HEMEL WEST CATHOLIC PARISH

St Mary & St Joseph + St Mark

website:
https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/

Diocese of Westminster Charity NO 233699

CONTACTS FOR HEMEL WEST

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PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPS
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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

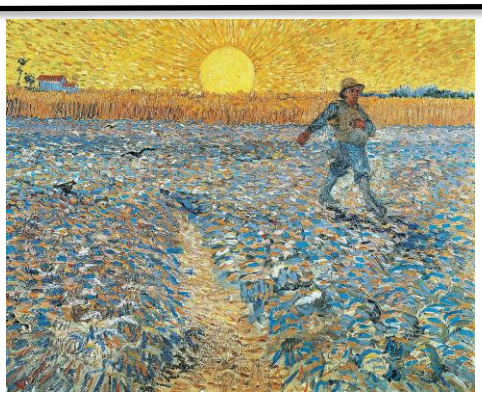
Sunday Cycle: Year A
Week Day Readings Year: 2
Divine Office: Week 3

Jesus summons apostles whom he shapes and sends on mission. Priests, through the centuries... have been needed in every age, and they are needed today, for the kingdom of heaven must be proclaimed, the poor must be served, God must be worshipped, and the sacraments must be administered.

Spiritual fathers are required especially in our time, when a rising tide of secularism threatens to overwhelm the religious impulse. We are wired for God; we will never satisfy the deepest longing of our hearts apart from God.

The secularist ideology teaches that sufficient amounts of wealth, pleasure, power, or honour will make us happy. Who will counter this? Who will speak to this culture of the beauty of God? Who will remind us that our lives are not about us? Who will break open the words of the gospel and spread out the banquet table of Christ's body and blood? This is why we need priests.

Bishop Robert Barron, Gospel Reflections



15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
12 July 2026

A sower went forth to sow...
Matthew 13.1-23

...before looking in detail at the parable of the seed, the good news of the kingdom, falling on several soils with varying levels of long-term fruitfulness, let us take another significant 'seed' saying of Jesus, from just before his Passion: 'Unless a grain of wheat shall fall upon the earth and die it remains but a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit' (John 12.24).

Christ is both the Sower and the Seed. Sent by the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit 'dying he destroyed our death and rising he restored our life.' Dying to the old and rising to newness of life is part of God's providence in both nature and in our engracing.

If the seed sown is life in the Holy Trinity, then our response is not to be passive, but the 'ground' of our living is to be a Spirit gift of both receptivity and a vigilance against all that can harm impede and kill that gift. 'Deliver us from evil and lead us not into temptation.'

... In the course of our Christian living, we may pass through many of the 'grounds' of the parable: a superficial receptivity but lacking roots when times are difficult; choked by surrounding distractions of the false gods of wealth and pleasure; blighted by cares, anxieties, or listlessness.

A tree that is not growing is facing death, and so too is a Christian who is not growing in that honesty and goodness of heart and in patient endurance overtime, dying to the old and rising to newness of life again and again, day by day.

Fr John Farrel OP, Full text

THANK YOU TO THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE and all who attended for a wonderful Strawberry Tea last Saturday, which raied £810 for The Rennie Grove Peace Hospice Care and Lyndia Jackson Macmillan Centre. Photographs

LUMINESCENCE: Discover Westminster Cathedral as you've never seen it before
The story of the city voiced by star of Paddington and Downton Abbey, Hugh Bonneville. An incredible immersive 360° video projection concert that has captivated over 2 million people worldwide.



OPPOSE ASSISTED SUICIDE Archbishop Richard Moth, President of the Bishops' Conference, explains our strong opposition to this legislation:

"The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill which aims to legalise assisted suicide has returned to the House of Commons, and Members of Parliament will vote on its Second Reading on 11 September. This bill is wrong in principle. It is also deeply flawed and, if passed, could lead to vulnerable people feeling pressured into ending their lives.

"The Bill has a serious lack of protection for health and social care staff and risks putting many wonderful hospices and care homes in the position of no longer being able to operate.

