HOLY MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE COMING WEEK

SUN 23 December	**+ 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT**	6.00pm Vigil	Pauline Jenkins, RIP
		8.00am	Deceased members of the Hardwidge, Howe and Southam Families, RIP
		9.30am	Mary Rose, Anniv
		11.00am	Mrs peggy Douglas, RIP
		2.15pm	Pro Populo (For the People)
		5.00pm	Polish Mass
MON 24 December	Advent feria	8.30am	Jim Smythe, RIP
		12.00noon	Carmelina Petagine, Anniv
	CHRISTMAS SEASON	6.00pm	Family Vigil Mass of Christmas begins
		8.00pm	Polish Mass
		11.00pm	Midnight Mass begins
TUES 25 December	**+THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)**	8.00am	Pro Populo (For the People)
		9.30am	Pro Populo (For the People)
		11.00am	Pro Populo (For the People)
		2.15pm	Polish Mass
WED 26 December	ST STEPHEN, The First Martyr	12.00noon	Foundation Mass
THUR 27 December	ST JOHN, Apostle & Evangelist	12.00noon	Michael O'Malley, Anniv
FRI 28 December	THE HOLY INNOCENTS, Martyrs	12.00noon	Ernesto Mariconda, Anniv
SAT 29 December	ST THOMAS BECKET, Bishop & Martyr	11.00am	Expectant mothers and the safety of unborn babies.
	+Vigil Mass	6.00pm	Pro Populo (For the People)

CONFESSIONS: Saturday 11.30am and 5.00pm - 5:25pm
EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: Tuesday 9am till 12 noon, Saturday 4.30 pm - 5.30pm
THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR December: That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

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

Charity No: 233699

Parish Priest:	Fr Derek McGuire	derekmcguire@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:	Martha Stuart-Berrisford	watford@rcdow.org.uk	(☎Opt 2)

Office hours: Tues, Thu, Fri 10am-1pm , Wed 3pm-6pm
Address: Holy Rood House, Exchange Road, Watford. WD18 0PJ. (01923) 224085
website: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/watford/ Facebook.com/HolyRoodWatford

Other Parish Contacts: Safeguarding Representatives: Siobhan Garibaldi
Andrew Danquah and Bridget Basnayake
Hospital Chaplain: Colette Lennon 01923 217994

Sunday 23rd December 2018
4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Readings for this Sunday are on page 90 of the Parish Mass Book

Sunday cycle Readings Year C
Psalms week 4

Holy Rood Catholic Church, Watford

Over the past four months I have been discovering lots of things about Holy Rood. It is obvious that throughout the year people work tirelessly and quietly arranging flowers, cleaning the church, reading at mass, serving on the altar, making sure the sacristy is kept up to date, distributing Holy Communion, our excellent musicians and singers, helping out in the Repository, ushering at Mass, counting the collections, those who organise the SVP, parishioners who give so generously to the good causes at home and far way, and so the list can go on and on. Many thanks to all of you who give of yourselves so generously. Thanks too to those of you who have handed in cards, envelopes, bottles (some highly flammable!) etc. to Fr. Joseph and myself in appreciation for all we try to do for you. It is touching to know how much you care for us. THANK YOU to EVERYONE who is involved in making this such a wonderful place to be. May God continue to bless you all with good health and happiness this Christmas and throughout 2019!

DURING THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

Morning Mass will be at 12Noon each day. The church will open ONE HOUR BEFORE MASS and will be CLOSED IMMEDIATELY AFTER MASS and Rosary (1p.m.). Our Parish Office is closed and Fr. Joseph will be having a break so ALL enquiries during this time to Fr Derek please.

A FAMILY BLESSING ON THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Families and especially those who have had a child baptised during this year (either here in Holy Rood or elsewhere) are warmly welcome. This will take place on Sunday, 30th December, at 4pm in the Church followed by refreshments in the Parish Centre.

