Ss Mary & Joseph & St Mark

https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest
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Parish Priest: Fr David Cherry
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27th Sunday in Ordinary Time | 4 October 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 3

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

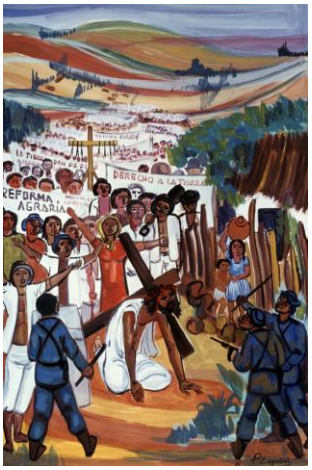
We are a missionary Church. We are sent by the Lord to spread his word and do his work. The Christian Gospel is just not something that we are meant to cling to for our own benefit. Rather, it is like seed that we are meant to give away.

He sends them two by two. We do this work together, with others, in community. Ministers need people to support them, pray for them, talk to them, challenge them. St. Francis of Assisi had an experience of God and then, within months, gathered people around him; St. Dominic, from the beginning, had brothers in his work; St. Teresa of Kolkata attracted a number of her former students to join her in her mission. We don't go it alone. *Bishop Robert Barron*



Jesus himself is quite direct in calling us to repentance. As Saint Luke tells us, "Unless you repent, you will all perish" (Lk 13:5). But he also extends our horizon beyond this earthly life to the horizon of eternal life. For while happiness in this world is fleeting and relative, and sadly sometimes out of reach for some, true happiness is promised to everyone in hope, and this is what we should seek above all else, in all our efforts and choices. Did not the Virgin Mary say to Saint Bernadette, "I do not promise to make you happy in this world but in the next"?
This promise, made right here, has a particular force in this land of France, and it challenges the way we think today. In an age and society that seek progress and material wellbeing, but can sometimes forget the horizon of eternity, Mary comes to remind us of the greatness and richness of our calling to life, to eternal life. In the face of current trends that seek to redefine the value of human life in illness, suffering and old age, the grotto of Massabielle stands as a place of Christian hope. Here, no one is turned away due to their frailty. Your crutches, your wheelchairs and your hidden tears are not obstacles; instead, they are the very place where you are fully respected and welcomed, and where you can experience a transforming encounter with the infinite love of God. Lourdes is blessed as a place for professing the beauty and sanctity of life, for life is welcomed here as a precious gift from God, and is called to flourish for ever in the love of the Father.
"I promise you!" Indeed, eternal life is a firm and certain promise that the Lord makes to us. He has already won it for us by his death on the cross and his resurrection, and through the grace of baptism he is bringing it to fulfilment in us each day.
.... Penance is an act of love, carried out in solidarity with the human family. It is an act of love for God, because we want to make amends for the wounds our sins have dealt to his heart. It is also an act of love for those brothers and sisters of ours who do not heed this call to conversion, and whose sins lead them towards death. This call to conversion also concerns the Church herself as she makes her earthly journey. She must have the courage to begin with herself. In order to heal the deep wounds, infidelities and painful errors that have occurred within her, we must humbly place ourselves under the Lord's purifying gaze. Recognizing our own faults is essential to our spiritual growth. As Saint Augustine wrote, "Do not be content with what you are, if you want to become what you are not yet" (Disc. 169, 15, 18). *Pope Leo XIV at Lourdes 27 Sept 2026* Text

Sunday's Gospel: Matthew 21:33-43



This Sunday's Gospel ends with a particularly severe warning from Jesus, addressed to the chief priests and the elders of the people: "The kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a nation producing the fruits of it" (Mt 21:43). These are words that call to mind the great responsibility of those in every epoch who are called to work in the Lord's vineyard, especially in roles of authority, and they press for a renewal of full fidelity to Christ.
He is "the very stone which the builders rejected" (cf. Mt 21:42), because they judged him to be hostile to the law and a danger to public order; but he himself, rejected and crucified, is risen, to become the "corner stone" on which the foundations of every human life and of the whole world may rest in total safety.
The truth of this is the subject of the Parable of the Unfaithful Tenants to whom a man entrusted his vineyard so that they might cultivate and harvest the produce. The owner of the vineyard symbolizes God himself, while the vineyard symbolizes his people, as well as the life he gives, so that with his grace and our hard work, we may do good. St Augustine comments: "God does also cultivate us... as a field, that he may make us better" (cf. Sermo 87, 1, 2: PL 38, 531). God has a project for his friends, but unfortunately the human response is often oriented to infidelity which is expressed in rejection. Pride and selfishness prevent us from recognizing and welcoming even God's most precious gift: his Only-Begotten Son. *Benedict XVI, Angelus 2 October 2011*
Painting: Station 7 – the Land Question, by Adolfo Pérez

