PRAYING TOGETHER FOR THE CHURCH, THE WORLD & THE PARISH

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS

SUN 25 FEB	**2ND SUNDAY OF LENT**	6.00pm Vigil	Pro Populo (For the People)
		8.00am	Joan Lyons Anniv
		9.30am	John Dony Keating Anniv
		11.00am	Sheila O'Shea RIP
		2.15pm	Polish Mass
		5.00pm	Helen Fisher Anniv
MON 26 FEB	Lent feria	8.30am	Marie Magee Anniv
		12 noon	Ralph Spiegelhalter RIP
TUES 27 FEB	Lent feria	8.30am	John Cahill Intentions
		12 noon	Ralph Spiegelhalter RIP
WED 28 FEB	Lent feria	8.30am	Natalaie Jepifanovs Intention (sick)
		12 noon	Philip McGovern RIP
THUR 1 MAR	ST DAVID	8.30am	Mary Coelho Anniv & Johnnie Coelho RIP
		12 noon	Albert Okeke RIP
			Polish Mass
FRI 2 MAR	Lent feria	8.30am	Margaret Shannon RIP
		12 noon	Bernadette Smythe Anniv
SAT 3 MAR	Lent feria	11.00am	Florence Ferdinands RIP
		6.00pm Vigil	Kathleen Wallace RIP

CONFESSIONS: Saturday's from 11:30am & 5.15pm - 5:35pm
EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: Saturday 5.15pm - 5.40pm

THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MARCH: Evangelisation: Formation in Spiritual Discernment. That the Church may appreciate the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and communitarian.

TEXT GIVING THROUGH YOUR MOBILE PHONE: Easy, safe, convenient, do it anytime.
Text: "Parish HROOD" to 70800 to donate £5 to Holy Rood Parish. Thank you.

MAKING CONTACT AT HOLY ROOD

Parish Priest:	Fr. Shaun Richards	shaunrichards@rcdow.org.uk	(☎ Opt 3)
Assistant Priest:	Fr Joseph Okoro	josephokoro@rcdow.org.uk	(☎Opt 4)
Deacon:	Rev. Neville Dyckhoff	nevilledyckhoff@rcdow.org.uk	(☎ Opt 5)
Parish Secretary:	Deirdre Edwards	watford@rcdow.org.uk	(☎ Opt 2)

Hall Bookings: via the office or watford@rcdow.org.uk **(Office Hours Mon-Fri, 10am to 1pm)**
Address: Holy Rood House, Exchange Road, Watford. WD18 0PJ. (01923) 224085
website: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/watford/ Facebook.com/HolyRoodWatford
Charity No: 233699
Other Parish Contacts: Safeguarding Representative: Siobhan Garibaldi 07929 490090
Hospital Chaplain: Colette Lennon 01923 217994

Sunday 25th February 2018
2nd SUNDAY OF LENT

Readings for today are on page **151** of the Parish Mass Book

Sunday cycle Readings Year B
Weekday readings Year 2
Psalms week 2

Holy Rood Catholic Church, Watford

TODAY'S MASS

"God did not spare his own son"

Christ did not come to explain away suffering. He came to fulfil it. Like Abraham we must be prepared to sacrifice everything to God and thus in turn we find fulfilment. God will refuse us nothing now that Christ, risen from the dead pleads our cause before his Father in heaven.

First Reading: Genesis 22:1-2, 9, 10-13, 15-18
The story of Abraham and his willingness to sacrifice his only son Isaac is one of the most dramatic stories in the entire Bible. He commended Abraham's complete devotion and promised to reward him with countless descendants who would be richly blessed throughout the earth. Through Jesus, we know that God is love and never desires the death of any person.

Second Reading: Letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:31-34
We recall that Abraham was willing to sacrifice his only beloved son because he thought God asked it. For his faith and trust, Abraham received God's finest blessings. In his letter to the Romans, Paul speaks of another Father who "did not spare his own Son but handed him over for the sake of us all." That Son, Jesus Christ, now raised from the dead, intercedes with the Father for us.

Gospel: Mark 9:2-10
The story of Jesus' Transfiguration on the mountain is a preview of great things to come. With his amazed disciples looking on, Jesus is suddenly dressed in dazzling white and his face shines like the sun. He is speaking with the long-dead prophets Moses and Elijah. These two Old Testament figures represent the Law and the Prophets. They are interrupted by a majestic voice from a cloud. And the voice says that Jesus is God's beloved Son. The bedazzled disciples are told to "Listen to him."

PARISH CENTRE DIARY FOR THE WEEK

Sun 18	Tea and coffee after 11.00am Mass	
Mon 19	Cocaine Anonymous	7.00pm
	Flower Arranging	7.30pm
Tues 20	Parent & Toddlers	9.30am
Wed 21	RCIA	8.00pm
Fri 23	Alcoholics Anonymous	8.00pm

DURING LENT…

STATIONS OF THE CROSS every Friday 11.15am & 7.00pm in church. The Apostles Creed will be said as an alternative to the Nicene Creed and can be found on page 12 of the Parish Mass Book.