"I urge you to write to your Members of Parliament to petition them to vote against the Bill at Second Reading." *Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales*

Ask your MP to vote NO to Assisted Suicide on 11 September

Parish News

Welcome to the parish of Hemel West. Please make yourself known to Fr David, by speaking to him after Mass or by contacting him on 01442 391759 option 3.

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 8am-8.45am & 4pm-4.45pm at Ss Mary & Joseph and by appointment.

Getting Married in Church?
Please give at least 6 months' notice if you want to get married in a Catholic Church. This is because there is 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

WOMEN'S FAITH GATHERING: Monday 13 July, 6pm in St Joseph's Hall.
PARISH FUNDRAISING LUNCH IN AID OF THE PARISH BUILDING FUND: Friday 17 July, in the Parish Centre, Boxmoor at 12.45pm-4.30pm. Food provided by The Cochin
PILGRIMAGE TO OUR CATHEDRAL Saturday 18 July with Fr David for 10.30am Latin Sung Mass & tour. Email Fr David.
FR DAVID will be away on holiday in Devon 20-24 July
ST JOSEPH MEN'S GROUP: Friday 24 July, hike up Ivingho beacon and supper in a pub.
FR DON CALLOWAY talk Sunday 16 August, 6pm Mass followed by talk, St Joseph's Bedwell Crescent, Stevenage SG1 1NG
CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Thursday 3 September, 7.30pm in St Joseph's Hall
ST CARLO ACUTIS MISSION from Assisi, 13-18 September in our Schools and Churches. Details to follow
DIOCESAN DAY PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM Saturday 19 September. Details to follow.

PARISH NEWS

LAST CHANCE TO BOOK FOR THE PARISH FUNDRAISING LUNCH: Friday 17 July, in the Parish Centre, Boxmoor at 12.45pm until 4.30pm. The food will be provided by The Cochin Restaurant, please bring your own drinks. **Tickets £20 per head** and need to be paid in advance. There will also be a quiz and a raffle. All the proceeds will go to the Parish Building Fund. Call Irene Soares on 07377804128 or email valsoares@aol.com ***to book by Monday 13 July.***

THANK YOU FROM THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE: On Saturday 4 July, they held a Strawberry Tea in the Parish Centre, Boxmoor to raise funds for two charities, The Rennie Grove Peace Hospice Care and Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre and raised £810 which will be divided between the two charities. The afternoon was very well supported by parishioners, CWL members and friends. A really big thank you to everyone who helped them on the day and for your support.

FLOWERS IN MEMORY: Offerings for Flowers can be made using the QR code on the poster at the back of the church or on the parish website; or by making your donation in cash in an envelope marked flowers and the church name with your notes for the memorial to be added to the newsletter, ensuring you give two weeks' notice.

SAFEGUARDING

SERVERS: Parents, please note that children cannot be alone with one adult in preparation for Mass. Please bring your children to church 15 minutes before Mass begins and help them find a robe that fits so that they are ready 5 minutes before Mass to pray**.**

SAFEGUARDING REMINDER: Our Safeguarding Representatives are reminding all parents and guardians, that children must ***not*** use the toilets on their own during Mass. If your child is in year 6 or below, they must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING: A reminder that DBS Certificate holders need to complete the online safeguarding training every 3 years. The training takes one hour and Loretta has offered the Roundhouse for those without IT skills or equipment. For more details contact Tony at hhwestsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

PRAYER

GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE FORTHCOMING WEEK:

Mon.	Matthew	10:34 - 11:1
Tues.	Matthew	11:20 - 24
Wed.	Matthew	11:25 - 27
Thurs.	Matthew	11:28 - 30
Fri.	Matthew	12:1 - 8
Sat.	Matthew	12:14 - 21
Sun	Matthew	13:24 – 43

Dear God, please give us the courage to challenge those norms that perpetuate injustice, and induce harm to those around us. Help us always to be empowered by truth, understanding its ability to right wrongs, and bring forth healing and restoration. Amen

YOUTH MINISTRY

PATHWAYS IN DISCIPLESHIP
Worship, Belonging, Growing and Serving

GROWING IN FAITH: YOUTH GROUP WITH CATECHESIS: 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.

