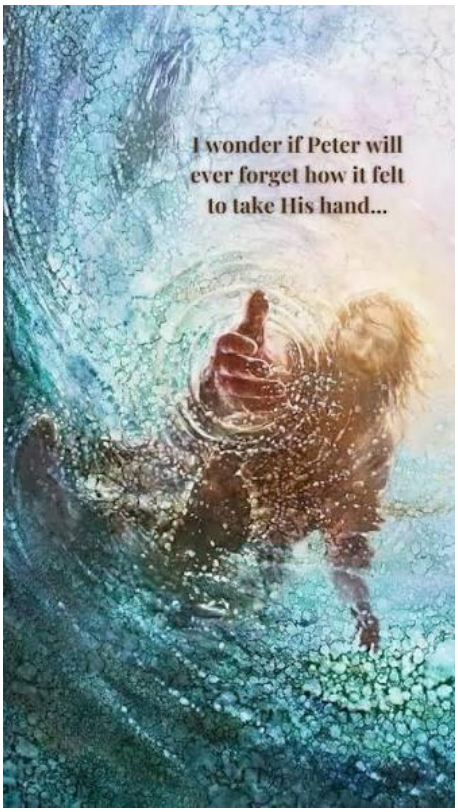
Ss Mary & Joseph & St Mark

https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest
186 St John's Rd, Hemel Hempstead HP1 1NR
01442 391759
Parish Priest: Fr David Cherry
davidcherry@rcdow.org.uk

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 9 August 2026

The Gospel on Sunday: Matthew 14:22-33
We welcome Fr Robert Smialek who will preach at the 8.30am & 10am Masses



Whenever we encounter the disciples in a boat, we are dealing with the Church, the barque of Peter. Here we see the beginning of the Church's journey through time.
Winds and waves toss the barque. Anyone acquainted with Church history knows the truth of this—and it's a special comfort for those enduring our tumultuous times. We are engaged in a spiritual warfare, a battle not against flesh and blood but against powers and principalities.
Early in the morning, the disciples see Jesus coming toward them, "walking on the sea." Terrified, they cry out. But Jesus calms them with the words "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." Then Peter says, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." Peter stands pre-eminently for the Church across the ages. And here is the Church at its best, reaching out in confidence to Christ. The fruit of that confidence is participation in the Lord's power: "Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus." Relying on our own power, we can do nothing. But relying on him, we can do anything. *Bishop Robert Barron*

CONTACTS FOR HEMEL WEST

Parish Administrator
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PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPS
Loretta Anderson
e: hhwestsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

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

All the good works in the world are not equal to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass because they are the works of men; but the Mass is the work of God. Martyrdom is nothing in comparison for it is but the sacrifice of man to God; but the Mass is the sacrifice of God for man.

There is nothing so great as the Eucharist.
If God had something more precious,
He would have given it to us.
St Jean Vianney, the Curé d'Ars

CONGRATULATIONS TO
Courtney and David Kinsell
who were married last Saturday.





CONGRATULATIONS TO TONY ADAMS who was made a full Knight of St Columba. The Knights of St Columba (KSC) is a fraternal service organization of Catholic laymen in the United Kingdom. Founded in Glasgow in October 1919, the order operates on the core principles of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity to support the Catholic Church, local parishes, and charitable causes.

BE INSPIRED!



"**If they had found me, they would have hanged me immediately."**
On the morning of July 31, **Cardinal Ernest Simoni** celebrated Mass at Spaç — the former forced-labour prison built around a copper and pyrite mine in central Albania — in memory of those who suffered and died there under the communist regime of Enver Hoxha. He is 97 years old. He spent 18 years of his life inside that place, most of them as a young priest working the mines, celebrating the Eucharist in secret from memory because discovery would have meant death. At the end of the Mass, a letter from Pope Leo XIV was read aloud. **"No chain is strong enough to imprison a conscience enlightened by the Gospel; no night is so long that it can prevent the dawn the Lord prepares for His children; and no prison is deep enough to separate a person from the love of God,"** the Pope wrote, echoing St Paul's Letter to the Romans (8:35-39). Read more

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 8 August	*St Dominic, Priest*
(SMSJ) 8am	Adoration & Confessions
(SMSJ) 9am	Mass
	19th Sunday in Ordinary Time
(SMSJ) 4-4.45pm	Confessions
(SMSJ) 5pm	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
Mon 10 August,	*ST LAWRENCE, Deacon & Martyr*
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass
	6pm Women's Faith Gathering in St Joseph's Hall
Tues 11 August	*St Clare, Virgin*
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass
Wed 12 August	*Feria*
(SMSJ) 7.30am	Mass
(SMSJ) 9am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass The Persecuted Church
Thurs 13 August	*Feria*
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass
Fri 14 August	*St Maximilian Mary Kolbe, Priest & Martyr*
(SMSJ) 9am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Private Intention
Sat 15 August	*Memoria of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
(SMSJ) 8am	Adoration & Confessions
(SMSJ) 9am	Mass Mary Kerwick (RIP)
(SMSJ) 12 noon	Baptism Harry Barnes
(SMSJ) 3pm	Baptism Christal Feancesca
	THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
(SMSJ) 4-4.45pm	Confessions
(SMSJ) 5pm	Mass
Sun 16 August	**THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**
(SMSJ) 7.30am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 8.30am	Mass For an End to Abortion
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Bernard Varney (RIP)
(SM) 11.30am	Mass People of the Parish
	Caritas Tea 2pm at Our Lady's

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

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.

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



FR TERRY TASDARD'S NEW BOOK: "Voices from the Fringe". See https://voicesfromthefringe.uk/ Available on Amazon.

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.

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. **Closing date : Sunday 8 September**

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

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.
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**.**

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.

MARCH FOR LIFE UK: Saturday 5 September. For more information go to www.marchforlife.co.uk or call Isabel on 07773 501721. There are also leaflets in the church porch with more details.

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

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

WOMEN'S FAITH GATHERING: Monday 10 August, 6pm St Joseph's hall.
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!**
ST CARLO ACUTIS MISSION FROM ASSISI 13-18 September in our Schools and Churches. Programme to follow.
DIOSCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM Sat 19 September

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