

## HOLY MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE COMING WEEK

<b>MON 9 December</b>	<b>THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, Patron of the Diocese.</b>	8.30am 12.00noon	Pauline Cole man, Anniv Wilfred Basnayake, Anniv
<b>TUES 10 December</b>	Advent feria	8.30am 12.00noon	Kathy Furey, Birthday, Int. No Mass .Deanery meeting.
<b>WED 11 December</b>	Advent feria	8.30am 12.00noon	Patrick Smyth, Anniv Conrad Basnayake, RIP
<b>THUR 12 December</b>	Advent feria	8.30am 12.00noon 7.00pm	Ted Brady, RIP Lee Chaunt, Anniv. Polish Mass
<b>FRI 13 December</b>	St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr	8.30am 12.00noon 7-8pm	Tim Heaslip, Anniv Paul Andrew, RIP Eucharistic Adoration
<b>SAT 14 December</b>	St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor	11.00am 6.00pm	Josie Deane, RIP Holy Souls
<b>SUN 15 December</b>	<b>+3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> (Gaudete Sunday)	8.00am 9.30am 11.00am 2.15pm 5.00pm	Pro Populo (For the People) Joyce Dyer, RIP Hilda Guyapersaud, Anniv Polish Mass Jean Cuddihy, RIP

**CONFESSIONS:** Saturday from 11.30am and 5pm, Friday from 8pm

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** Saturday 4.30pm -5.30pm, Tuesday 9am-11.45am, Friday from 7pm

**THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER: The Future of the Very Young**  
That every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.

### MAKING CONTACT AT HOLY ROOD

Charity No: 233699

Parish Priest:	Fr Derek McGuire	<a href="mailto:derekmcguire@rcdow.org.uk">derekmcguire@rcdow.org.uk</a>	(☎)Opt 3
Assistant Priest:	Fr Joseph Okoro	<a href="mailto:josephokoro@rcdow.org.uk">josephokoro@rcdow.org.uk</a>	(☎)Opt 4
Deacon:	Rev Neville Dyckhoff	<a href="mailto:nevilledyckhoff@rcdow.org.uk">nevilledyckhoff@rcdow.org.uk</a>	(☎)Opt 5
Parish Secretary:	Martha Stuart-Berrisford	<a href="mailto:watford@rcdow.org.uk">watford@rcdow.org.uk</a>	(☎)Opt 2

**Office hours:** Tuesday , Wednesday and Thursday 10am- 1pm

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**Other Parish Contacts:** Safeguarding Representatives: Siobhan Garibaldi, Andrew Danquah and Bridget Basnayake

**Hospital Chaplain:** Deacon Anthony 07876 526935 or emailing: [anthonycurran@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:anthonycurran@rcdow.org.uk)

**Sunday 8th December 2019**

**2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Readings for this Sunday are on page 85 of the Parish Mass Book

Sunday cycle  
Readings Year A  
Psalms week 2

Holy Rood  
Catholic Church, Watford



### General Election 2019

#### Message from the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales

*The Lord Jesus said: 'I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'* (John 10:10)

This General Election is profoundly important to the United Kingdom. Catholics cannot simply “watch from the balcony.”<sup>1</sup> Conscious of the common good of every person and our society as a whole, we ask everyone to engage with the election and vote. Honest political activity depends upon integrity. We urge all in public life to recognise that telling the truth, not making vindictive and abusive comments or unattainable promises, are essential.<sup>2</sup> The question of the United Kingdom’s place in Europe continues to dominate political discourse. In whatever way our future relationship with our closest neighbours develops, Britain must be committed to a positive engagement as a key international partner in promoting peace, security and responsible stewardship of the planet. As Pope Francis reminds us, “good politics is at the service of peace.”<sup>3</sup>

- Citizens have a duty to emphasise and help shape a politics rooted in the service of human rights and peace. The test of any policy should be its impact upon human dignity, particularly for the most disadvantaged in our society. In making judgments about how to vote, please consider carefully the following and ask your candidates how they would uphold: The innate dignity of every human being; defending both the child in the womb, the good of the mother and an understanding of the immeasurable good of a child not yet born? The dignified care for those who are terminally ill and dying while resisting the false compassion of assisted suicide or euthanasia?
- The needs of those who are frequently neglected or discarded by society such as people with disabilities, Travellers, older people, those who are homeless, those in prison and those trapped in modern slavery?
- The process of integration of migrants and refugees who have made their homes here<sup>4</sup>, challenging the global rise of xenophobia and racism that is so radically incompatible with our faith<sup>5</sup>?
- The rights of those in our own communities and overseas who “can see no end to the tunnel of extreme poverty,”<sup>6</sup> providing them with assistance and confronting the structural injustices that compound their suffering?
- Care for our common home and tackle the climate emergency which threatens the future of our entire human family and is already having a profound impact upon the world’s poorest people<sup>7</sup>?
- Freedom of religion and belief, ensuring that everyone has the right to exercise their conscience and practise their creed freely without fear?
- The cherishing of marriage, recognising the essential place of the family in the service of life and of society?
- The right of parents to educate their children in accordance with their faith and support the work of Catholic schools in their contribution to society and their promotion of the common good?

