

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

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
Parish Catechetical Coordinator
e: cmoore@jfk.herts.sch.uk
t: 01442 391759 option 4

PARISH SAFEGAURDING REPS

Loretta Anderson
e: hhwestsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Tony Adams
e: hhwestsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk
Alternatively contact:
e: safeguarding@rcdow.org.uk

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: Year C
Weekday readings: Year 1
Divine Office: Week 3

To "return to God with all your heart" on this Lenten journey means embracing the cross, following Christ along the path which leads to Calvary, unto complete self-giving. It is a journey which teaches us each day to abandon our selfishness and self-absorption in order to make room for God, who opens and transforms our hearts.

Benedict XVI

3rd Sunday in Lent

23 March 2025

The search for meaning

The world of today reveals itself as at once powerful and weak, capable of achieving the best or the worst. There lies open before it the way to freedom or slavery, progress or regression, brotherhood or hatred. In addition, man is becoming aware that it is for himself to give the right direction to forces that he himself has awakened, forces that can be his master or his servant. He therefore puts questions to himself.

The tensions disturbing the world of today are in fact related to a more fundamental tension rooted in the human heart. In man himself many elements are in conflict with each other. On one side, he has experience of his many limitations as a creature. On the other, he knows that there is no limit to his aspirations, and that he is called to a higher kind of life.

Many things compete for his attention, but he is always compelled to make a choice among them, and to renounce some. What is more, in his weakness and sinfulness he often does what he does not want to do, and fails to do what he would like to do. In consequence, he suffers from a conflict within himself, and this in turn gives rise to so many great tensions in society.

Very many people, infected as they are with a materialistic way of life, cannot see this dramatic state of affairs in all its clarity, or at least are prevented from giving thought to it because of the unhappiness that they themselves experience.

Many think that they can find peace in the different philosophies that are proposed.

Some look for complete and genuine liberation for man from man's efforts alone. They are convinced that the coming kingdom of man on earth will satisfy all the desires of his heart.

There are those who despair of finding any meaning in life: they commend the boldness of those who deny all significance to human existence in itself, and seek to impose a total meaning on it only from within themselves.

But in the face of the way the world is developing today, there is an ever increasing number of people who are asking the most fundamental questions or are seeing them with a keener awareness: What is man? What is the meaning of pain, of evil, of death, which still persist in spite of such great progress? What is the use of those successes, achieved at such a cost? What can man contribute to society, what can he expect from society? What will come after this life on earth?

The Church believes that Christ died and rose for all, and can give man light and strength through his Spirit to fulfil his highest calling; his is the only name under heaven in which men can be saved.

So too the Church believes that the centre and goal of all human history is found in her Lord and Master.

The Church also affirms that underlying all changes there are many things that do not change; they have their ultimate foundation in Christ, who is the same yesterday, today and for ever.

Gaudium et Spes (The Joys and Hopes)

Second Vatican Council Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, 9-10

Preparation for the Holy Week & Easter Liturgies: Come and sing!
Mondays 7.30pm – 8.45pm any singers & musicians

Especially for our Young People: Fridays 5.45pm-6.45pm, parents & anyone else.

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.

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 so that he can arrange for you to receive Holy Communion at home.

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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FIRST RECONCILIATIONS: Saturday 29 March, at 11am

PALM SUNDAY & BEGINNING OF HOLY WEEK: 13 April

EASTER SUNDAY: 20 April

PRAY HEMEL: Saturday 3 May, 7.30am at Ss Mary & Joseph. All are welcome.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS: Saturday 10 & 17 May at 11am & 2pm

THE KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA QUIZ: Saturday 10 May, 7pm in the Parish Centre, Boxmoor

ST MARK'S CHURCH 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: 25 May, 11.30am at St Mark's with Cardinal Vincent Nichols.

WALKING PILGRIMAGE TO ST ALBAN'S: Saturday 7 June

CORPUS CHRISTI WEEKEND: 21 & 22 June

RETREAT DAY OF RECOLLECTION: Saturday 21 June at SMSJ.

Two addresses on the Eucharist will be given during the day with Holy Hours. Fr John Farrell OP will guide us and preach at Mass on this weekend. *Times of talks: to be decided.*

JUBILEE INTERNATIONAL SUPPER EVENING: In the Autumn. Date TBC.

THE RELICS OF SS COLUMBA, ANDREW & MARGARET OF SCOTLAND: Thanks to the Knights of Columba the relics of these heroes of the Faith will be visiting us and will arrive on the evening of Sunday 28 September for just one day. There will be Mass the following day Monday 29 September, at 10am in the presence of the relics, with veneration of the relics and time for prayer.

