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

Sunday 23 August 2026, 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

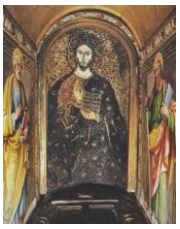
'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20 The Confession of St Peter

This is the key that St Peter is given in the Gospel — not power to make himself great, but a trust bestowed upon him, a responsibility, a means to serve others. Peter as a rock is only ever a foundation for something else — it is not the Church of Peter but the Church of Christ.

In a sense each of us has been given a key. We may not hold the keys of the kingdom of heaven, but we hold keys of a smaller kind which do indeed bear on the kingdom of heaven. We hold the key to whether someone in our lives is forgiven or shunned. We hold the key to whether someone we might have some authority over — a colleague, a child, a friend — is treated as someone made in God's image or merely as someone useful to our own desires....

Christ has given us many gifts, some personal to us, others more objective like the sacraments. All are given to us for the greater glory of God. Of course, we might recall St Irenaeus who said that 'The glory of God is a human being fully alive.' These gifts are given for our flourishing as human beings, but also to enable others. We are strengthened, we are given keys, to enable others to discover the freedom that can only be found in Christ, the Son of the living God, and through his body, the Church. We are entrusted with much. We are made stewards. How are we using what has been given to us? *Fr Jospeh Bailham OP* *Read more*

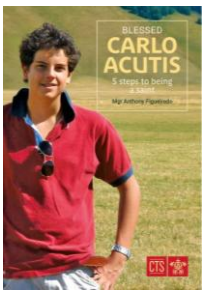


The **CONFESSIO** in St Peter's Rome. The word *'Confessio'* refers to the Confession of faith by St. Peter which lead to his martyrdom. Here the *Confessio* area is the space created directly in front of the tomb of St Peter. This semicircular space located at the level of the grottoes is accessed by a double staircase. Read about it here

---

HEART TO HEART

ST CARLO ACUTIS MISSION Mon 14- Fri 18 September
in our Schools and Parishes



Monsignor Anthony Figueirido and Gwen Wisemqn will be with us to conduct the Mission in our schools and churches. They bring with them the Primary Relic of St Carlo, a portion of his heart, from Assisi where he lies in the Church of St Mary Major, next to the Bishop's House.

There will be 3 evenings in our churches for all.
Tuesday 15 Sept, 7pm in St Mark
Thursday 17 Sept, 7pm in Ss Mary & Joseph
Friday 18 Sept, 7pm Closing Mass at Our Lady Queen of All Creation.

May the words of the gospel speak to our hearts in these days and deepen our faith in the Lord he served with heroic faith and love.

Listen to Fr Anthony speak about St Carlo on his recent trip to Australia. *I am not afraid to die.*
Mons. Anthony has written a book about St Carlo: 5 steps to being a saint, a CTS booklet, available on Amazon.

To be always united to Jesus. This is my program for life.
St Carlo, pray for us

CONTACTS FOR HEMEL WEST

Parish Administrator
Shirley Bailey
e: shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk
t: 01442 391759 option 2

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

Tony Adams
e: hhwestsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk
Alternatively contact:
e: safeguarding@rcdow.org.uk

HALL BOOKINGS
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

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

Peter spoke enthusiastically and authoritatively on behalf of them all: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God". This solemn profession of faith the Church continues to repeat since then. Today too, we long to proclaim with an innermost conviction: "Yes, Jesus, you are the Christ, the Son of the living God!". Let us do so in the awareness that Christ is the true "treasure" for whom it is worth sacrificing everything; he is the friend who never abandons us for he knows the most intimate expectations of our hearts. Jesus is the "Son of the living God", the promised Messiah who came down to earth to offer humanity salvation and to satisfy the thirst for life and love that dwells in every human being. What an advantage humanity would have in welcoming this proclamation which brings with it joy and peace!

