

Sunday cycle
Readings Year B

Weekday readings

Year 2

Divine Office
Week 4

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

10 March 2024

God is generous with his mercy. Jesus Christ is given to the world by God so that those who believe in his name may be saved. He brings us new life because previously we were dead through sin but now we are saved through grace. We are God's work of art created in Jesus Christ.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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.

Wednesday 8 and 22 May, at St Joseph's hall

7.30pm Training of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

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.

Laetare – Rejoice!

The fourth Sunday of Lent finds us mid-way through the season of Lent. 'Laetare' Sunday is called this because of the entrance antiphon which begins "Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her..." The vestments are rose, rather than purple indicating a chance to ease the rigours of Lent in some way. Thus, it is sometimes called Refreshment Sunday. And also Mothering Sunday because we are children of the light, reborn through baptism and children of our mother the Church. And also, to rejoice in the motherhood of our Blessed Lady whose prayers accompany us.

We are reminded that our Lenten observance is ultimately about joy, joy in the Lord, joy because of him. Through prayer, fasting and almsgiving we are co-operating with his Spirit so that our lives are re-orientated so that he can become more and more the joy of our lives. "God loved us with so much love that he was generous..." the epistle to the Ephesians reminds us.

If you want to be joyful, i.e. full of joy, if you want to be happy become a thankful person. This is how we can help God help us. How is that going in my life? Is there awe and wonder in my heart at God's goodness, his loving kindness his mercy to me? Don't be shocked if you don't feel anything on reading these words. Stay with the question. We need to practice thanksgiving.

In prayer look at God looking at you, beholding you with love. Ask his Spirit to enlighten you – to shed light on your life – so that you can see how God is in your life. Stay there. What are the 3 things I am most grateful for over the past day or week? Where have I experience God's grace at work in my life? Where did I experience joy? How have I been able to respond in generosity of spirit in relation to him and others? Give thanks for his Spirit at work in your heart. "We are God's work of art..." says the epistle. He labours to save us. And then: where have I found myself unable to respond in love? Why? Ask forgiveness. Ask to be set free from resentments or a spirit of discontent, set free to love.

"...it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God."

May this be the cause of our rejoicing and thanksgiving as we learn to love him with our all souls, our hearts and minds and in doing that find ourselves able to love others.

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.

Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast. Isaiah 66.10-11

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.

SATURDAY 16 MARCH CONFESSIONS & BENEDICTION

On Saturday 16 March, there will be a 9am Penitential Mass at Ss Mary & Joseph followed by Adoration and Confessions with Fr David and Fr Kim Addison.

HOUSEBOUND OR SICK? If you or any member of the parish are sick, or housebound and unable to get to Mass, do please let Fr David know.

TRAINING FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION: Wednesdays 8 & 22 May, after 7pm Mass in St Joseph's hall. If you would like to continue or explore taking part in this ministry please speak to Fr David. Take a leaflet from the back of the church. The annual commissioning will be on Corpus Christi.

LOURDES 4-8 OCT 2024 (TO BE CONFIRMED). If you would like to go to Lourdes with Fr David please let him know.

HOSPITALITY AT ST MARK'S: During February, £255.36 was collected from the donations for tea/coffee. This will be sent to CAFOD. Thank you on behalf of CAFOD, well done.

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.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND WRITING TEACHER NEED: If you are able help tutor young students in the parish, please contact Fr David.

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR FOR SACRED HEART CHURCH IN BERKHAMSTED: They are looking for a new parish administrator, working 15 hours per week. The job involves all-round parish administration, preparing parish communications and book-keeping. For more details and to apply, please go to <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/> They will shortlist candidates with the help of the diocese, for interview. Deadline for applications is Friday 15 March.

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.

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.

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.

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

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL CHOIR: Discounted tickets for St John's Passion are available for Thursday 14 March, 7.30pm at Westminster Cathedral. Tickets at a discount of 30% available at the link: <https://www.ticketmaster.co.uk/event/1F00602BD7A81B4F?did=sjp30> using the password: SJP30.



PRAYER

GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE FORTHCOMING WEEK:

Mon.	John	4:43 – 54
Tues.	John	5:1 – 16
Wed.	John	5:17 - 30
Thurs.	John	5:31 - 47
Fri.	John	7:1 – 30
Sat.	John	7: 40 - 52
Sun	John	12: 20 - 33

Please Pray For

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

The Sick: Gemma Hill, 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

Heavenly Father, as I enter another week of my Lenten journey, guide me to the path that leads to you. Fill my heart with gratitude, patience, strength, and peace, as I strive to become the-best-version-of-myself, honestly admitting my shortcomings and sins.
Amen

FINANCE

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

Loose Cash & Contactless	£2,254.25
Standing Orders	£4,447.02
Total	£6,701.27

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.

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/>

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

SAT 9 MAR	Lent Feria	(SMSJ) 9am (SMSJ) 5pm (Sat Vigil)	Mass followed by Adoration & Confessions Pasquale D'Urso (RIP)
SUN 10 Mar	4th Sunday of Lent	(SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 10am (SM) 11.30am	Maureen & Barry Albert (RIP) Ellen Brett (Sick) People of the Parish
Mon 11 Mar	Lent Feria	(SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 9.30am	Adoration Steven Gardner (RIP)
Tues 12 Mar	Lent Feria	(SMSJ) 9.30am	Mass
Wed 13 Mar	Lent Feria	(SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 9.30am (SMSJ) 7pm	Adoration Dave Myers (RIP) Mass
Thurs 14 Mar	Lent Feria	(SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 9.30am (SM) 7pm	Adoration Eamonn McCluskey (55th RIP ANNIV) Mass
Fri 15 Mar	Lent Feria	(SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 9.30am (SMSJ) 10am	Adoration Gertrude Senanayake (RIP) Stations of the Cross
SAT 16 Mar	Lent Feria	(SMSJ) 9am (SMSJ) 5pm (Sat Vigil)	Penitential Mass followed by Adoration & Confessions Julieta Gomes (Thanksgiving)
SUN 17 Mar	5th Sunday of Lent	(SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 10am (SM) 11.30am	Mass People of the Parish Peggy Sitkowski (RIP ANNIV)

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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