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 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
(SMSJ) 1.30pm	Malayalam Mass
2pm	***Table-Top Sale & Afternoon Tea- Parish Centre***
(SMSJ) 4-4.45pm	Confessions
(SMSJ) 5pm	Mass Martin Rego (5th Birthday)
Sun 4 Oct	**27th Sunday in Ordinary Time**
~~(SMSJ) 7.30am~~	**No Adoration**
(SMSJ) 8.30am	Mass People of the Parish
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass The Kinsell Family (INT)
(SM) 11.30am	Mass Bridget Connolly (RIP)
Mon 5 Oct	*Feria*
~~(SMSJ) 10am~~	**No Mass this morning**
7.30pm	*Choir Practice SMSJ*
Tues 6 Oct	Feria
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Carlos Ray Norris (RIP)
(SMSJ) 6pm	Mass
7pm	***Adult Formation (RCIA) in St Joseph's Hall***
Wed 7 Oct	*Our Lady of the Rosary*
(SMSJ) 7.30am	Mass Fr Brian McMahon (INT)
(SMSJ) 9am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Patrick Gerreyn (RIP)
Thurs 8 Oct	*Feria*
(SM) 8.15am	Mass for JFK
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass The Persecuted Church
11am	***St Rose's School blessing of pet photos***
Fri 9 Oct	*ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN, Pr & Dr*
(SMSJ) 9am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Molly Smyth (RIP ANNIV)
3.45pm	***Signing of CCP Parish Centre***
Sat 10 Oct	*Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
(SMSJ) 8am	Adoration & Confessions
(SMSJ) 9am	Mass Lilly, Michael & John Lawrence (6th RIP ANNIV)
(SMSJ) 4-4.45pm	Confessions
(SMSJ) 5pm	Vigil Mass Angela Jones (RIP)
Sun 11 Oct	**28th Sunday in Ordinary Time**
(SMSJ) 7.30am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 8.30am	Mass Sean Casey (1st RIP ANNIV)
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Ronald Brewster (RIP ANNIV)
(SM) 11.30am	Mass People of the Parish

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

THE POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTION FOR OCTOBER: For mental health ministry. Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

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: Doreen Cash (Funeral Mass Wed 14 Oct 11am SMSJ) Anna Carmichael, Verne Pitt.

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.

Fr David will be away Sunday 4 Oct to Tuesday (afternoon) 6 Oct in Assisi. There will be no Adoration on Sunday and no Mass on Monday.

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.**

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

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

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY **Please return envelopes.**

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.

RCIA (Adult Formation in the Catholic Faith) **Tuesday 6 October, 7-8.30pm.** *See for all the dates.*

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 tours please click **here**

NEWMAN ASSOCIATION: On Wednesday 14 October, 2.30pm at SS Alban & Stephen Church, AL1 3RB, there will be a showing of the recording of a Margaret Beaufort Institute talk entitled Authority and Obedience by Dr Geertjan Zuijdwegt. All are welcome.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY BRIEFING on Climate change: A film on climate change will be screened at Holy Trinity, Leverstock Green on Saturday 3 October, at 2pm.

More Human, intro to Pope's Leo's **MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS** at St Alban & St Stephen, Saturday 17 October. Details here

PRAYING WITH THE SCRIPTURES: Saturday 24 October, 2pm at Westminster Cathedral Hall. Details **here**.

NEW LIFE RETREAT: Saturday 14 November, 10am-5pm at Our Lady and St Vincent Parish, Potters Bar. Details **here**.

HAVE YOU RECENTLY BEEN BAPTISED OR RECEIVED INTO THE CHURCH? Would you like to deepen your relationship with Jesus? Please email **catadmin@rcdow.org.uk** for more details.

ALTAR SERVERS: as of 1 Sept, **the rules have trained. Only DBS certified people may be in the sacristy before Mass**. If your child is serving please bring your children to church 15 minutes before Mass & leave. Soon there will be consent forms, serving practices and a monthly rota.

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

DAILY PRAYER @ Sacredspace.com

DAILY READINGS & REFLECTIONS : My Catholic Life, Word on Fire, Christian Art
WESTMINSTER DIOCESE NEWS
CATHOLIC NEWS IN ENGLAND AND WALES