Ss Mary & Joseph & St Mark

https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest
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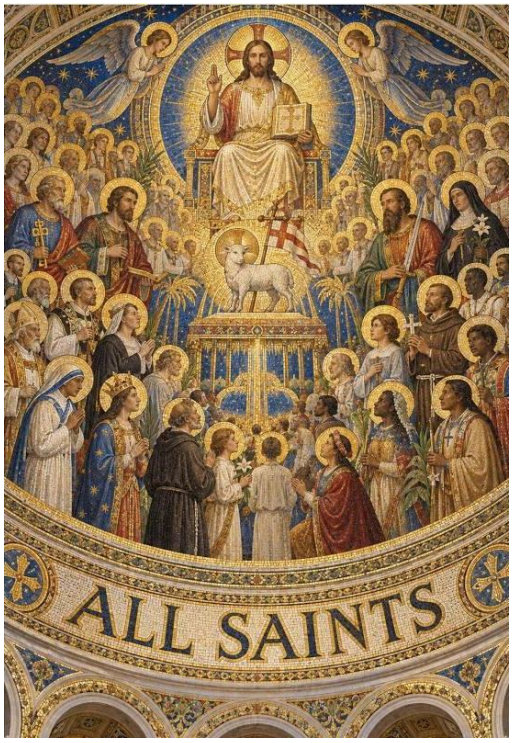
ALL SAINTS | Sunday 1 November 2026

SUNDAY GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12a



Who are these like stars appearing,
these before God's throne who stand?
Each a golden crown is wearing;
who are all this glorious band?
Alleluia! Hark, they sing,
praising loud their heavenly King.

These are they who have contended
for their Saviour's honour long,
wrestling on 'til life was ended,
following not the sinful throng;
these, who well the fight sustained,
triumph through the Lamb have gained.

The saints are not far away, because heaven's not 'up there' or 'out there' like some parallel universe of science fiction. The heavens are the depths of reality, into which St John saw in the Revelation God gave him. This was on the Lord's Day, and it may be that what we have in all the liturgies in the Book of Revelation is actually a description of the Sunday Mass at which St John was present. 'In the spirit' he saw deeper in, saw the countless multitude of saints, including the martyrs buried under the altar (as in the catacombs, altars were often built over the tombs of the martyrs). The saints are in fact all around us, present in spirit – that's the invisible reality the artist of the fish stall revealed, consciously or unconsciously. Especially in the Mass, when we invoke the intercession of the saints in the Eucharistic Prayer, perhaps adding the patron saint of the parish or the saint of the day, we celebrate being part of this great community of the Church which exceeds this earth, is infinitely greater than the here and now.

These are the holy ones: personalities as diverse as you can imagine. Some would have loved to dance in the noise and bustle of the Vucciria market and others would rather have been quiet at home. Some are famous saints like Padre Pio, working miracles and suffering daily in their bodies the pain of the Lord's Cross in the Stigmata; others are people whose extraordinary holiness was known in this life to God alone, and was only revealed after (St Thérèse of Lisieux), or we may know only in the next life. But they have all washed their robes clean in the blood of the Lamb and probably known in equal measure struggle against their false self and against the injustice of the world, and a beautiful peace and delight in their fellow human beings and the beauty of creation. They have known often the comforting presence of God, and in other times lived in darkness and 'full oft have striven with the God they glorified,' in the words of Walter Frere's hymn. Some were martyrs, others teachers, farmers, artists; married lay people and monks and nuns; intellectuals and 'doers'; rich and poor; some holy all their lives, others converts from wickedness, most perhaps somewhere in between.

Fr Dominic White OP Full text

PLEASE PRAY FOR Nicholas Saldeba and Mark Preece to be saved through the Waters of Holy Baptism and to be Confirmed with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit at the 10am Mass on Sunday, the Solemnity of All Saints.

Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their helper and guide.
Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of right judgement and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence.
Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen

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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

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Since love (*caritas*) is what God *is*, it is also that virtue that conforms us most dramatically to God. Thomas Aquinas says.. that *caritas* is friendship with God. .... Jesus says to his disciples that he no longer calls them servants but friends—and in this he opens up a new world. In any other religion, a human being could be called, vis-à-vis God, a creature, a penitent, or an eager supplicant, but only in Christianity could she be called an intimate of God. This is true because in Christ, God has become one of us, thereby establishing a parity beyond our capacity even to imagine. The participation in what God *is* is what Aquinas means by *caritas*, friendship with God. The moral challenge, of course, is to live out the implications of that friendship, listening and speaking to God, obeying the promptings of his voice, opening one's heart to him, and, above all, loving what he loves—which is to say, everyone and everything. *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 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 People of the Parish
Sun 1 Nov	**ALL SAINTS**
(SMSJ) 7.30am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 8.30am	Mass Holy Souls
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass David Turner (90th Birthday) with Baptism & Confirmation: Nicholas Saldeba & Mark Preece
	No 11.30am Mass at St Mark
(SMSJ) 12 noon	Mass Winifred Courage (RIP)
2pm	***Blessing of Graves at Woodwells Cemetery***
Mon 2 Nov	*Commemoration of All Souls Day*
(SMSJ) 7.30am	Requiem Mass for Holy Souls
(SMSJ) 10am	Requiem Mass for Holy Souls
~~(SMSJ) 7pm~~	~~*No Mass at St Mark*~~
Tues 3 Nov	*Feria*
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Winifred Courage (RIP)
(SMSJ) 6pm	Mass Ted Luke (RIP)
7pm	***Adult Formation (RCIA) in St Joseph's Hall***
Wed 4 Nov	*St Charles Borromeo, Bishop*
(SMSJ) 7.30am	Mass
(SMSJ) 9am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Holy Souls
5pm	***Confirmation Group B in St Joseph's Hall***
Thurs 5 Nov	*Feria*
(SM) 8.15am	Mass for JFK
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Holy Souls
1.30pm	***BINGO in the Parish Centre, Boxmoor***
7.30pm	***CWL in St Joseph's Hall***
Fri 6 Nov	*Feria*
(SMSJ) 9am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Holy Souls
5pm	***Confirmation Group C in St Joseph's Hall***
7.30pm	***Hemel Young Adults 18-35 Group at Our Lady's: (Mass at 7pm)***
Sat 7 Nov	*The Blessed Virgin Mary*
(SMSJ) 8am	Adoration & Confessions
(SMSJ) 9am	Mass Holy Souls
(SMSJ) 11am	Deceased Members of the CWL
(SMSJ) 4-4.45pm	Confessions
(SMSJ) 5pm	Vigil Mass Denis Murphy (RIP)
Sun 8 November	**32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**
	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
(SMSJ) 7.30am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 8.30am	Mass Holy Souls
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass of Requiem for the Fallen & John & Marion Gavin (50th Wedding ANNIV)
(SM) 11.30am	Mass People of the Parish

PLEASE NOTE: 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 NOVEMBER: For the proper use of wealth. Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service the common good and solidarity of those who have less.

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

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.

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND: On the weekend 14/15 November there will be the annual collection for sick and retired priests in the Diocese of Westminster. Envelopes will be available at the back of church. More details

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY: Thank you to everyone who offered prayers and donations. If you haven't been able to return your envelope please put them into the collection plate.

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!

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

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**

BINGO: Join the Knights of St Columba on Thursday 5 November, 1.30pm in the Parish Centre, Boxmoor for their monthly bingo session.

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.**

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

ST JOSEPH'S MENS GROUP will meet on ***Friday 27 November***, at 7pm in the Presbytery. All men are welcome.

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

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. Contact Irene Soares on 07377804128 or email valsoares@aol.com

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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