. Mathew 18:21 – 35  
Wed. Matthew 5:17 - 19  
Thurs. Luke 11:14 - 23  
Fri. Mark 12 28 – 34  
Sat. Luke 18: 9 - 14  
Sun John 3: 14 – 21

**Please Pray For**

**Catechumens and Candidates preparing for Baptism and Confirmation:** Deborah Bentum, Samuel Hawkins, Rachel Perdigao, Mohammed Nahzari & Katherine Airestone-Thompson

**The Sick:** Richard Girdwood, Anita Foster, Aida Saraiva, Tiffany Menzies, Marie Anthony, Peter West, Fr Brian McMahon, Mary Alcock

**Please pray for the Departed:** Gamil Aboud Shakour, George Aboud Shakour & Maureen Hicks

Please seek permission from the person whose name will appear on the sick list to guard their privacy. Names will appear on the sick list until the end of the month.

**Prayer**

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made, and forgive the sins of all who are repentant. Create and make us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen

FINANCE

**ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT:** Please take a copy of the AFR for 2023 from the back of the church.

**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/>

<b>Office Hours and Telephone cover for Hemel West.</b> <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk">shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk</a> <b>Phone:</b> 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>SAT 2 MAR</b>	Lent Feria	(SMSJ) 9am (OLQ) 10am (SMSJ) 5pm (Sat Vigil)	Mass Penitential Mass followed by Adoration & Confessions Michael Flanagan (RIP ANNIV)
<b>SUN 3 Mar</b>	<b>3rd Sunday of Lent</b>	(SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 10am (SM) 11.30am	Mary Malone (RIP) Paula & Michael Gallagher (RIP) People of the Parish
<b>Mon 4 Mar</b>	Lent Feria	(SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 9.30am	Adoration James Smith (2nd RIP ANNIV)
<b>Tues 5 Mar</b>	Lent Feria		NO MASS (Father's rest day)
<b>Wed 6 Mar</b>	Lent Feria	(SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 9.30am (SMSJ) 7pm	Adoration Richard Girdwood (Sick) Mass
<b>Thurs 7 Mar</b>	Lent Feria	(SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 9.30am (SM) 7pm	Adoration Mass Mass
<b>Fri 8 Mar</b>	Lent Feria	(SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 9.30am (SMSJ) 10am	Adoration Holy Souls Stations of the Cross
<b>SAT 9 Mar</b>	Lent Feria	(SMSJ) 9am (SMSJ) 5pm (Sat Vigil)	Mass Pasquale D'Urso (RIP)
<b>SUN 10 Mar</b>	<b>4th Sunday of Lent</b>	(SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 10am (SM) 11.30am	Maureen & Barry Albert (RIP) Ellen Brett (Sick) 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: 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](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°: 233699*