ST MARK'S SUNDAY 11.30AM MASS: Please note that on the following dates, **Sunday 23 March** and **Sunday 27 April**, Mass will be celebrated at **Ss Mary & Joseph at 12 noon**. John F Kennedy School are having large events taking place in the school on these dates and we will be unable to use St Mark's church.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES TOGETHER AT MASS: First Sunday of the Month 11.30am at St Mark's.

YOUTH SERVICE: Second Sunday of the month, after the 10am Mass at Ss Mary & Joseph.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CANDIDATES TOGETHER AT MASS: The last Saturday of the month at the 5pm Mass at Ss Mary & Joseph.

YOUTH GROUP WITH CATECHESIS: Last Sunday of the month after 10am Mass at Ss Mary & Joseph.

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). Please contact Fran Moore if you can help at cmoore@jfk.herts.sch.uk

MONTHLY YOUTH GROUP: Meeting usually on the last Sunday of the month after the 10am Mass, the Youth Group is open to all those in secondary school for a time of games, discussion, praise and pizza. The dates for this year are: 30 March, 27 April, 25 May, 15 June and 20 July.

YOUTH SERVICE: Meeting usually on the second Sunday of each month after the 10am Mass, the Youth Service group is open to all who are in year 3 upwards who want to take a role of service in our Mass. We practise reading, altar serving, singing and welcoming and finish with pizza. The dates for this year are 13 April, 11 May, 8 June and 13 July.

GUILD OF ST STEPHEN: The Guild trains and supports all those who would like to serve at the Altar in the parish. Speak with Callum for more details. Training can begin on the job but all servers are expected to attend training on the following days 10.30am until 12 noon on 29 March and 21 June.

SERVERS' PREPARATION FOR MASS & SAFEGUARDING: Parents please note that children cannot be alone with one adult in preparation for Mass. Please get your children to church 15 minutes before Mass begins, help them find a robe that fits so that they are ready 5 minutes before Mass to pray.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

RCIA: The next session is on Tuesday 25 March, 7.30pm-9pm in the Presbytery. This is open to any 18+ person to deepen their understanding of faith and commitment by taking part and also inspiring new explorers of the Christian faith in their developing understanding and relationship with the Lord Jesus and his Church.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR RCIA CANDIDATES

Scrutiny 1 – Sunday 23 March 8.30am Mass

Scrutiny 2 – Sunday 30 March 10am Mass

Scrutiny 3 – Sunday 6 April 11.30am Mass

Mass of Thanksgiving for new Catholics at Westminster Cathedral: Saturday 10 May, 6.30pm

PRAYER

GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE FORTHCOMING WEEK:

Mon. Luke 4:24 – 30

Tues. Luke 1:26 - 38

Wed. Matthew 5:17 - 19

Thurs. Luke 11:14 - 23

Fri. Mark 12:28 - 34

Sat. Luke 18:9 - 14

Sun. Luke 15:1 – 3, 11-32

Prayer

Dear God, give us the courage to challenge those norms that perpetuate injustice and induce harm to those around us. Amen

PARISH INFORMATION

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

PARISH OFFICE: Please note that the parish office will be closed on Thursday 27 March, as Shirley is on a Parish Administrators and Bookkeepers Day.

CARDINAL'S LENTEN APPEAL 2025: Donation envelopes are available today, in the church porch and you can also contribute online using the QR code on the poster. Thank you.

MISSIO (RED BOX): Thank you to all those parishioners who contribute to Missio through the red box scheme or by a regular donation. We will be emptying the red boxes during May and November and so please look out for the reminders in the newsletter. The Spring edition of Mission Today is now available at the back of the church. Contact Janice Varney on 07847 167969 for further details.

MEMORY CAFÉ: Home Instead which is a local care company are pleased to announce that the café will be held in Croft Hall at Our Lady's 2.30pm until 4pm on the following dates: Monday 24 March and Monday 14 April. The Memory Café is a comfortable social gathering that allows people experiencing memory loss accompanied by a loved one or carer to connect, socialise, and build new support networks. We will be providing various activities, entertainment, tea/cake and biscuits. Please come and join us as it is free to attend.

JOHN F KENNEDY SCHOOL: They are seeking a SEN Administrator, a Teaching Assistant for a Visually Impaired Student, a Cover Supervisor and Exam Invigilators. Go to the link for more details: <https://www.eteach.com/careers/ascatonline/>

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/hemelhempsteadwest/events/>

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 and the proceeds go to support our priest. If this is unaffordable for you, please feel free to make an offering you can afford.

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.

