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

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time | 27 September 2026

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 2

JOIN OUR WHATSAPP COMMUNITY
for Announcements and Parish Groups

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

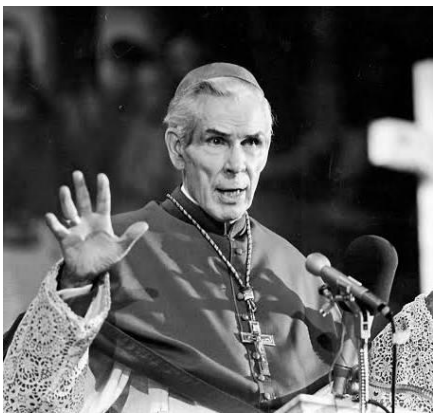
Account Name: WRCDT Hemel West
Sort Code: 40-05-20
Account No.: 31095048

In accord with the subjectivism of our culture, many Christians think of their spiritual lives in an individualist way, as the cultivation of their personal friendships with God. But this overlooks something that the New Testament authors took for granted—namely, that Christians exist not for themselves but for the world.
Jesus compared his followers to salt, which is designed to preserve and enhance something other than itself, and to light, whose purpose is to be set on a stand in order to illumine what is around it. Pope St. Paul VI articulated the same truth as follows: The Church doesn't have a mission; the Church ***is*** a mission.

Bishop Robert Barron

'He changed his mind and went... the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you.' Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32

At first sight it may seem that the issue in today's gospel is whether one does God's will or one's own. We pray in the Lord's prayer 'Thy will be done.' Jesus is the model of perfect obedience. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus accepted the will of his Father: 'Not as I will but as you will' (Matthew 26.39).
If this all that were to be said, our faith would seem to be oppressive and even infantile. But God wills our human flourishing and thus our freedom. St Paul tells us that we are called to share the freedom of the children of God. 'For freedom, he has set us free' (Galatians 5.1). St Thomas Aquinas claimed that our desires are always, in some sense, for the good. To sin is not so much to desire what is wrong as to desire what is too small at the expense of a deeper good, God's friendship and joy. If I were to murder one of my brethren because they made an irritating noise, I might desire a tiny good – peace and quiet – at the expense of the deeper good, the love of my brother and of God. The Ten Commandments put me in touch with our most fundamental desire, to share God's friendship. *Card. Timothy Radcliffe OP*, Read more



BEATIFICATION OF BISHOP FULTON SHEEN
24 September, in St Louis, Missouri
Cardinal Tagle : Blessed Fulton Sheen's mission was to bring people to Christ

Famous quotes of Blessed Fulton Sheen

You must remember to love people and use things, rather than to love things and use people.

America, it is said, is suffering from intolerance — it is not. It is suffering from tolerance. Tolerance of right and wrong, truth and error, virtue and evil, Christ and chaos. Our country is not nearly so overrun with the bigoted as it is overrun with the broadminded.

Very few people believe in the devil these days, which suits the devil very well. He is always helping to circulate the news of his own death. The essence of God is existence, and He defines Himself as: 'I am Who am.' The essence of the devil is the lie, and he defines himself as: 'I am who am not.' Satan has very little trouble with those who do not believe in him; they are already on his side.

Show me your hands. Do they have scars from giving? Show me your feet. Are they wounded in service? Show me your heart. Have you left a place for divine love?

If you don't behave as you believe, you will end by believing as you behave.

As a man must be born before he can begin to lead his physical life, so he must be born to lead a Divine Life. That birth occurs in the Sacrament of Baptism. To survive, he must be nourished by Divine Life; that is done in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

But the broken minds and tortured hearts testify to the fact that nothing can satisfy the soul hunger of man, except a nourishment suited to his soul and its aspirations for the perfect… Man's soul being spiritual demands a spiritual food. In the order of grace, this divine food is the Eucharist, or the communion of man with Christ and Christ with man.

The greatest love story of all time is contained in a tiny white Host.

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

Date	Holy Mass Intentions
Sat 26 Sept	*Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
(SMSJ) 8am	Adoration & Confessions
(SMSJ) 9am	Mass & Baptisms - Sterling & Daisy
(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
Mon 28 Sept	*Feria*
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass
6pm	***Women's Faith Gathering in St Joseph's Hall***
7.30pm	***Choir Practice SMSJ***
Tues 29 Sept	*SS MICHAEL, GABRIEL & RAPHAEL, Archangels*
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Fr Jozef Urbanic (INT)
(SMSJ) 6pm	Mass
7pm	***Adult Formation (RCIA) in St Joseph's Hall***
Wed 30 Sept	*St Jerome, Pr & Dr*
(SMSJ) 7.30am	Mass
(SMSJ) 9am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Ralfton van Sanden (RIP)
(SMSJ) 1pm	Funeral Mass for Verne Pitt (RIP)
Thurs 1 Oct	*St Thérèse of the Child Jesus, V & Dr (of Lisieux)*
(SM) 8.15am	Mass for JFK
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Maureen & Barry Albert (RIP)
1.30pm	***BINGO in the Parish Centre, Boxmoor***
7.30pm	***Catholic Women's League in St Joseph's Hall***
Fri 2 Oct	*Holy Guardian Angels*
(SMSJ) 9am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Ann Widdecombe (RIP)
2.15pm	***St Rose's School Harvest Liturgy***
7.30-9.30pm	***Hemel Young Adults (18-35s) at Our Lady's***
Sat 3 Oct	*Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
(SMSJ) 8am	Adoration & Confessions
(SMSJ) 9am	Mass Dimithri Kaushi (Healing)
(SMSJ) 12 noon	Marriage of Sam & Rhiannon
1pm	***Table-Top Sale & Afternoon Tea- Parish Centre***
(SMSJ) 1.30pm	Malayalam Mass
(SMSJ) 4-4.45pm	Confessions
(SMSJ) 5pm	Vigil Mass Martin Rego (5th Birthday)
Sun 4 Oct	**27th Sunday in Ordinary Time**
(SMSJ) 7.30am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 8.30am	Mass People of the Parish
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass
(SM) 11.30am	Mass Bridget Connolly (RIP)

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: Verne Pitt (Funeral Mass Wed 30 Sept, 1pm), Doreen Cash (Funeral Mass Wed 14 Oct 11am), Anna Carmichael.

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.**

GOOD COUNSEL NETWORK: On 28 September, they will be praying and fasting for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this country. Click **here** for more details.

HEMEL YOUNG ADULTS (18-35s) meet at Our Lady Queen of All Creation, Adoration & Social. 7.30-9.30pm Friday 2 October. **See flyer.**

WESTMINSTER YOUTH MINISTRY: Please click **here** for forthcoming events.

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.

SUPPORT: **MACMILLAN CANCER:** Raffle on 27 September, at St Mark's. £1 each. Prizes will be displayed on the day.

RCIA (Adult Formation in the Catholic Faith) Tuesday 29 September, 7-8.30pm - *see webpage for more dates.*

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

BINGO: Join the Knights of St Columba on Thursday 1 October, 1.30pm in the Parish Centre Boxmoor, for their monthly bingo session. For more details call Tom Joyce on 07825 173878.

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

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

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. They are also seeking to recruit Foundation Governors. Please contact Eva Final, at efinal@jfk.herts.sch.uk for more details.

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.***

ST ROSE'S SCHOOL: To book onto the Pre School, Nursery and Reception 2027, tour's please click **here**

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**.**

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

Fr David will be away in Assisi from early morning of Sunday 4 October for the feast of St Francis until the afternoon of Tuesday 6 October.