

# HEMEL WEST CATHOLIC PARISH

## Ss Mary & St Joseph + St Mark

website:

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemel Hempsteadwest/>

Diocese of Westminster Charity N<sup>o</sup> 233699

### Jesus is King!

The triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem gives way to his passion and death. Yet Jesus is King and within a week will rise triumphant from the dead. He is the firm ground of our hope that all suffering in this life are lost in the power of his resurrection.

#### CONTACTS FOR HEMEL WEST

##### Fr David Cherry

Parish Priest

The Presbytery,  
186 St Johns Rd, HP1 1NR.

t: 01442 391759 option 3

e: davidcherry@rcdow.org.uk

##### Shirley Bailey

Parish Administrator

e: shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk

t: 01442 391759 option 2

##### Callum Moore

Catechetical Coordinator & Youth Worker

e: cmoore@jfk,herts.sch.uk

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##### Hall Bookings

Via Shirley Bailey or

e: hemelwesthallbookings@rcdow.org.uk

**Parish Address:** The Presbytery, 186 St John's Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. HP1 1NR

##### Fr Bernard leaves us on Holy Monday.

Come and say goodbye to him on Saturday from 11-12.30 in the presbytery over a cup of tea/coffee. And after Sunday 10am Mass.

Thank you, Fr Bernard, for all you have brought to the parish and done for us in your years with us. May God bless you.

#### Walk with me

A scripture and prayer journey through Eastertide are available at the back of Church for £1

...and I will be your God

Gen. 17.9

It is all about Covenant. God and us. We can't really understand the Bible without Covenant. God made his Covenant with Abraham. The Covenant is a blood bond.

The terms are always "I will be your God and you will be my people", and he promised many descendants to Abraham.

It is this Covenant that the Jews, confronting the Lord Jesus, claim as justifying them. They were born into it. It was kept going by sacrifices in the Temple. It was a Covenant based on the faith of Abraham. Jesus in confronting the Jews tell them that if they were true descendants of Abraham who lived by and with his faith and not by claims of a blood line they would recognise him as being the God of Abraham. As it is, they follow their own father.

"Before Abraham ever was, I am." He was before Abraham. He, the eternal Word, existed before Abraham. "I am" is the name God gave to Moses at the burning bush. Say to Pharaoh "I am" has sent me to you. "I am" – I am existence itself, the one without whom nothing would or can exist. They take this as blasphemy unable to perceive the presence of God in Jesus.

Ours is the New Covenant, not a Covenant that is kept going by animal sacrifice – praise be. No longer animal substitutes sacrificed as a holocaust for the sins of people; no longer blood sprinkled over the people on the day of Atonement. We can all be grateful for that.

The New Covenant has been sealed once and for all with the blood of the perfect sacrifice of the Lord Jesus who offered himself and ended the Temple sacrifices. And his is a Covenant that lasts for ever. Immortal – it will never die away.

He has made this Covenant in his own blood.

It is not the covenant of a blood line. You don't have to be born into it physically.

You are born into it spiritually through baptism. How we will rejoice at the Easter Vigil with Nima, Deborah, Sam and Rachel who will be baptised into this Covenant. Katharine who is already a baptised Catholic will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. With us they enter into the Covenant between God and his Church – the New Israel.

With us they will be sustained as part of the Body of Christ himself through the Eucharist in which the blood of the New Covenant flows from the Cross of Jesus to every altar where the memorial of his sacrifice is made. His self-offering is re-presented in an unbloody sacrifice on every altar of the Church somewhere at every minute in the world to sustain his Covenant with us by communing with us under appearances of bread and wine.

"I am your God. You are my own, my beloved people."

Thanks be to God. God bless you richly this Holy Week and Easter.

Fr David

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.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Saturday 9.30am Ss Mary & Joseph  
Saturday 4pm Ss Mary & Joseph  
and by appointment.

**Getting Married in Church?**

Please be aware that you must give at least 6 months' notice if you want to get married in a Catholic Church. This is because there is often a lot of paperwork to get done and couples must attend a pre-marriage course. Don't set a date until you have spoken with a priest.

