

HEMEL WEST CATHOLIC PARISH

St Mary & St Joseph + St Mark

website:

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

Diocese of Westminster Charity N^o 233699

Christ is our Way, Truth and Life.

We are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God. God has poured out all these gifts on us through the Holy Spirit. We are to devote ourselves to proclaiming God's Word revealed in Christ, and to trust that Christ always has a special love and care for us.

CONTACTS FOR HEMEL WEST

Fr David Cherry

Parish Priest

The Presbytery,

186 St Johns Rd, HP1 1NR.

e: davidcherry@rcdow.org.uk

t: 01442 391759 option 3

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

t: 01442 391759 option 4

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

Sunday Cycle

Readings Year B

Weekday readings

Year 2

Divine Office

Week 4

Walk with me

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

5th Sunday of Easter

28 April 2024

ABIDE IN ME

Every one of us is faced with this choice. The Lord reminds us how much is at stake as he continues his parable: "If a man does not abide in me, he is cast forth as a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire and burned" (Jn 15:6). In his commentary on this text, Saint Augustine says: "The branch is suitable only for one of two things, either the vine or the fire: if it is not in the vine, its place will be in the fire; and that it may escape the latter, may it have its place in the vine"

The decision that is required of us here makes us keenly aware of the fundamental significance of our life choices..... It is important that we "abide" in Christ, in the vine. The evangelist uses the word "abide" a dozen times in this brief passage. This "abiding in Christ" characterizes the whole of the parable. In our era of restlessness and lack of commitment, when so many people lose their way and their grounding, when loving fidelity in marriage and friendship has become so fragile and short-lived, when in our need we cry out like the disciples on the road to Emmaus: "Lord, stay with us, for it is almost evening and darkness is all around us!" (cf. Lk 24:29), in this present era, the risen Lord gives us a place of refuge, a place of light, hope and confidence, a place of rest and security. When drought and death loom over the branches, then in Christ we find future, life and joy. In him we always find forgiveness and the opportunity to begin again, to be transformed as we are drawn into his love.

To abide in Christ means...to abide in the Church as well. The whole communion of the faithful has been firmly incorporated into the vine, into Christ. In Christ we belong together. Those who believe are not alone. We do not believe alone, we believe with the whole Church of all times and places, with the Church in heaven and the Church on earth.

The Church, as the herald of God's word and dispenser of the sacraments, joins us to Christ, the true vine. The Church as "fullness and completion of the Redeemer", as Pius XII expressed it (Pius XII, *Mystici Corporis*) is to us a pledge of divine life and mediator of those fruits of which the of which the parable of the vine speaks.

Thus, the Church is God's most beautiful gift. Therefore, Saint Augustine could say: "as much as any man loves the Church, so much has he the Holy Spirit". With and in the Church, we may proclaim to all people that Christ is the source of life, that he exists, that he is the great one for whom we keep watch, for whom we long so much. He gives himself, and thus he gives us God, happiness, and love. Whoever believes in Christ has a future. For God has no desire for what is withered, dead, ersatz, and finally discarded: he wants what is fruitful and alive, he wants life in its fullness and he gives us life in its fullness.

Pope Benedict XVI
Apostolic Journey to Germany 2011

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 9am & 4pm at 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

Wednesday 8 and 22 May, in the presbytery

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 First Holy Communion Masses

Confirmation dates to be confirmed.

KEY SAFE CODES FOR SS MARY & JOSEPH CHURCH: The key safe codes for the front and side doors at Ss Mary & Joseph were changed on Friday 19 April. We have had to change the codes as they have been shared without permission. If you have not received an email with the new codes and you need the code for the front or side church door, please email Shirley in the parish office. We have to keep a record of who have the key safe codes for diocesan audit purposes.

CAFOD: Thank you very much to everyone who donated to the CAFOD Family Fast Day collection. The parish raised £779.95. This does not include any online donation made by the parish.

BINGO: Come and join the Knights of St Columba at their monthly bingo session in the Parish Centre, Boxmoor on Thursday 2 May, at 1.30pm. Refreshments will be provided. For enquiries call Tom Joyce on 07825 173878.

CHURCH CLEANERS: Would you like to help keep clean Ss Mary & Joseph church. If this is something you are interested in doing please do speak to Shirley in the office or email her at shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk

MISSING A PRECIOUS MISSAL BOOK LEFT IN CHURCH: On Palm Sunday Monica Thurlow came to Mass to say farewell to Fr Bernard at Ss Mary & Joseph. Unfortunately, she left her missal behind. In it are treasured personal cards, prayers and remembrances. It is a CBC edition, maroon coloured, with a cross on the cover. Thinking it was another item kindly left for others to take for their use, it was removed. If you have it please return it to Fr David so that it can be reunited with Monica. Thank you so much.

TRAINING FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION: Wednesdays 8 & 22 May, after the 7pm Mass in the presbytery. If you would like to continue or explore taking part in this ministry please let Fr David know you would like to attend. The annual commissioning will be on Corpus Christi.

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. The deadline for the deposit has been extended. More news to follow at the end of May.

