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
Loretta Anderson
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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

Sunday Cycle: Year A
Week Day Readings Year: 2
Divine Office: Week 1

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants."

How does God tend to work? What does the building up of the kingdom typically look like? From the very small to the very great—and by a slow, gradual process. God tends to operate under the radar, on the edges of things, quietly, clandestinely, not drawing attention to himself. ... As the great empires come and go, as the waves of history crash noisily against the shore, God's kingdom is quietly advancing, unnoticed but inevitable.
C. S. Lewis speaks to this principle. How, he asks, did God enter history? Quietly, in a forgotten corner of the Roman Empire—sneaking, as it were, behind enemy lines.

Bishop Robert Barron

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time **26 July 2026**

Whom do you seek?

ST MARY MAGDALENE, Apostle to the Apostles. (Feast 22 July)



At first, she sought but did not find, but when she persevered it happened that she found what she was looking for. **When our desires are not satisfied, they grow stronger, and becoming stronger they take hold of their object. Holy desires likewise grow with anticipation, and if they do not grow, they are not really desires.** Anyone who succeeds in attaining the truth has burned with such a great love. As David says: *My soul has thirsted for the living God; when shall I come and appear before the face of God?* And so also in the Song of Songs the Church says: *I was wounded by love;* and again: *My soul is melted with love.*

Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek? She is asked why she is sorrowing so that her desire might be strengthened; for when she mentions whom she is seeking, her love is kindled all the more ardently.

Jesus says to her: Mary. Jesus is not recognised when he calls her "woman"; so he calls her by name, as though he were saying: **Recognise me as I recognise you; for I do not know you as I know others; I know you as yourself.** And so Mary, once addressed by name, recognises who is speaking. She immediately calls him *rabboni,* that is to say, *teacher,* because the one whom she sought outwardly was the one who inwardly taught her to keep on searching. *St Gregory the Great*

Painting by Fritz van Uhde (1848-1911) 'Touch me not'

Thanks be to God for a happy pilgrimage to our Cathedral last Saturday with over 30 parishioners (about 10 are missing in the photograph) - some new Catholics and some returning to their faith in the Lord with their families.



See our pictures and Dan Boggins' report on our Events Page here

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 27 July, 6pm in St Joseph's Hall.

FR DON CALLOWAY talk Sunday 16 August, 6pm Mass followed by talk, St Joseph's Bedwell Crescent, Stevenage SG1 1NG

BINGO: Thursday 3 September, 1.30pm in the Parish Centre, Boxmoor

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

MARY, CAUSE OF OUR JOY, DIOCESAN DAY PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM Saturday 19 September. £20 per seat. Departing at 7.30am and will return at 9pm. Bring your own packed lunch. To book please use the QR code or book on the parish website use the link: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/donate-2/

PARISH NEWS

THANK YOU to Irene and Val Soares for organising the delicious Parish Lunch and all your support; and especially to those who helped set up and cleared away. The total raised is £509. With the cookery book sale at St Mark's, £126, it makes a the total of £635, raised for the Building Fund.

MNDA & JUMBULANCE TRUST FUNRAISER: Friday 21 August, 7pm with a cold buffet, music by John Knowles, raffle and a quiz. Tickets £21. The Stag Rugby Club, Pennine Way, HP2 5UD. Proceeds To book places email valsoares@aol.com or call Irene on 07377804128.

PARISH OFFICE: The parish office will be closed from 24 August until, Monday 31 August.

PARISH NEWSLETTER: The next newsletter will be on the weekend of 5/6 September.

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 13:31 - 35
Tues. Matthew 13:36 - 43
Wed. John 11:19 - 27
Thurs. Matthew 13:47 - 53
Fri. Matthew 13:54 - 58
Sat. Matthew 14:1 - 12
Sun Matthew 13:44 – 52

Heavenly Father, we desire to follow your Son, and to be captured by His gaze of steady love. Help us to overcome the obstacles which prevent us from giving ourselves more fully and freely to the Lord Jesus. Teach us to love every person, no matter what their situation in life happens to be. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. St Oscar Romero pray for us. 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

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!

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 27 July, 6pm in St Joseph's Hall.

ST JOSEPH MEN'S GROUP for all men, fathers & sons (16+) will meet again on Friday 28 August, in the presbytery.

BINGO: There will be no bingo in August. The next session will be on Thursday 3 September, in the Parish Centre, Boxmoor.