YOUTH IN SERVICE meets on the second Sunday of each month after the 10am Mass. This group is open to all who are in year 3 upwards who want to take a part in our Mass. We practise reading, altar serving, singing and finish with pizza.

GUILD OF ST STEPHEN: The Guild trains and supports all those who would like to serve at the Altar in the parish. Training can begin on the job but all servers are expected to attend a training session. *Contact Callum for further details.*

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

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

PARISH GROUPS

WOMEN'S FAITH GATHERING: For women wishing to grow in faith together. This is a welcoming group where women can support one another through prayer, fellowship and open discussion. The next session will take place on Monday 11 July, 6pm in St Joseph's Hall.

ADULT FORMATION AND RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults): Tuesdays in St Joseph's Hall, 7pm until 8.30pm. We welcome all those who wish to explore the Catholic faith with those who seek Holy Baptism and Reception into the Catholic Church. Come follow him!

ST JOSEPH MEN'S GROUP for all men, fathers & sons (16+) will meet again **NOT on Friday 31 July but on Friday 24 July, a walk up Ivingho Beacon and supper in a pub.** Please let Fr David know if you are coming.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE: All are welcome to join the CWL Thursday 3 September, 7.30pm in St Joseph's Hall.

BELONGING & SERVING

CARITAS TEAS are usually held on the **3rd Sunday of the month**, 2-4pm in Croft Hall at Our Lady's, Hemel East. New guests and volunteers would be welcome. For more details contact Paul Heatley on 07711 384 061.

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM OF INFANTS: PREPARATION SESSIONS are on the last Thursday of the month in Church, 7-8pm with Fr David. **THE NEXT SESSION: Thursday 30 July (not 23rd). *Please let Shirley know if you are coming*** **at** shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk All Information, documents and requirements are at 'Infant Baptism' on the parish website.

MASS INTENTIONS: If you would like a Mass offered for a 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.

ACROSS THE DIOCESE

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT: At St Peter and St Paul, Clerkenwell. Marriage enrichment sessions with Fr Ivano Millico. 17 July: Believing in the promise and 31 July: Loving with the help of grace, from 8.15pm until 9pm. For more details call 020 7837 2094.

PRO- LIFE PILGRIMAGE TO OUR LADY'S SHRINE AT WALSINGHAM: This year's pilgrimage is on Saturday 1 August, 12 noon until 4.30pm, beginning with the Pilgrim Mass at noon. The Celebrant is Rev Peter Collins, Bishop of East Anglia. Coach leaves Harpenden, outside the Chef Peking, AL5 2TP at 7.30am and St Bartholomew's church, AL1 2PE at 7.50am. Price: £30 adults & £12 children. To book, contact Geraldine on 07971028415.

CHARITIES WE SUPPORT

SPUC (White Flower Appeal 2026): The Society for the Protection of Unborn children will be holding its annual appeal next weekend. SPUC exists to radically transform culture so that abortion is not only abolished but becomes truly unthinkable. To accomplish this mission, the Society is positioning initiatives in politics, education, legislation, and culture. Through these efforts we will restore a respect for the sanctity of human life to our society. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC defend unborn babies and their mothers.

CAFOD APPEAL FOR VENEZUELA: The UN estimates that millions of people have been affected by the disaster. Thousands of people have been killed and the death toll continues to rise. Many more people are still missing. Hospitals are under extreme pressure as they treat large numbers of injured people. People in Venezuela were already struggling with basic needs and services, especially healthcare, before the earthquakes. Since the earthquakes struck on 24 June, our partner, Caritas Venezuela has been supporting people who have lost their homes and accompanying those affected by this tragedy with practical help and compassion. Thank you for keeping the people of Venezuela in your prayers and thank you for your ongoing support for CAFOD's work. If you are able to donate, please go to the link: https://cafod.org.uk/fundraise/parishes?form=VenezuelaCollection

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.

We are grateful for a bequest from the estate of the late Canon Bernie Scholes of £1000 which will be added to the Building Fund.

