Ss Mary & Joseph & St Mark

https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest
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Parish Priest: Fr David Cherry
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25th Sunday in Ordinary Time | 20 September 2026

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HALL BOOKINGS
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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

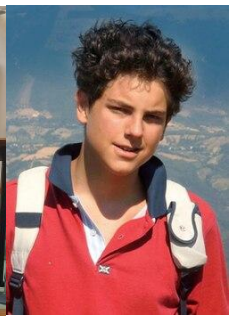
Jesus came as God's own self into our dysfunctional world. He came to bring the light of God's presence and love to the far country of sin and death. Accordingly, he went to the poor, the disabled, the marginalized, the forgotten, those crippled by sin.
He came to bring the *ordo* of God into a disordered world. He came as the keynote to tune up a cacophonous universe. And thus the proponents of disorder and the producers of the cacophony sought to destroy him.
The Church is the mystical body of Jesus, the living organism that makes present Christ's mind and will in the world. It is his love made flesh throughout the ages, his hands and feet and eyes and heart. We are all, through baptism, members of that body. Our purpose is his purpose—to carry the nonviolent and forgiving love of God to a hungry world; to go to the darkest places, to the far country in quest of sinners; to be both judge (sign of contradiction) and bearer of salvation.

Bishop Robert Barron

St Carlo Acutis -.... being in the presence of a saint – a friend in heaven

We have been rejoicing in the presence of St Carlo this week in our Schools and, so far, in St Mark's and Ss Mary & Joseph. **On Friday evening (18 September) we will celebrate a Mass of St Carlo in Our Lady at 7pm.**
The relics of his hair, T shirt, heart and blood and tear-stained bedsheets have been with us as well as the Major Relic- part of the pericardium of his heart. The children (hopefully, photos to follow on the website) have been wrapped in awe at this young man they can relate to, dressed in a red T shirt, jeans, Nike trainers – like them, whose sole purpose in life - he declared - was to be close to Jesus.
Heaven has come close to us. There is a hoard of petitions from our schools' children and adults for Mons. Anthony and Gwen to take back to his tomb in Assisi.
Many have come to our Mission services to be close to him and learn from him, to venerate and be blessed through the relics of one who is in heaven interceding for us. Last night we heard of the miracles received through his heavenly intercession, medically scrutinised and verified by physicians which caused him to be declared a saint by the Church.
"Do you believe in miracles?" we were asked. Do we believe in the super-natural? – the "above nature" by which the Lord Jesus continues his forgiving and healing ministry among us through the Sacraments of the Church and the intercession of saints.
Many have come to be reconciled after a long time and to receive the grace of being set free by his forgiveness. The greatest miracle, we were reminded, is moral conversion to him - the reordering of our lives through his five ways – the Eucharist, Adoration, Confession, love of our Lady and small acts of Charity. A little boy came up to me in the playground of St Cuthbert Mayne and said he wanted to be like St Carlo.... not just ordinary like us – but holy, as God intends us, for his company – able to live in love with him.
Our Archbishop opened the Mission in St Mark's on Monday by celebrating a Mass of St Carlo. In welcome Masses in schools and assemblies we have got to know him more. St Carlo said:





"The Eucharist is my highway to Heaven." The Eucharist is not simply a symbol but Christ Himself — the Bread of Life. For Carlo, daily Communion was not a ritual but a direct road to intimacy with Jesus. To grow closer to God: Make the Eucharist the centre of our day. If we cannot receive daily, we can at least visit Him in adoration or make spiritual communions.
"Sadness looks at self, joy looks at God." True joy arises when our gaze shifts from self-preoccupation to the radiance of God. Self-focus suffocates; God-focus liberates. To grow closer to God: In trials, lift your eyes to Christ in gratitude and trust. Practice thanksgiving daily — joy will follow.

The Gospel (Matthew 20:1-16) this weekend is about the Master of a household who invites us to labour in his vineyard. Fr Robert Verril OP writes:
I think the key to this parable is what the landowner says to the disgruntled labourers who worked all day and got the same wage as those who had worked only one hour. He says 'Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' So, the landowner is being generous. Our Lord, like the landowner, does not ask us to work for Him because we are particularly skilled or motivated. Neither does He invite us to work for Him because He has any need for us. Rather He offers us His invitation because we need Him. Thus, His invitation to work for Him is an expression of His goodness which He so freely pours out onto our humanity. 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*

