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

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time: 15 November 2026

SUNDAY GOSPEL: Matthew 25. 14-30: The Parable of the talents



Some years ago a Christian group in another country wanted to produce a document about capitalism and the bible. Financial experts were engaged to write it. Unfortunately, they knew more about investment than about scripture and they had the brilliant idea of using today's parable, which they claimed, is proof that God is urging us to invest our money wisely on the stock market so that we make a profit. Oh dear! How easy it is to misinterpret scripture when you blithely ignore Catholic tradition. Of course, they had missed the point entirely. As most Christians know, the gospels warn us repeatedly about the danger of accumulating wealth.
It's true that superficially this parable is about investing money. In those days a talent of silver was a huge sum of money to most people, roughly equivalent to 20 years wages for an ordinary labourer. But if we want to understand the meaning of this parable it is important to see it in context. All three parables in chapter 25 of Matthew's Gospel point to the second coming and the final judgement, and all three are concerned with the purpose of our lives. We are being reminded to live in such a way that we are prepared for that final judgment. So how then do we prepare? Read on Fr John Kenrick OP

The Holy Father speaks to Young People in Buenos Aires :
Dear friends, today too, idols arise and demand our worship: success at any cost, money, an obsession with appearance, popularity or the unrestrained pursuit of pleasure. Sometimes, in order to win the approval of others, we may go so far as to lie, betray or humiliate someone on social media. Envy can prevent us from rejoicing in the good of another, while selfishness can lead us to treat people as objects. There are also those who make a business of offering pleasures that ultimately enslave us, such as pornography and addictive substances. Agustín told us: "Today I stand firm." How powerful those words become when we remember the three young men in Babylon! You too are called to stand firm before the idols of our time. Do not bow down before anything that cannot give you life. And if you have ever fallen, get back up. Do not allow anything or anyone to take away the freedom God has given you..... Tonight, I would like to repeat that question to those who believe they have strayed too far and to those who have at some point perceived from others that there was no place for them in the Church. **The Lord is seeking you!** Remember Zacchaeus. He climbed a tree to see Jesus and discovered that Jesus was also looking for him. Jesus called him by name and wanted to stay at his house. That encounter led Zacchaeus to make amends for the injustices he had committed (cf. Lk 19:1-10). No one has fallen so low that Christ cannot raise them up. May our communities always keep their doors open; may they know how to welcome those who arrive with questions, assist those who suffer and patiently accompany those who are seeking God. Full text



FORTHCOMING DATES:
Advent Sunday 29 November: Rite of Acceptance of Catechumens at 10am Mass & Reception into the Catholic Church of Ozana Silvia Dragomir Azevedo
Rorate Masses (of Our Lady in expectation): 7am on Wednesdays in Advent by candlelight.
Saturday 5 December 3.30-4.45pm: to be turned on by the Mayor in Wharf Rd, 12' Christmas tree in our grounds. Hemel band, combined Choirs & Carols.
Friday 18 December (SMSJ) Carols by Candlelight at 7pm

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 1

JOIN OUR WHATSAPP COMMUNITY
for Announcements, Newsletter and Parish Groups

PARISH FINANCES
DONATE HERE
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

THANK YOU CALLUM

NEXT SUNDAY (22 Nov) after 10am Mass we will celebrate and thank Callum Moore in the Parish Centre over Coffee and Bacon Rolls. Callum served for over 8 years as Youth Work and Co-ordinating Catechist in Hemel West Parish.
He continues working at JFK School as a lay chaplain and is now going to his local Church in Tring within walking distance of home with his family.

THANK YOU, Callum, for your dedication and commitment to your work among us and for bringing so many of our young people to a deeper understanding of their faith in the Lord Jesus and the practise of the Catholic Faith.