ACROSS THE DIOCESE

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE WEEKEND: Beginning Experience is a special residential weekend programme for widowed, separated and divorced people, which helps participants with natural

feelings of grief and loss. Trained volunteers, who have experienced adjusting to life as single people again, lead the weekend. This next programme is 4 until 6 April at the Sion Community, Essex; for further details please contact: Mary on 07730 884315 or email BeginningExperience.SoE@gmail.com

YOUNG ADULTS LENT RETREAT DAY: This is with the Assumption Sisters on Saturday 5 April, 10am until 5.30pm at Milleret House, 20 Kensington Square, London, W8 5HH. The Programme includes: talk, prayer, adoration, confessions, faith sharing, Mass and social time. Donations only. Register by emailing rebecca@assumpta-eu.org

REDISCOVER YOUR MARRIAGE: Retrouvaille offers you the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. 10s of 1000s headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. There is no group therapy or group work. The next programme commences with a weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 20 until 22 June. Call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com

PILGRIMAGE TO ST EDMUND'S COLLEGE, WARE: Cardinal Nichols will lead a Pilgrimage to St Edmund's College, Ware, on Saturday 12 July and all are encouraged and invited to attend. The day will commence with Mass in the grounds at 12 noon. Further information will soon be available and will be circulated to all parishes.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 25 JULY - 1 AUGUST 2025: Registration for the Westminster diocesan pilgrimage led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols is now open via the online form at <https://pilgrimages.rcdow.org.uk> or by contacting the Pilgrimage Office on 020 7798 9173. Options to travel by plane or train are available and there are many volunteering opportunities for those wishing to serve. All applications to be submitted by Wednesday 30 April.

FINANCES



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 PARISH OFFICE HOURS

| Telephone cover | 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

SMSJ: Ss Mary & Joseph Church, St John's Road, Boxmoor, HP1 1NR
SM: St Mark's Church, John F Kennedy School, Hollybush Lane, HP1 2PH

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| Sat 22 March Lent Feria | (SMSJ) 9am Adoration & Confessions (SMSJ) 10am Mass | Natalie Villavicencio (8 th RIP ANNIV) | PLEASE PRAY FOR: THE POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTION FOR MARCH: For families in crisis Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences. THE ELECT (to be Baptised and Confirmed): Christina Preece, Robert Preece, Clirim Kociu, Kevin Mustaj CANDIDATES (to be Received &/ Confirmed): James Lodge & Edward Gamblin THE SICK: Lucy Chapman, Ellen Brett, Fr Dennis Opoku, Sabina Xavier, Jacqueline Austin, Winifred Courage, Shehan Peiris, Elizabeth McDonald, Merril Delaney, Janet Kelly, Marie Anthony, Pete West, Terry Pearson, Mary Alcock THE RECENTLY DEPARTED: Janet Kelly, Fr Bernard Scholes, Stella Bailey, Mary (Pat) Wollington. Funeral: Janet Kelly (Thursday 10 April, 11.30am at SMSJ) <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> |
| 3rd Sunday in Lent | (SMSJ) 11am First Reconciliations (SMSJ) 4pm Sacrament of Reconciliation (SMSJ) 5pm Mass | Groups 1 & 2 People of the Parish | |
| Sun 23 March 3rd Sunday in Lent | (SMSJ) 7.30am Holy Hour of Adoration (SMSJ) 8.30am Mass (SMSJ) 10am Mass (SMSJ) 12 noon Mass (No Mass at St Mark's) | Henry & Ellen Gaitskell (RIP) Barry Albert (RIP) Constance & Fred Smallwood & Minnie Jackson (RIP ANNIV) | |
| Mon 24 March Lent Feria | NO MASS | | |
| Tues 25 March THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD | (SMSJ) 10am Mass | John Luke-McDonald (3rd RIP ANNIV) | |
| Wed 26 March Lent Feria | (SMSJ) 9am Adoration & Confessions (SMSJ) 10am Mass No 7pm Mass at SMSJ <i>(because of JFK Governors meeting)</i> | Paul Pinto (10th RIP ANNIV) | |
| Thurs 27 March Lent Feria | (SMSJ) 10am Mass | Stan Bryant (RIP) | |
| Fri 28 March Lent Feria | (SMSJ) 9am Holy Hour of Adoration (SMSJ) 10am Mass (SMSJ) Stations of the Cross after Mass <i>JFK 1.45pm weekly Mass</i> | Private Intention | |
| Sat 29 March Lent Feria | (SMSJ) 9am Adoration & Confessions (SMSJ) 10am Mass | Fr Bernard Scholes (RIP) | |
| 4th Sunday Lent | (SMSJ) 4pm Sacrament of Reconciliation (SMSJ) 5pm Mass | Holy souls in Purgatory | |
| Sun 30 March 4th Sunday of Lent | (SMSJ) 7.30am Holy Hour of Adoration (SMSJ) 8.30am Mass (SMSJ) 10am Mass (SM) 11.30am Mass | People of the Parish Private Intention Jimmy Cash (RIP) | |

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday: 9am & 4pm at SS Mary & Joseph Church and by appointment.

E-ALERTS FOR LATEST PARISH NEWS

Please sign up to the parish e-alerts to receive any changes to Mass times and other breaking news.