Thank you for not bringing flowers into church. During Lent. The flower fast ensures that the impact of our Easter decorations will be all the greater.

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY CAFOD has been standing alongside poor communities working with them to end poverty and injustice across the world. Please give generously this weekend. Envelopes are available at the back of the church. Thank you.

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction is celebrated every Saturday evening 5.15pm - 5.40pm Why not come along.

GOOD NEWS: Repair works on the tower are now completed and the taking down of the scaffolding to follow. Also, we are now using the diocesan microsite from the diocese for the parish website, and which costs us nothing to run.

MASS FOR BEREAVED PARENTS Saturday 10th March at Westminster Cathedral at 2.30pm. At the end of the homily parents will be invited to write the name of their deceased child; these will be collected and taken to the sanctuary.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED
Edna Zuchowski, Eoin Downing
ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED
John Francis Bentley, Peter Molloy, John Dony Keating, Helen Fisher, Bernadette Smythe, Marie Magee
Eternal rest grant to them O Lord

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER at Christchurch, St Albans Road this Friday 2nd March at 2pm. The service will be prepared by ladies from Suriname with the theme ' All God's creation is very good'. All very welcome to come.

NEW: HOLY ROOD WALKERS CLUB. Would you be interested in taking part in countryside walks organised locally and occasionally further afield. The difficulty would vary between medium and hard, and the distance would usually be between 5 and 10 miles. Individuals of all ages are welcome; the only requirement is that you are fit enough to complete the distance and ready to have fun! If you are interested, please contact Paul Montgomery on 07887726061 or paulmonty@ntlworld.com.

PERMANENT DEACON 'COME AND SEE' Men wanting to know more about the Permanent Diaconate are invited to come to a two hour meeting from 10am to 12noon at: St Edward the Confessor, Golders Green on Saturday 10th March, or Ealing Abbey Saturday 14th April, or Our Lady and St Vincent, Potters Bar Saturday 12th May. No booking needed. Wives welcome. Contact: Deacon Adrian Cullen 07961 594725 or Deacon Anthony Clark 07545 373548.

LIFE ASCENDING / ASCENT- Outing to see the Snowdrops and gardens at Benington Lordship, near Stevenage Date: this Tuesday, 27 February - Refreshments available Time: Depart Holy Rood at 1.00pm; Return approximately 4.30pm Please leave your name and contact details on the sign-up sheet.

A CALL TO YOUNG ADULTS - Your Bishops want to hear from you. Cardinal Vincent and the area Bishops are inviting young adults, aged 18 to 30, to meet with them to discuss the theme of the next Synod of Bishops - 'Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment'. In particular, they would like to hear about how you see your place in the world, how faith impacts your life and how the Church can best accompany you as you work out God's plan for your life. The Cardinal is hosting two meetings at Archbishop's House in Victoria and Area Bishops other meetings across the diocese. You're invited to attend one of these meetings. Please consider making your voice heard and playing your part in the shaping the Church's approach to young people. Register to attend at http://dowym.com/events/

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP
is sponsored this week by Rita Maguire
for Christina Mullens RIP

CARDINAL'S MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 19th May at 3pm. The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2018. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give Deidre in the office the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if you have no email).

SVP FIRST FRIDAY LUNCH This Friday 2nd March after the Midday Mass. Soup, roll, cake £2. All welcome. Organised by our local SVP group.

FULLY ESCORTED PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SHRINE, Ireland, 14th May 2018. £599 per person sharing. Price includes flights with 10kg hand luggage, all taxes, luxury transfers, 4 nights' in Knock House Hotel with full Irish Breakfast each morning and 4 Course Dinner each evening. All entertainment, excursions and guided tours included. Wheelchair accessible rooms in the hotel. Limited single rooms at supplement of £100. Groups/Individuals Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740175557 email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

CARRYING THE CROSS TO WALSINGHAM 23rd March - 1st April In 1948, a group of students carried a large wooden cross from London to Walsingham, starting a tradition which gives people the opportunity to experience Christ's love for us in a unique way. It's a 7-day walking pilgrimage and everyone who is 18+ and capable of walking is invited to join us. Please don't worry about the distance as there is always a support car. We meet in London on the 23rd of March, walk, sing, become a close group of friends, sleep in parish and village halls and eat quite a lot of cake along the way. Find out more and sign up at studentcross.org.uk or contact Anke (vosanke@hotmail.com or 07470 249940).

HOLY ROOD AFRICAN CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY meeting in the Parish Centre on Sunday 11th March from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. New members welcome.

WEEKLY COLLECTION
Envelopes £794.32 **Loose** £969.43
Standing Orders: £516.79

If you don't want to bring loose change for your offering to God each week, we can provide envelopes for you and explain our weekly or monthly standing order scheme. Just contact Deirdre in the office for more information. Thank you

SWITCH OFF YOUR PHONE AND SWITCH ON YOUR HEART AND MIND TO THE LORD

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MOUNTAIN
PRESENCE
BLEACHER
WHITE
ELIJAH
MOSES
RABBI
THREE
TENTS
SHADOW
BELOVED
VOICE