# Ss Mary & Joseph & St Mark

https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest
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## 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time | 25 October 2026

**SUNDAY GOSPEL: Matthew 22:34-40**



....What is that big picture? In their different and complementary ways, Deuteronomy and Leviticus are both concerned with the establishment of a people set apart – set apart by ritual, by a shared world of symbols and a shared way of life that has some odd and uncomfortable aspects. This people is set apart to be holy, and to reflect by their holiness the reality of the one true God, the creator, supremely loving and utterly transcendent, not an idol, not one of 'the gods', but the One who is entirely beyond human imagining. This is what is meant by 'holy' in the Old Testament. Israel is called to share in this holiness, to participate in, reflect and communicate the transcendent perfection, the terrifying beauty and the creative and utterly gracious love of God. So, behind Jesus's response in today's Gospel lies this context of the extraordinary supernatural vocation of Israel.

This is one context of today's Gospel. The other is that this conversation is part of a set of controversies between Christ and his opponents; we are reminded that Jesus has silenced the Sadducees, and now along come the Pharisees, who perhaps perceive Jesus as being basically on their side. But tragically, it is often those most similar to ourselves for whom we reserve the bitterest hatred, and this certainly seems to have been the case with Jesus and the Pharisees. Christ reserves his angriest condemnation for them, and their plotting against Jesus seems to be a large part of what leads him to the Cross.

The tragedy is that the Pharisees almost certainly would have approved of the answer that Jesus gives in today's Gospel. Yet they will seek to destroy Jesus precisely because he reminds them of Israel's vocation to be holy, because he also condemns them and their followers for their failure to fulfil that destiny. Ironically, they will cry out 'crucify, crucify' against the one man who really does live out the holiness to which Israel is called. Christ along shares perfectly in the holiness of God; Christ alone reflects God's transcendent beauty; Christ alone communicates God's perfect and creative love – and indeed he does so most perfectly on the Cross to which his enemies condemn him. The Cross shows us what it looks like for a man to love God will all his heart and soul and mind. The Cross show us what it looks like to love one's neighbour as oneself. If all the law and the prophets hang upon these two commandments of love, then the law and the prophets are at last fulfilled with the word made flesh hangs upon the Cross to which these commandments have driven him. *Fr Richard Joseph Ounsworth OP*

*Full text*

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*Fr David will be in Retreat at Farnborough Abbey from Sunday afternoon until Wednesday lunchtime. Please note carefully the Mass times overleaf.*

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**CONTACTS FOR HEMEL WEST**

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**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

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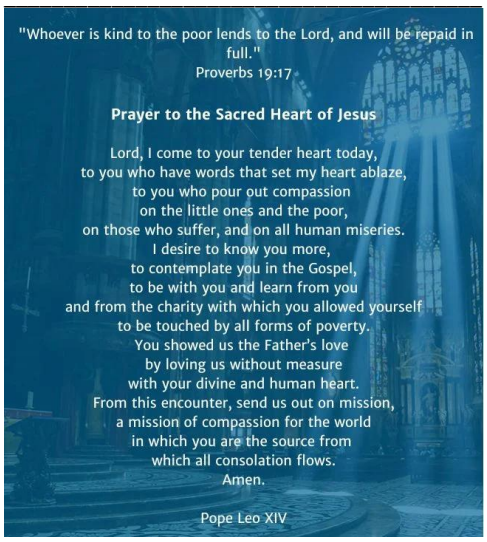

***SMSJ:*** *Ss Mary & Joseph Church, St John's Road, Boxmoor, HP1 1NR*
***SM:*** *St Mark's Church, John F Kennedy School, Hollybush Lane, HP12PH*