**Going into Hospital?** If you are going into Hospital and would like to see the Catholic Chaplain, please call the Chaplaincy office on 01923 217994 or 07776598704 for Watford and St Albans. West Herts Hospitals are currently looking to recruit a Catholic Chaplain.

**FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Saturday 27 April, at Ss Mary & Joseph**  
5pm Mass with 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 25 May, at Ss Mary & Joseph**  
5pm Mass with 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 in the Parish Centre.

**Saturday 8 & 15 June, at Ss Mary & Joseph**  
11am First Holy Communion Reconciliations.

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

**Confirmation dates to be confirmed.**

**NEW TIME OF WEEKDAY MASS AND SATURDAY MORNING AT 10AM:**  
The new 10am Mass time will be starting in Holy Week.

**While Fr David is away** (Easter Sunday night until Friday 19 April) weekday Mass will be on Wednesdays and Fridays at 10am (SMSJ) only. There will be Mass at the usual times on Sundays. On Saturday 20 April there will be Adoration & Confessions at 9am and Mass at 10am. Please see times of Masses at Our Lady's for Mass in the week.

**PARISH OFFICE:** The parish office will be closed from 29 March until 5 April.

**HOLY WEEK & EASTER LEAFLET:** Please take a leaflet from the back of the church and give one to your friends and neighbours.

**GOOD FRIDAY SECOND COLLECTION:** There will be a second collection for the Holy Places of Palestine on Good Friday. Please note we cannot use the contactless machine for this collection. Thank you.

**GOOD FRIDAY:** There will be Stations of the Cross from Ss Mary & Joseph Church to St John's on Friday 29 March, at 10am. This will be followed by the Churches Together in Hemel Hempstead Walk of Witness. They will meet at 10.45am at the Riverside Entrance in the Marlowes (near 'A point for Reflection' Sculpture) and the service will start at 11am on the Rainbow Stage.

**BELLS AND CLACKER (CROTALUS):** Bells are sounded at the beginning of the Gloria on Maundy Thursday. Thereafter a wooden clacker is used at the epiclesis, elevations and communion so don't get a fright! Please bring your bells to ring at the beginning of the Gloria at the Easter Vigil.

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

**EASTER OFFERING ENVELOPES:** These are available at the back of Church. The Easter Offering contributes to the priests' stipends. This collection goes to the Diocesan Finance Department so that all priests in our diocese receive an equal stipend every month.

**MASS INTENTIONS:** Mass Offering envelopes are available for your Mass intentions. Please book a mass with Shirley - shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk. The diocese recommends £10 per intention. If this is unaffordable for you, please feel free to make an offering you can afford.

**KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA "THIS IS HOLY WEEK" POSTER:** Please take a poster from the back of church for your front window.

**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 to book.

**QUIZ:** The Catholic Women's League and The Knights of St Columba are holding a quiz night in the Parish Centre, Boxmoor on Saturday 27 April, at 7.30pm. There will be Chilli Con Carne with a jacket potato or rice and the cost is £10 per ticket. To book please ring John on 07510 294832 or Tom on 07825 173878. If you need a vegetarian option please mention this when booking.

**TRAINING FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:** Wednesdays 8 & 22 May, after the 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. The annual commissioning will be on Corpus Christi.

**CARITAS SUNDAY TEA:** The Caritas Sunday Teas for older members of the community are held on the third Sunday of the month in Croft Hall at Our Lady's from 2pm to 4pm. We provide tea with sandwiches and cakes, entertainment and bingo. Transport can be arranged for those who need it. We welcome new guests and volunteers. Please contact Paul at paul.heatley1@btinternet.com or call 07711 384 061 if you would like to know more.

**LOURDES 4-8 OCT 2024:** If you would like to go to Lourdes with Fr David please let him know. £690 inclusive with half-board.

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

**CAFOD:** Please leave used Ink Jet Cartridges in the recycling boxes in porch.

**TOILETRIES:** These are needed for the refugees/asylum seekers in Dacorum. We need tooth brushes, toothpaste, shampoo, body lotion and shower gel. Please put these into the boxes provided.

**BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS:** to book a preparation session (usually last Thursday of the month 7pm) for Holy Baptism of your child please go to the Events page on the parish website for coming dates and contact Shirley.

**TEA/COFFEE:** Please join us for tea/coffee, after the 10am & 11.30am 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 at shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk by Wednesday 12 Noon and she will do her best to accommodate it.

**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.

**E-ALERT:** Please sign up online to receive the parish news by email.

### 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 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

**THE DIVINE MERCY APOSTOLATE, LONDON:** They are holding a Preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday Retreat at Aylesford Priory, Aylesford, Kent, on Saturday 6 April, from 10am until 4.30pm. The retreat will include teachings on the Message of Divine Mercy, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Stations of the Cross, Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All welcome. Call Millie on 07957594646 for more information.

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE to LOURDES 19- 26 JULY 2024:** Registration for the Westminster diocesan pilgrimage led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols is now open at <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/> or by contacting the Pilgrimage Office on 020 7798 9173. Options to travel by plane, train or coach are available and there are many volunteering opportunities for those wishing to serve. All applications to join this year's pilgrimage need to be submitted by Tuesday 30 April. Please see the church notice board for more information.

### PRAYER

#### GOSPEL READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Mon.	John	12:1 – 11
Tues.	John	13:21 – 38
Wed.	Matthew	26:14 - 25
Thurs.	John	13:1 - 15
Fri.	John	18:1 – 19:42
Sat.	Mark	16: 1 – 7
Sun	John	20:1 – 9

#### Prayer

Lord, open my eyes that I may see the needs of others. Open my ears that I may hear their cries; open my heart so that they need not be without support. Let me not be afraid to defend the weak because of the anger of the strong, nor afraid to defend the poor because of the anger of the rich. Show me where love and hope and faith are needed, and use me to bring them to those places. And so open my eyes and my ears that I may this coming day be able to do some work of peace for thee. Amen. (Passionists Prayer)

### FINANCE



#### 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.

### HEMEL WEST OFFICE HOURS

OFFICE HOURS AND TELEPHONE COVER FOR HEMEL WEST	
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: Closed</b>
<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

**The Easter Vigil:** A new dimension has opened up for mankind. Creation has become greater and broader. Easter Day ushers in a new creation, but that is precisely why the Church starts the liturgy on this day with the old creation, so that we can learn to understand the new one aright. At the beginning of the Liturgy of the Word on Easter night, then, comes the account of the creation of the world.

Two things are particularly important here in connection with this liturgy. On the one hand, creation is presented as a whole that includes the phenomenon of time. The seven days are an image of completeness, unfolding in time. They are ordered towards the seventh day, the day of the freedom of all creatures for God and for one another. Creation is therefore directed towards the coming together of God and his creatures; it exists so as to open up a space for the response to God's great glory, an encounter between love and freedom.

On the other hand, what the Church hears on Easter night is above all the first element of the creation account: "God said, 'let there be light!'" (*Gen 1:3*). The creation account begins symbolically with the creation of light. The sun and the moon are created only on the fourth day. The creation account calls them lights, set by God in the firmament of heaven. In this way he deliberately takes away the divine character that the great religions had assigned to them. No, they are not gods. They are shining bodies created by the one God. But they are preceded by the light through which God's glory is reflected in the essence of the created being.

What is the creation account saying here? Light makes life possible. It makes encounter possible. It makes communication possible. It makes knowledge, access to reality and to truth, possible. And insofar as it makes knowledge possible, it makes freedom and progress possible. Evil hides. Light, then, is also an expression of the good that both is and creates brightness. It is daylight, which makes it possible for us to act.

