Ss Mary & Joseph & St Mark

https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest
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Parish Priest: Fr David Cherry
davidcherry@rcdow.org.uk

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time 2 August 2026

Be at leisure - and know that I am God. *Psalm 45*
Holiday rest, time for contemplation and prayer

CONTACTS FOR HEMEL WEST

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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 2

Every Christian is called to enter into profound communion with the Crucified and Risen Lord, to adore him in prayer, meditation and above all, in devout participation in the Eucharist, at least on Sunday, the little "weekly Easter". In this way one truly becomes his disciple, ready to proclaim and to witness at every moment to the Gospel's beauty and power of renewal.

Again we entrust to the intercession of Mary Most Holy our prayer for peace, in particular so that scientific knowledge and technology are always applied with a sense of responsibility and for the common good, in full respect for international rights. Let us pray so that men live in peace and that they may be as brothers, sons of one Father: God.

Benedict XVI

Dear Friends in Christ, by now I hope you are enjoying a summer break or some relief in your routine. I know this is not possible for everyone. How to use the extra time? More sleep? Rest? More activity for children and family time?

Plato spoke of "a race born for labour" and "the gods gave them regularly, recurring divine festivals as a means of refreshment from fatigue ...to the end that, after refreshing themselves in the company of the gods, they might return to an upright posture." (Plato's Laws Book II)

What will feed our souls? Experiencing and relishing the beauty of God's Creation. "The world is charged with the Grandeur of God", wrote Gerard Manley Hopkins. The company of friends and companionship. Reading. Surely the company of God, keeping time with him in more prayer. Take time for leisure – not for a collapse – time to restore.

Josef Pieper (1904-1997) the great Catholic philosopher wrote about Leisure, the Basis of Culture. "Culture depends for its very existence on leisure, and leisure, in its turn, is not possible unless it has a durable and consequently living link with the cultus with divine worship."

In the beginning we were not designed for endless labour. Being consumed by work and busyness and the pursuit of entertainment is a result of the Fall. We are made for company with God - to walk with him in the cool of the evening (Gen 3.8).

I was reminded of this on the beautiful memoria of Ss Martha, Mary and Lazarus of Bethany. In the fulness of our humanity the Incarnate Lord enjoyed their company - leisure.

St Augustine addresses St Martha: "Now you are much occupied in nourishing the body, admittedly a holy one. But when you come to the heavenly homeland will you find a traveller to welcome, someone hungry to feed, or thirsty to whom you may give drink, someone ill whom you could visit, or quarrelling whom you could reconcile, or dead whom you could bury?

No, there will be none of these tasks there. What you will find there is what Mary chose. There we shall not feed others, we ourselves shall be fed. Thus what Mary chose in this life will be realised there in all its fullness; she was gathering fragments from that rich banquet, the Word of God. Do you wish to know what we will have there? The Lord himself tells us when he says of his servants, *Amen, I say to you, he will make them recline and passing he will serve them."*

May you be restored and blessed with some restorative leisure these holy(i)days. FrD

Start each day in prayer. You can use sacredspace . "What is God, the love of your life, saying to me in the gospel reading of the day?" Come to a weekday mass, come to be with him in Adoration when he is present in the Blessed Sacrament on the Altar.

In the Gospel on Sunday (Matt 13.13-21)– St Matthew's account of the feeding of the five thousand, the Lord Jesus performs the four actions of the Eucharist. He TAKES the bread and fish, he raises his eyes to heaven and BLESSES it, he BRAKES the bread and GIVES it to the crowds. How literally we take his Word in the Eucharist so that his life is multiplied in us.

MARY, CAUSE OF OUR JOY, DIOCESAN DAY PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM: **Saturday 19 September.** £20 per seat. Departing at 7.30am, we 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/ and select Pilgrimage to Walsingham to make your payment.
The closing date for payments will be Sunday 8 September, as I need to confirm the number with the coach company a week in advance

SMSJ: *Ss Mary & Joseph Church, St John's Road, Boxmoor, HP1 1NR*
SM: *St Mark's Church, John F Kennedy School, Hollybush Lane, HP12PH*

AUGUST	Intentions
Sat 1 August	**St Alphonsus Liguori, B&Dr**
(SMSJ) 8am	Adoration & Confessions
(SMSJ) 9am	Mass Gloria Ferreira (2nd RIP ANNIV)
(SMSJ) 12noon	Nuptial Mass : Courtney & David Kinsell
(SMSJ) 4-4.45pm	Confessions
	18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
(SMSJ) 5pm	Mass Elizabeth Flanagan (RIP ANNIV)
Sun 2 August	**18th Sunday in Ordinary Time**
(SMSJ) 7.30am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 8.30am	Mass People of the Parish
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Tom Flynn (RIP)
(SM) 11.30am	Mass
(SMSJ) 1pm	Baptism Lukas Phillips
Mon 3 August,	Feria
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Karen Foenander (Birthday INT)
Tues 4 August	**St John Vianney, Pr**
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Parish Priests of the Diocese
(SMSJ) 6.30pm	Mass
Wed 5 August	Feria
(SMSJ) 7.30am	Mass Teresa Tipper (RIP)
(SMSJ) 9am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass
Thurs 6 August	**THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD**
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass
Fri 7 August,	Feria
(SMSJ) 9am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Lily Cowell (RIP)
(SMSJ) 1pm	Marriage: Zoe O'Connel & Francis Simmonds
Sat 8 August	**St Dominic, Priest**
(SMSJ) 8am	Adoration & Confessions
SMSJ) 9am	Mass
(SMSJ) 4-4.45pm	Confessions
	19th Sunday in Ordinary Time
(SMSJ) 5pm	Mass Patrick Roach (13th RIP ANNIV)
Sun 9 August	**19th Sunday in Ordinary Time**
(SMSJ) 7.30am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 8.30am	Mass
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Joan Brewster (RIP)
(SM) 11.30am	Mass 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/

THE POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTION FOR AUGUST:
For evangelization in the city. Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

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

FUNDRAISING FOR MNDA & JUMBULANCE TRUST: 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.

THE PARISH OFFICE will be closed from 24 August until, Monday 31 August.

CATECHETICAL PROGRAMMES for First Holy Communion., Confirmation and RCIA (Adult Formation in the Catholic Faith) will be available later this month.

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

OPPOSE THE ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL: see poster for QR code and https://www.cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide/

Donations for the Venezuela Emergency Appeal can be made through CAFOD and through Aid to the Church in in Need.

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

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FR DON CALLOWAY TALK Sunday 16 August 6pm at St Joseph's Bedwell Crescent, Stevenage SG1 1NG

CATHOLIC WOMEN's LEAGUE: Thursday 3 September, 7.30pm
All welcome!

WOMEN'S FAITH GATHERING: Monday 27 July, 6pm st Joseph's hall

ST CARLO ACUTIS MISSION FROM ASSISI 13-18 September in our Schools and Churches. Programme to follow.

SIGN UP TO OUR NEW WHATSAPP COMMUNITY
for Announcements and Parish Groups