Prayer for parents to pray with their children:

Of your goodness,

Give us;

With your love,

Inspire us;

By your Spirit,

Guide us;

By your power,

Protect us;

In your mercy,

Receive us

Now and always. Amen

SPONSORING THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP: If you would like to sponsor the lamp for a particular intention, the cost is £10 for the week. You can do so at the Repository at the back of the church. Sponsorship helps towards the costs of sanctuary candles. Thank you.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY

Bozena Taylor, Nora Reid, Michael O'Sullivan, Lynette Briginshaw

ANNIVERSARIES

Michael O'Malley, Ernesto Mariconda, John Power, Mary Rose, Carmelina Petagine,

Eternal rest grant to them O Lord

PARISH CENTRE DIARY FOR THE WEEK

Sun 23	Tea and coffee after 11:00am Mass	
Mon 24	Cocaine Anonymous	7.00pm
Fri 28	Alcoholics Anonymous	8.00pm

THANK YOU. A huge "thank you" for the very generous donations to the Alternatives Baby Box Project. 100 Boxes have now been given free to mum-to-be in Special Need. Well done to all concerned. This is an expression of our FAITH IN ACTION.

The SVP are distributing 11,500 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless and those spending the principal part of their day on the streets. Each pack contains thermal gloves, two pairs of socks, gloves, wet wipes, toothbrush, toothpaste, information sheet and pen. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £3.50 per pack. Donations can be sent to Vinnie Packs, P O Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ with cheques made out to SVP. Thank you so much for your support.

ST ANTHONY'S SCHOOL NURSERY ADMISSIONS for 2019. Apply for September 2019 places now. Please visit the school website www.stanthonys.herts.sch.uk for details on how to apply and our admissions criteria .

OFFICE CHRISTMAS CLOSURE: The office is now closed and will reopen on 8th January**.**

For current job vacancies locally and in the diocese, please see folder at the back of church.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE 23RD MARCH 2019. PLEASE BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENTS. EMAIL WATFORD@RCDOW.ORG.UK

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP
is sponsored for
God's Blessings on our parishioners

Parking Restrictions do apply over the Christmas break so please park with this in mind.

Mission Appeal 2019. On Sunday the 6th January, The Epiphany of the Lord, we will be having a second collection for the mission appeal on behalf of the Missionaries of Africa.

Concert at Holy Rood Church. Gerry O'Beirne and the Croxley Community Choir will be performing a concert in Holy Rood Church on 5th April 2019. The programme includes the Little Jazz Mass (Chilcott) and a varied selection of classical, and folk pieces. Rehearsals are on Thursday evening between 19:45 and 21:45 in Little Green School, Croxley, starting on 10th January 2019. If there are any more parishioners who would like to join the choir to take part in this performance, they should contact Gerry O'Beirne or Anthony Sheridan (gerryobeirne87@gmail.com or anthonypetersheridan@gmail.com) There is a termly subscription of £25 plus the cost of music books

Wishing you all a Happy, Blessed Christmas

WEEKLY COLLECTION
Loose £924 Envelopes £776
Standing Orders £548
Thank you for supporting your church

CHRISTMASTIDE AT HOLY ROOD

MONDAY 24TH DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS EVE

8.30am Advent Mass

12.00 noon Advent Mass

6.00pm Family Vigil Mass of Christmas

11.00pm Midnight Mass begins

TUESDAY 25TH DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS DAY

8.00am Mass

9.30am Mass

11am Mass

There is no evening Mass

WEDNESDAY TO FRIDAY - Octave days of Christmas

Daily Mass at 12.00 noon (No Masses at 8.30am)

SATURDAY 29TH DECEMBER

11.00 Mass

6.00pm – Vigil of The Holy Family

SUNDAY 30th DECEMBER -THE HOLY FAMILY

8.00am Mass

9.30am Mass

11.00am Mass

2.15pm Polish Mass

5.00pm Mass

MONDAY 31ST DECEMBER - 7th day Octave of Christmas

12.00 noon Mass (No Mass at 8.30am)

TUESDAY 1ST JANUARY– SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

12.00 noon Mass (No Mass at 8.30am)

H	A	E	L	H	A	D	U	J	A
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Z	E	R	O	A	L	A	T	H	S
A	S	F	E	Z	H	E	R	C	E
B	E	D	L	I	H	C	O	Y	L
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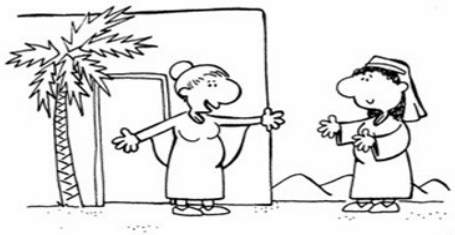
MARY ELIZABETH WOMB MOTHER JUDAH CHILD BLESSED JOY ZECHARIAH LEAPT FRUIT PROMISE