JOHN F KENNEDY SCHOOL ARE SEEKING EXAM INVIGILATORS FOR MAY/JUNE: The rate of pay is £11.44 per hour and full training will be provided. You would need to be available from 8.15am for morning exams and from 1pm for afternoon exams, some finishing at 4.30pm. Application forms can be found on the school website or contact the school if you would like a paper application. Please return or email your completed application form to efinal@jfk.herts.sch.uk. Applications should be submitted immediately, potential candidates will be called for an interview as applications are received.

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS: The Baptism Preparation Class takes place on the last Thursday of the month at 7pm. To book go to the link below or on the parish website on the Events page. For more details call Shirley on 01442 391 759 option 2. <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempesteadwest/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 at shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk by Wednesday 12 Noon and she will do her best to accommodate it.

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

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 (during 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 The 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

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.

THE DIVINE MERCY APOSTOLATE: They are holding a First Saturday Divine Mercy Recollection Day at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, on Saturday 1 June, from 11am until 430pm. The Recollection Day will include teachings on the Message of Mercy, Holy Mass, Stations of the Cross, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All welcome. Call Millie on 07957594646 for more information. Coaches from Ealing Broadway and Victoria.

OTHER NEWS

A YEAR OF ENCOUNTER: With a UK general election due sometime this year, politicians will be looking for our votes. We have a responsibility as Catholics to make sure that parties commit to tackling issues such as poverty and injustice. Raising our voices and contacting parliamentary candidates as a parish community will send a strong signal to those standing for election in our local constituencies. A Year of Encounter is a joint initiative between CAFOD and St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), equipping Catholics to ask key questions of local candidates at the key moments. Please see cafod.org.uk/encounter for more information, including online sessions on Thursday 25 April and Saturday 4 May to learn more.

PRAYER

GOSPEL READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Mon.	John	14:21 – 26
Tues.	John	14:27 – 31
Wed.	Matthew	13:54 - 58
Thurs.	John	15:9- 11
Fri.	John	15:12 – 17
Sat.	John	15:18 – 21
Sun	John	15:9 – 17

Prayer

O Lord, grant us the grace to grow deeper in our care for your creation. Help us to recognise the sacredness of all of your creatures, as signs of your wondrous love.

Help us to turn from the selfish consumption of resources meant for all, and to see the impacts of our choices on the poor and vulnerable. Amen.

(Earth Day - Monday 22 April)

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.

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

Loose Cash & Contactless	£2,449.99
Standing Orders	£4,357.02
Total	£6,807.01

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.

HEMEL WEST OFFICE HOURS

OFFICE HOURS AND TELEPHONE COVER FOR HEMEL WEST	
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

THIS WEEK
28 April – 5 May

Sat 27 April Easter Feria	(SMSJ) 9am Adoration & Confessions (SMSJ) 10am Mass (SMSJ) 12noon Baptisms (SMSJ) 5pm Mass	Thanksgiving for All Who Work in Care Homes Ronnie, Louie, & Olivia Horsted First Holy Communion Candidates & their Families	<p>PLEASE PRAY FOR:</p> <p>THE POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTION FOR APRIL: For the role of women. We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognised in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.</p> <p>TO BE BAPTISED: Ronnie, Louie, & Olivia Horsted, Shannon Ferrao & Matthew De Sousa</p> <p>THE SICK: Ellen Brett, Eileen Stokes, Gemma Hill, Richard Girdwood, Aida Saraiva, Tiffany Menzies, Marie Anthony, Peter West, Fr Brian McMahan, Mary Alcock</p> <p>THE DEPARTED: Eileen Stokes Mary Foley, Deirdre Feahilly, William Brill (Funeral 21 May 12n) Peter Canon (Funeral 22 May 10am) Geraldine Latimer, Anna Vitoria, Fr Michael Daley, Wattie Dalton,</p> <p><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></p>
Sun 28 April EASTER V	(SMSJ) 8.30am Mass (SMSJ) 10am Mass (SM) 11.30am Mass (SMSJ) 1.30pm Baptism	John Durcan (6th RIP ANNIV) People of the Parish Jimmy Cash (RIP) Shannon Ferrao	
Mon 29 April St Catherine of Siena, V & Dr	(SMSJ) 10am Mass & Baptism	Baby Matthew De Sousa	
Tues 30 April Easter Feria	(SMSJ) 10am Mass	Jaganath Karunarathna (RIP)	
Wed 1 May Easter Feria	(SMSJ) 9am Adoration (SMSJ) 10am Mass (SMSJ) 7pm. Mass	In Thanksgiving for Our Priests	
Thurs 2 May St Athanasius, B & Dr	(SMSJ) 10am. Mass (SM) 7pm Mass	For an End to Abortion Seth Schor (RIP ANNIV)	
Fri 3 May Ss Philip & James, App	(SMSJ) 10am Mass	Christa Wood (RIP)	
Sat 4 May Easter Feria	(SMS) 9am Adoration & Confessions (SMSJ) 10am Mass (SMS) 5pm Vigil Mass	John Nevin (Birthday) Martin Dalton (RIP ANIV)	
Sun 5 May EASTER VI	(SMSJ) 8.30am Mass (SMSJ) 10am Mass (SM) 11.30am Mass	Maureen Albert (RIP ANNIV) Brendan Darker (RIP ANNIV) People of the Parish	
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday: 9am & 4pm at SS Mary & Joseph church and by appointment.			