*Continued on back page*

<b>THIS WEEK</b> <b>23 March – 31 March</b>			
Sat 23 March	(SMSJ) 9am Mass (SMSJ) 9.30am Adoration & Confessions (SMSJ) 5pm Vigil Mass	Varghese Kurikunnel (RIP)  People of the Parish	<b>PLEASE PRAY FOR:</b>  <b>CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES PREPARING FOR BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION:</b> Deborah Bentum, Samuel Hawkins, Rachel Perdigao, Mohammed Nahzari & Katharine Airestone-Thompson  <b>THE SICK:</b> Gemma Hill, Richard Girdwood, Aida Saraiva, Tiffany Menzies, Marie Anthony, Peter West, Fr Brian McMahon, Mary Alcock  <b>THE DEPARTED:</b> Fr Michael Daley, Wattie Dalton, Gamil About Shakour, George About Shakour  <i>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 for a month.</i>  <b>THE POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTION FOR MARCH:</b> For the new martyrs. We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.
Sun 24 March <b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	(SMSJ) 8.30am Mass (SMSJ) 10am Mass  (SM) 11.30am Mass	Sandra Preece (RIP) John Luke-McDonald (RIP 2nd ANN) Constance & Fred Smallwood & Minnie Jackson (RIP ANN)	
Mon 25 March <b>In Holy Week</b>	(SMSJ) 9am Adoration (SMSJ) 10am Mass	Margaret & Bernadette Hardy (INT)	
Tues 26 March <b>In Holy Week</b>	(SMSJ) 9am Adoration (SMSJ) 9.55am Mass		
Wed 27 March <b>In Holy Week</b>	(SMSJ) 9am Adoration (SMSJ) 10am Mass	Eilis & Kenneth Brill (60 Ann of Marriage)	
Thurs 28 March <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>	(SMSJ) 6pm Confessions  (SMSJ) <b>7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper, Washing of Feet &amp; Watch of Prayer</b>	<i>The Unity of Christ's Church</i>	
Fri 29 March <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	(SMSJ) 10am Stations of the Cross Across Boxmoor to St John's 10.45am Walk of Witness to Marlowes with St John's Church  (SMSJ) <b>3pm SOLEMN LITURGY</b> <i>Followed by Confessions</i>  (SMSJ) 7pm Stations of the Cross		
Sat 30 March <b>HOLY SATURDAY</b>	(SMSJ) 9am Morning Prayer  (SMSJ) 9.30am <i>Preparation &amp; Decoration of the Church</i>  (SMSJ) <b>7pm EASTER VIGIL, BAPTISMS &amp; FIRST MASS OF EASTER</b>	<i>For those to be baptised and confirmed</i>	
Sun 31 March <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>	(SMSJ) 8.30am Mass  (SMSJ) 10am Mass (SM) 11.30am Mass	<i>In Praise for the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ</i> Sr Helen Alford (INT) Aida Saraiva (Recovery & Cure from Illness)	

To say that God created light means that God created the world as a space for knowledge and truth, as a space for encounter and freedom, as a space for good and for love. Matter is fundamentally good, being itself is good. And evil does not come from God-made being, rather, it comes into existence only through denial. It is a "no".

At Easter, on the morning of the first day of the week, God said once again: "Let there be light". The night on the Mount of Olives, the solar eclipse of Jesus' passion and death, the night of the grave had all passed. Now it is the first day once again – creation is beginning anew. "Let there be light", says God, "and there was light": Jesus rises from the grave. Life is stronger than death. Good is stronger than evil. Love is stronger than hate. Truth is stronger than lies.

The darkness of the previous days is driven away the moment Jesus rises from the grave and himself becomes God's pure light. But this applies not only to him, not only to the darkness of those days. With the resurrection of Jesus, light itself is created anew. He draws all of us after him into the new light of the resurrection and he conquers all darkness. He is God's new day, new for all of us.

But how is this to come about? How does all this affect us so that instead of remaining word it becomes a reality that draws us in? Through the sacrament of baptism and the profession of faith, the Lord has built a bridge across to us, through which the new day reaches us. The Lord says to the newly-baptized: *Fiat lux* – let there be light. God's new day – the day of indestructible life, comes also to us. Christ takes you by the hand. From now on you are held by him and walk with him into the light, into real life. For this reason the early Church called baptism *photismos* – illumination.

Read more: <https://www.benedictusxvi.com/homilies/the-one-night-that-changes-everything-holy-saturday-by-pope-benedict-xvi>