Ss Mary & Joseph & St Mark

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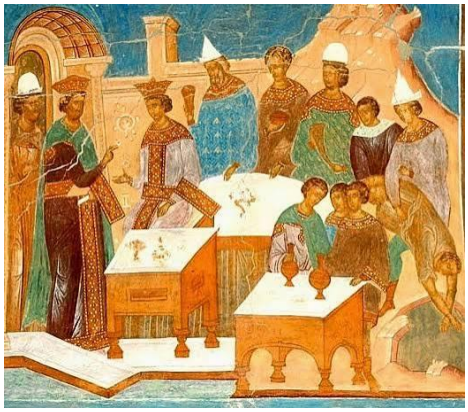
28th Sunday in Ordinary Time | 11 October 2026

The Divine Wedding: Matthew 22:1-14



We tend to look at weddings through our modern lens as primarily private affairs that concern a particular couple and by extension those related to them. Here the essential nature of marriage as founded on the free consent of two individuals is given expression, but what is lost is the role that marriage plays in society. Marriage is a personal reality for the couple who marry, but it is also a social reality, forming the basis for society. This is why marriage is seen traditionally as a religious event. Religion binds us to God and binds us together. It is founded on the truth that we are made for communion with God and binds us to God with acts of worship and devotion that also bind us to each other in mutual love and respect.

Those who refuse the invitation to the wedding feast are doing more than turning down an occasion for a party, they are denying their own happiness. Without God there is no true happiness. In the parable those who refuse the invitation either go off to be busy with their own affairs or remain to kill the king's servants. They are not having a good time! Without God we end up caught up in ourselves or fighting God and his servants. The decline of religion in modern societies has not brought about the promised liberation of humanity, but a fractured world where many people young and old experience loneliness, and anger resounds on social media.

The king does not give up, but sends his servants out to invite as many people as they can find. This is the mission of the Church today, to proclaim to all people that God the Father is calling them to the wedding feast of his Son. We are not alone in this world and there is an answer to our deepest desires. We are made to love God and we enter into union with him through sharing in the marriage feast of the Son, the sacrament of Holy Communion through which we are united to God and to each other.

Fr David Goodill OP, Full text

Pope Leo XIV on the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi, and his Feast Day, 4 October 2026.



"Today — on the eighth centenary of his death — I wish to recall a labourer who worked with great fruitfulness in the Lord's vineyard: Saint Francis of Assisi, whom Jesus himself asked to repair his Church. Inspired by the Crucified One, Francis first and foremost built his own life upon the foundation of Christ, sharing in his poverty, joy and sufferings, even to the point of receiving the mystical sign of the stigmata. A man of fervent prayer, full of charity toward all, he was an example to the first friars who shared his asceticism as an authentic condition for the reform of the Church. Saint Francis repaired the Church by virtue of his faith in the Lord Jesus, healing the rifts of discord through the witness of fraternal love.

Dear friends, the charism of Saint Francis continues to bear fruit even today, after eight centuries. This is attested to, not only by the great and vibrant Franciscan family but also by the many gifts that his spiritual legacy bestows upon the People of God. As we celebrate the Franciscan Jubilee Year, therefore, let us perseveringly ask for the gift of peace and sincerely commit ourselves to building harmony among peoples."



Listen to **Blessed Fulton Sheen** (1895-1979) on the meaning of Love (38 mins)
And his last interview Part 1 (10 mins) & Part 2 (10 mins)

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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 4

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

"Father, hallowed be your name." We're not implying that God should make his name holy (as though it isn't); we're praying that we might make it holy for us, that God might be honoured above all. Everything else in the spiritual life flows from this prioritization.

"Your Kingdom come." God's kingdom refers to God's way of ordering things. Jesus's teaching and his manner of life give us a very good idea of what this kingdom would look like: peace, nonviolence, forgiveness, healing, walking the path of compassion.

"Forgive us our sins for we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us." How central to the teaching of Jesus is forgiveness. And how central to the suffering of the world is the incapacity to forgive, both on the smallest, most intimate level and on the grandest geopolitical scale. *Bp Barron*

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 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**
	Prisoners' Sunday Collection
(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
Mon 12 Oct	*Feria*
(SMS) 10am	Mass For an End to Abortion
6pm	***Women's Faith Gathering in St Joseph's Hall***
7.30pm	*Choir Practice SMSJ*
Tues 13 Oct	*ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR, Patron of the Diocese*
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Judite Canha (RIP)
(SMSJ) 6pm	Mass
7pm	***Adult Formation (RCIA) in St Joseph's Hall***
Wed 14 Oct	*Feria*
(SMSJ) 7.30am	Mass
(SMSJ) 9am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass In Thanksgiving
(SMSJ) 11am	Funeral Mass for Doreen Cash (RIP)
(SMSJ) 4pm	Baptism of Paddy Oliver Nevin
5pm	***Confirmation Group A St Joseph's Hall***
Thurs 15 Oct	*St Teresa of Jesus, V & Dr*
(SM) 8.15am	Mass for JFK
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Judite Canha (RIP)
Fri 16 Oct	*Feria*
(SMSJ) 9am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Darius Main (RIP
3.45pm	***Signing of CCP Parish Centre***
Sat 17 Oct	*St Ignatius of Antioch, B & M*
(SMSJ) 8am	Adoration & Confessions
(SMSJ) 9am	Mass Judite Canha (RIP)
(SMSJ) 4-4.45pm	Confessions
(SMSJ) 5pm	Vigil Mass Johannah Roach (INT)
Sun 18 Oct	**29th Sunday in Ordinary Time**
	World Mission Sunday Collection
(SMSJ) 7.30am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 8.30am	Mass People of the Parish
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Vera Henry (RIP ANNIV)
(SM) 11.30am	Mass
2pm	***Caritas Tea at Our Lady's***

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, Anna Carmichael, Verne Pitt

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

SEPTEMBER FUNDRAISING AT ST MARK'S: Amounts raised: CAFOD £100. **From The Table-Top Sale:** Building fund £220 & McMillan Cancer Support £436.88. Thank you to everyone for your support.

HEMEL YOUNG ADULTS 18-25: Friday 6 November & 4 December, 7.30-9.30pm, Adoration and Social @ Our Lady Queen of All Creation. *See flyer.* (Mass is at 7pm)

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.

RCIA (Adult Formation in the Catholic Faith) Tuesday 13 October, 7-8.30pm. *See the website for all of the dates.*

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE FOR SENIOR SCHOOL ***Fr David will be available Friday 16 October from 3.45pm- 5pm in the Parish Centre, Boxmoor and by arrangement.***

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER: The Holy Father invites all Catholics to support the work of Missio, his charity for World Mission through a second collection. Envelopes are available at the back of church. More details **here**

ST ROSE'S SCHOOL: To book onto the Pre School, Nursery and Reception 2027 tours please click **here** ***A Certificate of Catholic Practice is not required for St Rose's and St Cuthbert Mayne Schools***. If you require a CCP for St Albert the Great School, please make an appointment by email with Fr David to obtain one. Download the forms **here**

MARY'S MEALS is hosting a free screening of its powerful new feature film, Lettie; a woman's survival against all odds, on 22 October. To book for free, click **here**

A Day with Mary: Saturday 7 November, 9.45am until 5pm. 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.

ABORTION IS NOT A HUMAN RIGHT: It is appalling that the abortion lobby wants to proclaim abortion as a human right. This is the opposite of the truth. For more details click **here**.

ALTAR SERVERS: As of 1 September, **the rules have changed. 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.

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

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

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