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

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time | 6 September 2026

The truth – in love | Matthew 18:15-20

How does Jesus treat gentiles and tax collectors? He calls them to conversion; he heals them; he spends time with them; he sends them out to preach the good news. In short, he loves them, and he calls them to love him.
The Church, of course, should do no less; when the Church denounces evil, it is not because we hate the evil-doers and want them to perish… on the contrary, we love the evil-doers, and it is partly out of love for them that we wish them to desist from the evil they are doing and follow Christ. And when the Church, in extreme cases, excommunicates one of her own members, it is not because she hates him or her, but rather a measure taken out of love for our errant brothers and sisters. We must love them; we must pray for them; we must pray with them; if their faith is great like that of the Centurion or the Canaanite woman, we must not be afraid to praise it; and if, having repented, they can, like Matthew, be useful in the apostolic ministry of the Church, we must rejoice.
This love is expressed in the seven Spiritual Works of Mercy. Yes, 'forgive offences' and 'bear wrongs patiently'; but we must also 'counsel the doubtful' out of love for them, not to control them; 'instruct the ignorant' out of love for them, not to show our supposed intellectual superiority; and 'admonish the sinner' out of love for them, not because we get a kick out of giving somebody a piece of our mind. And when, God willing, there is repentance, we must 'comfort the sorrowful', welcoming them with open arms, all out of love for them, without forgetting that love for all requires us constantly to 'pray for the living and the dead'.
Ultimately love is indeed the fulfilling of the law… and that includes the awkward bits.

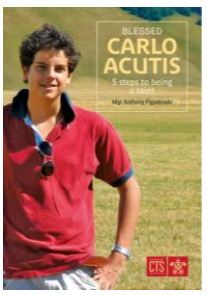
Fr Benjamin Earle OP, Read all'

Though God respects our relative independence, he is not the least bit content to leave us in a "natural" state. Instead, he wants to live in us, to become the Lord of our lives, moving into our minds, wills, bodies, imaginations, nerves, and bones.
This commandeering of nature by grace does not involve the compromising of nature but rather its perfection and elevation. When Jesus moves into the house of the soul, the powers of the soul are heightened and properly directed; when Jesus commands the boat of the natural human life, that life is preserved, strengthened, and given a new orientation.
This is signalled symbolically by the Lord's directive to put out into the deep water. On our own, we can know and will within a very narrow range, seeking those goods and truths that appear within the horizon of our natural consciousness, but when grace invades us, we are enticed into far deeper waters.

Bishop Robert Barron

Next week: 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.

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 WHATSAPP COMMUNITY
for Announcements and Parish Groups

Let us pray for strength to withstand every temptation and resist the forces of evil in our society and world`:

Saint Michael the Archangel,
defend us in the day of battle,
be our safeguard
against the wickedness
and snares of the devil;
may God rebuke him,
we humbly pray;
and do thou, O Prince
of the heavenly host,
by the power of God,
cast into hell Satan
and all the evil spirits
who wonder through the world
seeking the ruin of souls.
Amen.

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

SEPTEMBER	Holy Mass Intentions
Sat 5 Sept	*St Theresa of Calcutta*
(SMSJ) 8am	Adoration & Confessions
(SMSJ) 9am	Mass
11am – 3pm	***Art and Prayer Workship - Parish Centre***
(SMSJ) 4-4.45pm	Confessions
(SMSJ) 5pm	Vigil Mass Fatima Locke (RIP)
Sun 6 Sept	**23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**
(SMSJ) 7.30am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 8.30am	Mass
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Judite Canha (RIP)
(SM) 11.30am	Mass People of the Parish
Mon 7 Sept	*Feria*
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass John Salmon (5th RIP ANNIV)
Tues 8 Sept	*NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY*
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Tudor Wijasingha (RIP)
(SMSJ) 6pm	Mass
Wed 9 Sept	*Feria*
(SMSJ) 7.30am	Mass Margaret Finnerty (97th Birthday)
(SMSJ) 9am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Holy Souls
Thurs 10 Sept	*Feria*
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Holy Souls
Fri 11 Sept	*Feria – Friday abstinence*
(SMSJ) 9am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Holy Souls
(SMSJ) 11am	Polish Funeral Mass
Sat 12 Sept	*The Most Holy Name of Mary*
(SMSJ) 8am	Adoration & Confessions
(SMSJ) 9am	Mass
(SMSJ) 4-4.45pm	Confessions
(SMSJ) 5pm	Vigil Mass People of the Parish
Sun 13 Sept	**24th Sunday in Ordinary Time**
(SMSJ) 7.30am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 8.30am	Mass Allington Family (INT)
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass
(SM) 11.30am	Mass

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)
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: Anna Carmichael - Funeral Mass Thurs 24 Sept 1100

NEXT WEEK 14-18 September HEART TO HEART St Carlo Acutis Mission to our School and Churches – see leaflet & webpage
There will be 3 evenings in our churches for all.
Tuesday 15 Sept, 7pm in St Mark "An Ordinary Life Becomes Extraordinary"
Thursday 17 Sept, 7pm in Ss Mary & Joseph "Miracles and Graces of Saint Carlo Acutis"
Friday 18 Sept, 7pm Closing Mass at Our Lady Queen of All Creation. "Highway to Heaven" - Carlo's Steps to Be a Saint

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 6 September.***

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

LITTLE CHURCH: during 10am Mass. Courtney Kinsell has offered to co-ordinate Little Church for 5-7 year olds, starting in October. Parents will also be needed to help and need a DBS.

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

CONFIRMATION 2027 for year 9s / 14 year olds+ : Wednesday evenings 6-7.15pm in St Jospeh's Hall – *dates to be decided*

RCIA (Adult Formation in the Catholic Faith) TUESDAYS (not Wednesdays) **7-8.30pm -** *see webpage for dates.*

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.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY Friday 2 October. Envelopes are available.

FUNDRAISING FOR MNDA & JUMBULANCE TRUST CHARITY EVENT: This event raised £1064 and was divided between the two charities**.**

HOSPITALITY AT ST MARK'S: During September we will be raising funds for The McMillan Cancer Charity and in October it will be for DENS.

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.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE FOR SENIOR SCHOOL *Fr David will be available* ***Friday 9 or 16 October from 3.45- 5pm*** *in the Parish Centre.*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
WOMEN'S FAITH GATHERING: Monday 14 Sept, 6pm St Joseph's hall.

BINGO: Thurs 1 Oct 1.30pm in the Parish Centre, Boxmoor.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE: 7.30pm Thursday 1 October, in St Joseph's Hall. Contact Eileen on 07831 511 543.

PARISH FINANCES thank you to all who plan their giving to Church in a committed way, especially by Standing Order with Gift Aid.
Account Name: WRCDT Hemel West
Sort Code: 40-05-20
Account No.: 31095048
YOU CAN DONATE online here

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