SEPTEMBER	Holy Mass Intentions
Sat 19 Sept	***No Morning Adoration, Confessions or Mass***
	Depart for Walsingham in Boxmoor
7am	Confessions
(SMSJ) 5pm	Vigil Mass For an End to Abortion
Sun 20 Sept	**25th Sunday in Ordinary Time**
(SMSJ) 7.30am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 8.30am	Mass People of the Parish
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass William Devlin (5th RIP ANNIV) aka Bill
(SM) 11.30am	Mass
(OLQ) 2pm	***Caritas Tea at Our Lady's***
Mon 21 Sept	*ST MATTHEW, Apostle & Evangelist*
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass John Nevin (14th RIP ANNIV)
(SMSJ) 7.30pm	*Choir Practice SMSJ*
Tues 22 Sept	*Feria*
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass
(SMSJ) 6pm	Mass
6pm	***Confirmation pre-registration St Joseph's Hall***
Wed 23 Sept	*St Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest*
(SMSJ) 7.30am	Mass
(SMSJ) 9am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass
Thurs 24 Sept	*OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM*
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Peter Moore (10th RIP ANNIV)
(SMSJ) 11am	Funeral Mass for Anna Carmichael (RIP)
(SMSJ) 6pm	***First Holy Communion pre-registration SMSJ***
(SMSJ) 7pm	***Baptism Preparation Class***
Fri 25 Sept	*Feria*
(SMSJ) 9am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass
7pm	**St Joseph's Men in the Presbytery**
Sat 26 Sept	*The Blessed Virgin Mary*
(SMSJ) 8am	Adoration & Confessions
(SMSJ) 9am	Mass & Baptism for Stirling Thomas Kinsell
(SMSJ) 12 noon	Baptism: Rosemary Barrett, Eadie Edwards & Ciara Smyth
(SMSJ) 4-4.45pm	Confessions
(SMSJ) 5pm	Vigil Mass Vicky Greggory (RIP)
Sun 27 Sept	**26th Sunday in Ordinary Time**
(SMSJ) 7.30am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 8.30am	Mass Helena Duckett (RIP)
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass People of the Parish
(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 SEPTEMBER: For the care of water. Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

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 11am) Verne Pitt (Funeral Mass 30 Sept, 1pm), Doreen Cash (Funeral Mass Tues 14 Oct 11am)

Explore **FORMED for free.** A new means of catechesis and evanglization for the whole family, young and old.
We will be using **SYMBOLON** for RCIA.

Passing on the Faith: WE NEED TRAINED CATECHISTS to accompany our young people and adults in the formation of the Faith. Please speak to Fr David if you are being called by God to this important service in the life of his Church. **There are excellent training courses for your development in this vocation.**

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.

CONFIRMATION 2027 for year 9 /14-year olds+: Pre-registration meeting 22 Sept 6pm in St Joseph's Hall to discuss ideas.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION for times and pre-registration meeting 24 Sept.

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT: There will be a raffle on 27 September, at St Mark's in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. Tickets £1 each and will be on sale from 20 September. Prizes will be displayed on the day and any donations for prizes are welcome.

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

TABLE-TOP SALE & AFTERNOON TEA: Saturday 3 October, 1pm-4pm Parish Centre, Boxmoor.

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.
ALTAR 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**.**

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

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, Boxmoor and by arrangement.*

JOHN F KENNEDY CATHOLIC SCHOOL: The Open Evening for prospective Year 6 pupils will be on Tuesday 6 October, at 6pm. For all the information click here and go to Our School / Admissions Policy.

LORETO COLLEGE: Open Evening for prospective pupils applying to Loreto College for September 2027. Please click **here** for details.

PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE – either first or second week in October 2027. If you are interested in going, please contact Pat Henry

More Human, intro to Pope's Leo's **MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS** at St Alban & St Stephen, Sat 17 October. Details here
DAILY PRAYER @ Sacredspace.com
DAILY READINGS & REFLECTIONS : My Catholic Life, Word on Fire, Christian Art
WESTMINSTER DIOCESE NEWS
CATHOLIC NEWS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

WOMEN'S FAITH GATHERING: Monday 28 Sept, 6pm St Joseph's hall.
BINGO: Thurs 1 Oct 1.30pm in the Parish Centre, Boxmoor.
CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Thursday 1 October, 7.30pm in St Joseph's Hall. The guest speaker will be from the Boxmoor Trust. Contact Eileen on 07831 511 543.
ST JOSEPH'S MEN: Friday 25 September 7pm in the Presbytery.

PARISH FINANCES thank you to all who plan their giving to Church in a committed way, especially by Standing Order with Gift Aid.
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