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 14 Nov	*The Blessed Virgin Mary*
(SMSJ) 8am	Adoration & Confessions
(SMSJ) 9am	Mass Holy Souls
(SMSJ) 4-4.45pm	Confessions
(SMSJ) 5pm	Vigil Mass Bridget & Michael Gavin (RIP)
Sun 15 Nov	**33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**
(SMSJ) 7.30am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 8.30am	Mass People of the Parish
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Baby Joshua Jones (20th RIP ANNIV)
(SMS) 11.30am	Mass Holy Souls
(SMSJ) 1pm	Baptism Adeline Fleming
2pm	***Caritas Tea at Our Lady's***
Mon 16 Nov	*St Edmund of Abingdon, Bishop*
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Holy Souls
Tues 17 Nov	*Feria*
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Holy Souls
(SMSJ) 6pm	Mass Holy Souls
7pm	***Adult Formation (RCIA) in St Joseph's Hall***
Wed 18 Nov	*Feria*
(SMSJ) 7.30am	Mass For an End to Abortion
(SMSJ) 9am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Holy Souls
Thurs 19 Nov	*Feria*
(SM) 8.15am	Mass for JFK
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Holy Souls
11.30am	***Funeral - Adrian Flowerdue RIP (Crematorium)***
Fri 20 Nov	*Feria*
(SMSJ) 9am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Paul & Paula Watkins (45th Wedding ANNIV)
Sat 21 Nov	*The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
(SMSJ) 8am	Adoration & Confessions
(SMSJ) 9am	Mass Holy Souls
(SMSJ) 4-4.45pm	Confessions
(SMSJ) 5pm	Vigil Mass Holy Souls
Sun 22 November	**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE**
(SMSJ) 7.30am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 8.30am	Mass William Hegarty (15th RIP ANNIV)
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass People of the Parish
(SM) 11.30am	Mass Holy Souls

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 of common good and solidarity of those who have less.

THE SICK: Pippa Marchant, 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

RECENTLY DEPARTED: Sylvester Nolan (Funeral: Friday 27 November, 11am at SMSJ) Hazel Charles (Funeral: Wed 2 December 11am), Adrian Flowerdue

RECENT CHARITY COLLECTIONS
Thank you for your donations of **£679 to CAFOD** and **£325.65 to World Mission Sunday.**

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS FUND: This weekend there will be the annual collection for sick and retired priests in the Diocese of Westminster. Envelopes are available at the back of church. More details

BUILDING FUND RAFFLE AT ST MARK'S: Tickets at £1 each will be on sale this weekend and the draw will be on Sunday 29 November.

Knights of St Columba (KSC) NATIONAL CHRISTMAS PAINTING COMPETION for all younger members of the parish. Please click **here** to see all the details. Loads of prizes!

RCIA (Adult Formation in the Catholic Faith) Next Session: Tuesday 17 November, 7-8.30pm. *See the website for all of the dates.*

Throughout NOVEMBER Masses will be offered for the Holy Souls. Please place names and envelope with your offering 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***.

ST CUTHBERT MAYNE SCHOOL: Click **here** for details of the Year 3 Open Events at St Cuthbert Mayne School, HP1 3EA.

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST are currently seeking to recruit Foundation Governors. More details **here**

PARISH OFFICE: The office will be closed From Friday 13 November, until Tuesday 17 November

WESTMINSTER INTERFAITH GROUP will meet in the Hinsley Room, Morpeth Terrace, Wednesday 18 November, 1.30pm until 3pm to discuss Pope Leo XIV's encyclical **Magnifica Humanitas**. More details **here**

STASHBUSTER SALE: Parish Centre, Boxmoor Saturday 21 November, 11am until 3pm. Art and Craft bargains and Family Art with tea and cake.

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

HEMEL YOUNG ADULTS 18-35: meet on the first Friday of the month. Next meeting **is at SMSJ**, 7.30pm for Adoration in Church followed by a social in St Joseph's Hall.

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

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

The CATHOLIC WOMENS LEAGUE will meet on Thursday 3 December, at 7.30pm in St Joseph Hall. Jane Gonzalez a member of the Boxmoor CWL, has agreed to present an Advent Reflection at the meeting. The meeting will finish with coffee/tea and biscuits. For more details and if you would like to attend let Eileen know on 07831511543. Everyone is welcome.

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