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 will be on Thursday 30 July. 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

ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL: Ahead of the Second Reading and vote in the House of Commons for the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life Bill) on Friday 11 September, the Communications Directorate of the Bishops' Conference has produced a poster to encourage Catholics to urgently write to their MPs. The poster in the church porch has a scannable QR code, that is linked to the Oppose Assisted Suicide section on the Bishops' Conference website. That page can also be found at: https://www.cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide/ which has various resources and copies of statements and guidance on writing to your MP.

NEW CATHOLICS: CONTINUING THE JOURNEY 'LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD': Saturday 19 September, 10am until 1pm, Vaughan House, Westminster. Have you recently been baptised or received into the Church? Would you like to deepen your relationship with Jesus, meet new Catholics and learn more about the Church? If so, our next event is to discuss our Catholic experience so far. For more details and to book, email catadmin@rcdow.org.uk

CATECHISTS COURSE SATURDAYS 12 & 26 SEPTEMBER AND 17 OCTOBER, 10AM-4PM AT VAUGHAN HOUSE, WESTMINSTER: The Agency for Evangelisation is leading a three day course this autumn for new and experienced catechists and for anyone considering this ministry. The course is free, non-academic, practical and designed to help you grow in confidence in sharing your faith with children, teenagers and adults. Attendance at all three days is required. Tea and coffee will be provided but please bring a packed lunch. To book please email catadmin@rcdow.org.uk

CALLED TO SERVE DAY: Saturday 4 October, 10am until 4pm at the SPEC Youth Ministry Centre. This day, is led by the Agency for Evangelisation, Caritas Westminster and Westminster Youth Ministry. This is for all currently or wishing to be involved in catechesis, youth work or social action. To book, please email catadmin@rcdow.org.uk

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.

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

We must remain faithful to the "yes" that we have given to the Lord's offer of friendship. We know that he will never abandon us. We know that he will always sustain us through the gifts of the Spirit. Mary accepted the Lord's "proposal" in our name. So let us turn to her and ask her to guide us as we struggle to remain faithful to the life-giving relationship that God has established with each one of us. *Pope Benedict XVI*

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 25 July ST JAMES, Apostle **17th Sunday in Ordinary Time**	(SMSJ) 8am Adoration & Confessions (SMSJ) 9am Mass (SMSJ) 12 noon Baptism (SMSJ) 4-4.45pm Confessions (SMSJ) 5pm Mass	 Matthew Speer (Birthday) Matilda Lemon Philomena Clarke (RIP)
Sun 26 July **17th Sunday in Ordinary Time**	(SMSJ) 7.30am Holy Hour of Adoration (SMSJ) 8.30am Mass (SMSJ) 10am Mass (SM) 11.30am Mass (SMSJ) 1pm Baptism	 People of the Parish Jayantha Senanayake (RIP) Theo Zervos
Mon 27 July Feria	(SMSJ) 10am Mass ***6pm Women's Faith Gathering in St Joseph's Hall***	Judith Foley (RIP)
Tues 28 July Feria	(SMSJ) 10am Mass (SMSJ) 6.30pm Mass ***7pm Adult Formation (RCIA)*** *in Presbytery*	Jaganath Karunaraphna (RIP ANNIV)
Wed 29 July SS Martha, Mary & Lazarus	(SMSJ) 7.30am Mass (SMSJ) 9am Holy Hour of Adoration (SMSJ) Mass	 Sheree Hobson (Birthday INT)
Thurs 30 July Feria	(SMSJ) 10am Mass ***7pm Baptism Preparation Class in SMSJ***	
Fri 31 July St Ignatius of Loyola, Pr	(SMSJ) 9am Holy Hour of Adoration (SMSJ) 10am Mass	 Marilyn Holmes (RIP)
Sat 1 August St Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop & Doctor of the Church **18th Sunday in Ordinary Time**	(SMSJ) 8am Adoration & Confessions (SMSJ) 9am Mass (SMSJ) 12 noon Wedding (SMSJ) 4-4.45pm Confessions (SMSJ) 5pm Mass *during which Tony Adams will be made a Knight of St Columba*	 Gloria Ferreira (2nd RIP ANNIV) Courtney & David Elizabeth Flanagan (RIP ANNIV)
Sun 2 August **18th Sunday in Ordinary Time**	(SMSJ) 7.30am Holy Hour of Adoration (SMSJ) 8.30am Mass (SMSJ) 10am Mass (SM) 11.30am Mass (SMSJ) 1pm Baptism	 People of the Parish Tom Flynn (RIP) Lukas

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:
Paula Moore, 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:
Fong Sang Suen, Teresa Tipper**,** Judith Foley

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.

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/