

HEMEL WEST CATHOLIC PARISH
Ss Mary and Joseph, Boxmoor
and St Mark, Hollybush Lane



***WORSHIP AND
SPIRITUALITY***



***BELONGING &
PARTICIPATION***
*in various groups
and activities*



GROWING IN FAITH
*Personally
and as a
Community*



SERVING
*the Church
community and
those beyond*

Week One

OUR CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

***"...serve one another with whatever gift
each of you has received" - 1 Peter 4:10***

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

1 Thessalonians 5.16-18

Dear Parishioners of Hemel West Parish

It is some years since we had a Planned Giving Campaign in our Parish. Over the next three weeks we want to bring your attention to the vision of the parish and its mission of bringing others to Christ. This involves taking account of our commitment and involvement in our parish with our gifts as well as the necessary re-assessment of our financial needs for the mission of the Parish.

But first, thank you for all that you have done and continue to do for the Parish. We have beautiful buildings in which to offer Mass. Indeed, this is the heart of all that we do. Our lives are ordered towards God by **WORSHIP** because it is Jesus himself in the Eucharist who is the source and the summit of our lives. The mission of the Church is to bring others to him so that they experience that they too **BELONG** to him, have opportunity to **GROW** in personal faith, and learn that by **SERVING** him, by giving of ourselves, each in our own way, contributes to his great enterprise of his Kingdom on earth.

You can put these words: **WORSHIP, BELONG, GROW** and **SERVING** in any order you like. We are all so different, but it is **RESPONDING** to his call that counts.

There are various ways to hear God’s call and respond with your gifts. It begins in a faithful commitment to the Mass. From Him flows life to others in catechetical programmes: Preparation for Holy Baptism, Preparation for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion (over 70 young people in 2026), Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation (about 45 candidates in 2026) and Adult Formation, now over 20. In these ways we try to respond to all who seek a deeper understanding of the Faith and their faith in the Lord.

The sense of belonging and service is to be found in these groups,

as well as in the Catholic Women's League, St Joseph Mens Group, our Women's Faith Gathering group, the Knights of St Columba and the CARITAS teas.

All this we already rejoice in and seek to build on. Giving of ourselves, generously, beyond our lives as we see them now, responding to the needs of others to overcome loneliness and isolation, as we experience the communion of God as persons made for relationship, one in him.

To support this endeavour in our own corner of his kingdom I invite you to prayerfully consider once again the call of the Lord Jesus.

“Lord, what do you ask of me?”

Three 'T's may help you think about HOW you might contribute in any of the ways below

TIME..? TALENTS..? TREASURE..?

In leaflets and announcements we will explain the needs of our campaign so that all our talents and endeavours, the use of our properties and finances can better serve the purpose God has given us.

God bless you. God love you.

Father David

THANK YOU for your part in the mission of God's Church, including others in and building up the Body of Christ among us.



WORSHIP

Habituates us to the kingdom of God, we find the pole of our lives: Him.

The Church has had some elements added to its beauty for worship and as a place of prayer in recent years.

In 2025 we upgraded the sound system and live-stream equipment and added projectors for ease of worship. For both our churches this cost £60k.



BELONGING & PARTICIPATION

Youth Groups and activities
Catholic Women's League
Men of St Joseph
Singers & Musicians
Altar Servers
Knights of St Columba
Women's Faith Gathering

Adult Formation Group
Hospitality after mass
Parish Breakfasts, International Meals
Flower arrangers
Church Cleaners



GROWING IN FAITH

Baptism Preparation

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Groups

Confirmation Groups



SERVING

Holy Communion to the housebound

Bingo

Caritas Teas for older persons

Charities, near and far, we support, stretching wider God's kingdom of Justice and Peace

...whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Philippians 4.8

OUR PARISH VISION

Bringing others to Christ in the life of his Church

Building on the work of the past and going on in the present let us seek to respond yet more faithfully to God's call.