Benedict XVI

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	Holy Mass Intentions
Sat 22 August	*The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
(SMSJ) 8am	Adoration & Confessions
(SMSJ) 9am	Mass Simon (RIP)
(SMSJ) 4-4.45pm	Confessions
(SMSJ) 5pm	Vigil Mass Fr Dennis Opoku (Ordination ANNIV)
Sun 23 August	**21st Sunday in Ordinary Time**
(SMSJ) 7.30am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 8.30am	Mass People of the Parish
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass David Turner (INT)
(SM) 11.30am	Mass David Porter (RIP)
Mon 24 August	*ST BARTHOLOMEW, Apostle*
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Christy & Vivienne Gerreyn (60th Wedding ANNIV)
6pm	***Women's Faith Gathering*** *in St Joseph's Hall*
Tues 25 August	*Feria*
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Anne Hudson (Birthday)
Wed 26 August	*Feria*
(SMSJ) 7.30am	Mass
(SMSJ) 9am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Stephen Gardner (RIP)
Thurs 27 August	*St Monica*
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass
Fri 28 August	*St Augustine, Bishop & Doctor of the Church*
(SMSJ) 9am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass
Sat 29 August	*The Passion of Saint John the Baptist*
(SMSJ) 8am	Adoration & Confessions
(SMSJ) 9am	Mass
(SMSJ) 4-4.45pm	Confessions
(SMSJ) 5pm	Vigil Mass Vicky Greggory (RIP)
Sun 30 August	**22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**
(SMSJ) 7.30am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 8.30am	Mass
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Patricia Hales (RIP) *Ben Combes will be confirmed during Mass*
(SM) 11.30am	Mass People of the Parish
Mon 31 Aug	*Feria*
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass
Tue 1 September	*Feria*
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Care of Creation
Wed 2 September	*Feria*
(SMSJ) 7.30am	Mass
(SMSJ) 9am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass
Thurs 3 Sept	*ST GREGORY THE GREAT, Pope & Doctor*
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass
1.30pm	***BINGO in the Parish Centre, Boxmoor***
7.30pm	***CWL in St Joseph's Hall***
Fri 4 September	*St Cuthbert, Bishop*
(SMSJ) 9am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Private Intention

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

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: Anna Carmichael, Fong Sang Suen, Teresa Tipper**,** Judith Foley

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 PARISH OFFICE will be closed until, Monday 31 August.

ART & SPIRITUALITY WORKSHOP: A SIMPLE PRAYER BOOK: Saturday 5 September, 11am until 3pm. This is a day of art and prayer. All are welcome. Donation towards materials would be appreciated. For more details contact Paula Watkins at paula@paulawatkins.co.uk

MISSIO/RED BOX: Please leave your Red Box at the back of the church for counting during September. Contact Janice Varney on 07847167969 or Vanda at St Marks for further information. Thank you.

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 click here and select Pilgrimage to Walsingham to make your payment. ***Closing date: Sunday 8 September.***

NEW CATHOLICS: CONTINUING THE JOURNEY 'LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD': Saturday 19 September, 10am until 1pm, Vaughan House, Westminster.

LITTLE CHURCH Courtney Kinsell has offered to co-ordinate Little Church for 3-7year olds, hopefully starting in October. Parents will also be needed to help. DBS checks will be needed.

CATECHETICAL PROGRAMMES
First Holy Communion for times and pre-registration meeting 24 Sept.

Confirmation classes usually for 14 year olds, Year 9, who have been baptised and received First Holy Communion, will start in October 2026 on Tuesday evenings 6-7.15pm in St Joseph's Hall. The course will follow Decision Point.

RCIA (Adult Formation in the Catholic Faith) will be on Wednesday evenings 7-8.30pm in St Joseph's Hall and follow the **Symbolon** Course on the Formed website, access available soon. See website for dates and Application form.

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: Please see the poster for the QR code, or click here**.**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

WOMEN'S FAITH GATHERING: Monday 24 August, 6pm St Joseph's hall.

BINGO: Thurs 3 Sept 1.30pm in the Parish Centre, Boxmoor.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE: 7.30pm Thursday 3 September, in St Joseph's Hall. St John Ambulance will be demonstrating how to use a defibrillator and teach us other first aid procedures. Contact Eileen on 07831 511 543.