| Date | Holy Mass Intentions |
|---|---|
| Sat 24 Oct | *The Blessed Virgin Mary* |
| (SMSJ) 8am | Adoration & Confessions |
| (SMSJ) 9am | Mass |
| (SMSJ) 4-4.45pm | Confessions |
| (SMSJ) 5pm | Vigil Mass Patrick Roach (RIP) |
| **Sun 25 Oct** | **30th Sunday in Ordinary Time** |
| (SMSJ) 7.30am | Holy Hour of Adoration |
| (SMSJ) 8.30am | Mass |
| (SMSJ) 10am | Mass People of the Parish |
| (SM) 11.30am | Mass |
| Mon 26 Oct | *Feria* |
| | ***No 10am Mass – please go to Our Lady's 10am*** |
| **6pm** | ***Women's Faith Gathering in St Joseph's Hall*** |
| Tues 27 Oct | *Feria* |
| (SMSJ) 10am | Mass Hugh Cusick (2nd RIP ANNIV) |
| | ***No 6pm Mass or RCIA*** |
| Wed 28 Oct | *SS SIMON & JUDE, Apostles* |
| | ***No 7.30am Mass or Holy Hour of Adoration*** |
| (SMSJ) 10am | Mass Sue Hutchby (RIP) |
| Thurs 29 Oct | *Blessed Martyrs of Douai* |
| (SMSJ) 10am | Mass Frances Speer (Baptism ANNIV) |
| **7pm** | ***Baptism Preparation*** |
| Fri 30 Oct | *Feria* |
| (SMSJ) 9am | Holy Hour of Adoration |
| (SMSJ) 10am | Mass George Gardner Snr (RIP) |
| Sat 31 Oct | *The Blessed Virgin Mary* |
| (SMSJ) 8am | Adoration & Confessions |
| (SMSJ) 9am | Mass Watkins Family (INT) |
| (SMSJ) 12 noon | Baptism: Elina Delle Donne & Amelia Kamara |
| (SMSJ) 4-4.45pm | Confessions |
| (SMSJ) 5pm | Vigil Mass David Turner (90th Birthday) |
| **Sun 1 November** | **ALL SAINTS** |
| (SMSJ) 7.30am | Holy Hour of Adoration |
| (SMSJ) 8.30am | Mass Holy Souls |
| (SMSJ) 10am | Mass People of the Parish *with Baptism & Confirmation: Nicholas Saldeba & Mark Preece* |
| | ***No 11.30am Mass at St Mark*** |
| **SMSJ) 12 noon** | Mass Winifred Courage (RIP) |
| ***2pm*** | ***Blessing of the Graves at Woodwells*** |
| Mon 2 November | *Commemoration of All Souls* |
| (SMSJ) 7.30am | Requiem Mass for Holy Souls |
| (SMSJ) 10am | Requiem Mass for Holy Souls |
| (SM) 7pm | Requiem Mass for Holy Souls |

**PLEASE NOTE!** **No Mass Monday 26 Oct, at 10am, Tues 27 Oct, at 6pm and Wed 28 Oct, at 7.30am.**
**There will be no 11.30am Mass at St Mark on Sunday 1 November.**
**There will be a 12 noon Mass at Ss Mary & Joseph.**

**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

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**PARISH OFFICE**: The office be closed on 23 & 26 October.

**BLESSING OF GRAVES:** The Knights of St Columba are pleased to announce the Blessing of the Graves at Woodwells Cemetery on Sunday 1 November, at 2pm. Fr David & Fr Kim will be attending to conduct a short service with the Blessing of the flowers and then to go around the cemetery to bless individual graves. All are welcome.

**KSC NATIONAL CHRISTMAS PAINTING COMPETION**: For all younger members of the parish, a Christmas painting competition. Please click **here** to see all the details. Loads of prizes!

**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. Parents will also be needed to help and will need a DBS.

**RCIA (Adult Formation in the Catholic Faith) Next Session: Tuesday 3 November, 7-8.30pm.** *See the website for all of the dates.*

**WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOK:** If you would like to purchase a Year Book for 2027, please let Shirley know by email by Friday 30 October 2026.

**Throughout NOVEMBER Masses will be offered for the Holy Souls.** Please fill in the purple sheet with the names of your beloved departed, place it in the envelope with your offering and place the envelope in the boxes in front of the Altar.

**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 2 forms **here**

**OPEN MORNINGS AT ST ADRIAN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL ST ALBANS:** For more details click **here**

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

**YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT DAY: "RECEIVE & RESPOND" at Christ the King, Potters Bar, N14 4HE on** Sat 28 Nov, 10.30am-5.30pm. See flyer & register here

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

**SITE SUPERVISOR REQUIERED:** Monday to Friday, 8am until 11am at St Alban & St Stephen Parish, AL1 3RB. More details **here**

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

**ST JOSEPH'S MENS GROUP:** They will meet on ***Friday 27 November***, at 7pm and walk to the Paper Mill for supper. All men are welcome.

**BUILDING FUNDRAISER DINNER:** Saturday 28 November, 6.15pm in the Parish Centre, Boxmoor. The Cochin Restaurant will be providing Indian food. £21 for a starter main and dessert, please bring your own glasses and drinks. There will be a quiz and raffle.

**ALTAR SERVERS: As of 1 September, the rules changed. Only DBS certified people may be in the Sacristy before Mass**. 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

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