Our Parish comprises two churches – Ss Mary and Joseph in Boxmoor and St Mark in JFK School, Hollybush Lane and three schools: St Rose Infant School, St Cuthbert Mayne Junior School and JFK senior School. Our endeavour is to draw our Catholic families to worship the Lord Jesus in School and Church. The Faith needs to be taught and practised in these communities so that our young people are formed as Christians and not by the mores of secular society. Adult seekers and families need to find a ready welcome from those who are long-standing members of the Church so that they feel they can belong.

Maintaining and updating our premises – Churches and Halls so that they are comfortable and hospitable.

AND LOOKING TO THE FUTURE..

A FIVE YEAR VISION

By the year 2030 we aspire to be a Parish Community which we can confidently say is..

- ✓ A VIBRANT and WELCOMING community
- ✓ A COMMUNITY, confident in Faith and its Mission to others
- ✓ A SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY, caring for those in need with respect and dignity
- ✓ Providing COMFORTABLE, SAFE and SECURE churches and rooms for our activities and for others
- ✓ Maintaining our PROPERTIES and FACILITIES for our mission
- ✓ Supported by FINANCIAL STABILITY AND SECURITY

**DID YOU
KNOW...**

**...we do not receive funding
from the government, the
Vatican or Diocese?**

As well as the constant maintenance, repairs and adaptations which are needed throughout the year...

We are now entering a new phase of much needed renovation of the exterior of Ss Mary and Joseph. This will include the roof tiles, replacing the dormer windows and flat roofs, renovating the guttering and eye-level windows, repainting the exterior, installing a disabled ramp for easy access to St Joseph's Hall for our use and for others who use it for meetings or classes.

Did you know that in the past two years alone the cost for capital building and conservation works has risen by over 140%!

We are exploring establishing a Fabric Fund which will be separate from our Running Costs and specifically targeted to building work.

WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

All we have comes from God, so we are His Stewards.

But what is 'stewardship'? To see oneself as a steward is to see oneself as a beneficiary of God's gifts entrusted to you for a while and to use them for a greater cause.

We might then say that stewardship is responsible management of God's gifts to us personally and as Church for God's mission in society.

There are beautiful stories of people receiving mercy and generosity from others who then pay it forward so that others can benefit. This is of the gospel of the Lord Jesus.

These gifts are our faith, our skills and talents as well as money and possessions. Together, let us regularly reflect on our blessings and continue our faith through our giving, which will help us with our personal and spiritual growth. By giving to God & to others, we grow & we can give by:

- Joyfully recalling that all we have comes from God
- Declaring our trust in His provision and care
- Share in the joy of giving and seeing the amazing fruits it brings

“...all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.”
 1 Chronicles 29:14

What does this Parish and my church mean to me?

As Stewards of this Parish, we are each responsible for the upkeep of our Parish, with a duty to pass it on to future generations in even better condition than when we received it. What you decide to give is personal to you.

TO HELP YOU DECIDE....

Biblically and historically people gave 10% of their income. Some prefer to follow the “5 plus 5” model.

As an example, you might want to think about:

- **5** hours of service to Parish ministry (sharing your time, talents and prayer)
- **5%** of your income.

Whatever you decide, the amount should suit your circumstances and be meaningful to you. The table here can help you to work out suggested **weekly** giving percentages and amounts, according to the hourly wage rates and annual salaries shown.

HOURLY WAGE	ANNUAL SALARY	2% Weekly Giving	3% Weekly Giving	5% Weekly Giving
£14.80*	£28,860	£11	£16.65	£27.75
£15	£30,000	£11.50	£17	£29
£20	£36,000	£14	£21	£35
£25	£46,000	£18	£26	£44
£30	£55,000	£21	£32	£53
£38	£70,000	£27	£40	£67

7 *As of May 2026, the London Living Wage is calculated at £14.80 per hour

Please take this leaflet away with you

***If you have any questions, please ask a volunteer after
Mass or contact:***

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***To stay informed or donate to our parish online,
please visit: [https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/
hemelhempsteadwest/](https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/)***

WRCDT – Charity Number 233699