CONTACTLESS MACHINE: We are in the process of upgrading our contactless machines. Until that happy day please use the details of the church bank account or the QR code.

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 to shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk by Wednesday 12 Noon and she will do her best to accommodate it.

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

The heart has reasons that reason has not.
Blaise Pascal (1623-1664)

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

Sat 11 July ST BENEDICT, Abbot, Patron of Europe	(SMSJ) 8am Adoration & Confessions (SMSJ) 9am Mass ***(SM) 12 noon Women's Retreat at St Mark's Church with Fr Dennis***	Bernie Prunty (RIP)	**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** **THE POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTION FOR JULY:** **For respect for human life**. Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognising it as a gift from God. **PREPARING FOR HOLY MATRIMONY** Saturday 1 August 12noon David and Courtney Kinsell Friday 7 August 1pm Zoe O'Connel and Francis Simmonds **THE SICK**: John Ranch, Margaret Marchant, Tommy McLoughlin, Chrissie Ward, Juliet Edgar, Peter & Rose Gray, Andrew Cooper, David Turner, Andy Swift, David O'Mahoney, Rosie Fletcher, Lucy Chapman, Ellen Brett, Susana, Fr Dennis Opoku, Sabina Xavier, Jacqueline Austin, Merril Delaney, Marie Anthony, Terry Pearson, Mary Alcock, Louie Reidy **THE DEPARTED:** Teresa Tipper**,** Judith Foley, Fred Rivers, Ann Hanrahan. *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.*
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time	(SMSJ) 4-4.45pm Confessions (SMSJ) 5pm Mass	Private Intention	
Sun 12 July **15th Sunday in Ordinary Time**	(SMSJ) 7.30am Holy Hour of Adoration (SMSJ) 8.30am Mass (SMSJ) 10am Mass (SM) 11.30am Mass	Jim-Joe McAloon (RIP) For an End to Abortion People of the Parish	
Mon 13 July Feria	(SMSJ) 10am Mass	Michael John McPhillips (RIP)	
Tues 14 July Feria	(SMSJ) 10am Mass **(SMSJ) 5pm St Rose's Leavers' Mass** **7pm Adult Formation (RCIA)** in St Joseph's Hall	The Persecuted Church Faith explorers	
Wed 15 July St Bonaventure, B&Dr	(SMSJ) 7.30am Mass at our Lady's Altar (SMSJ) 9am Holy Hour of Adoration (SMSJ) 10am Mass	Eileen Hansberry (RIP) Marios & Sriyani Gerreyn 25th Wedding ANNIV)	
Thurs 16 July Feria	(SM) 8.15am Mass for JFK **9am Leavers' Mass at St Cuthbert Mayne School** (SMSJ) 10am Mass	Peter Sido (INT)	
Fri 17 July Feria	(SMSJ) 9am Holy Hour of Adoration (SMSJ) 10am Mass	Mel Beckett (Sick)	
Sat 18 July The Blessed Virgin Mary	(SMSJ) 8am Adoration & Confessions (SMSJ) 9am Mass **Pilgrimage to Westminster Cathedral** *departing 0904 from Hemel Hempstead Station. Buy tickets for Victoria. Meet at Station 0845. Mass 1030. Tour after Mass. All welcome.*		
16th Sunday in Ordinary Time	(SMSJ) 4-4.45pm Confessions (SMSJ) 5pm Mass	Michael & Bridget Gavin (RIP)	
Sun 19 July **16th Sunday in Ordinary Time**	(SMSJ) 7.30am Holy Hour of Adoration (SMSJ) 8.30am Mass (SMSJ) 10am Mass (SM) 11.30am Mass ***2pm Caritas Tea at Our Lady's***	Reine Julius Mercado & Arvin Mercado (In Thanksgiving) Judith Foley (RIP) People of the Parish	

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS):
Saturday 8am-8.45am & 4pm-4.45pm at SS Mary & Joseph Church and by appointment.

PLEASE SIGN UP FOR E-ALERTS TO RECEIVE THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER and the LATEST NEWS by email on the parish webpage https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/