Jesus tells us “I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.” Informed by the work of our parishes, schools and charities, we should all approach this election as an opportunity to promote life, dignity and human flourishing for all.

We call on all Catholics to pray for the wellbeing of our society. May the Holy Spirit guide our choice as we seek together, and for all, “life to the full.”

As the newsletter is being written, Fr. Derek is undergoing surgery. He will have a period of convalescence but hopes to be back in the parish on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December. Thanks to all who are praying for him on a daily basis.

**PROCLAIM 2ND WEEK OF ADVENT.** The Proclaim Team would like to thank you all, for your wonderful response to the Advent Prayer cards last weekend. This week we focus on the second candle in the Advent Wreath, that represents Love. Please try to exchange your card with someone **you do not know, please do not swap cards with the Priests, or Deacon Neville as we do know them, and our mission is to pray for someone who we do not know. Then take the card home to pray for the person you swapped with, they will be praying for you.**

**CARITAS** has shared a 'Advent giving Calendar' which can be found at the back of the church. This calendar will follow the concept of a 'reverse' Advent Calendar and gives suggestions for items to collect each day to donate to a local foodbank or poverty project in time for Christmas.

**SVP - WATFORD FOODBANK DONATIONS.** Thank you for your FoodBank donations which totalled 173 kg in November. This was the second largest donation this year. Donations so far this year are 1350 kg. The Trussell Trust have recently announced that over the last six months, the number of people visiting their FoodBanks have increased by 20%. Your assistance is therefore very much appreciated. If you are in a position to help, the FoodBank boxes are at the back of the church. Thank you.

**HELP SUPPORT OUR LOCAL HOSPITAL.** Could you spare an hour to help support a Catholic patient by popping in for a friendly chat on a Saturday or Sunday at Watford Hospital? If you're interested to find out more information without making a commitment - please contact: Deacon Anthony by leaving a message on 07876 526935 or emailing: [anthonycurran@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:anthonycurran@rcdow.org.uk)

**THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP**  
is sponsored for  
Wilfred Basnayake, Anniv.

PARISH CENTRE DIARY FOR THE WEEK		
<b>Mon 9</b>	Cocaine Anonymous	7.00pm
<b>Tue 10</b>	Deacons meeting	8.00pm
<b>Wed 11</b>	Prayer and life workshop	7.00pm
	RCIA	8.00pm
<b>Thu 12</b>	Confirmation Session 3	6.45pm
<b>Fri 13</b>	Alcoholics Anonymous	8.00pm
<b>Sun 15</b>	Tea and coffee after	11am Mass
	First Communion Meeting	12.30pm

**DIOCESAN FORMATION PROGRAMME – “LEARN FROM ME”.** Courses Available – Certificate in Parish Mission and Ministry, (ONE YEAR PART TIME DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE) Certificate in Catechesis, (TWO YEAR PART TIME DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE) and A Catechesis on Marriage and Family, (Six month) PLEASE SEE POSTER AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH FOR INFORMATION EVENING. Information Packs available from the PARISH OFFICE. Bursaries available.

**FAREWELL MASS FOR COLETTE LENNON** who has been the Catholic hospital chaplain for a number of years will take place on 9th December at 12 noon. Everyone is welcome to come and bid her a fond farewell. Please come and join us for tea and coffee after Mass.

**CAN YOU SPARE ONE OR TWO HOURS FOR WATFORD MENCAP? SEE POSTER AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH.** Please contact Amanda, [ajenshil@watfordmencap.org.uk](mailto:ajenshil@watfordmencap.org.uk) or call 01923 713637.

**FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED**

Terri White, James Robb, Rena Dora Beavis, Richard Reuth, Suzanne Ryan, Kathleen Connolly, Patrick Collins, Joseph Michael Perera, Joyce Dyer, John (Jack) Sheehy, Peter Pumilia, Esther Tavares, Josie Deane.

**ANNIVERSARIES**

Stephen Tapprell Holland, Patrick Bourke, Josephine & Jim Harvey, Wilfred Basnayake, Patrick Smyth, Lee Chant, Pauline Coleman

**Eternal rest grant to them O Lord**

**DEACONS MEETING.** We will be having an information evening on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 8p.m. in the Parish Centre. It would be great to see a number of our men (and) their wives there to gain a better insight in to this wonderful ministry.

**PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY IS FULLY BOOKED.** BOOKING FORMS FOR THOSE ALREADY REGISTERED FOR THIS TRIP CAN BE COLLECTED FROM THE PARISH OFFICE OR CAN BE SENT TO YOU VIA EMAIL IF YOU EMAIL THE PARISH OFFICE. However there is the opportunity to join us on a Pilgrimage to the Shrines of Northern France. 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020 to 26<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Full Itinerary and cost on the notice board. If interested please collect a BOOKING FORM from the Parish Office or the Sacristy. Please hand these in to Parish Office. NO MONEY REQUIRED AT THIS TIME – we need to have sufficient numbers to do this pilgrimage.

**CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE FOR RECEPTION.** Please contact Fr. Joseph to arrange a time for him to sign your form. Please remember that you need to have your child's Mass attendance cards with you when meeting Fr. Joseph.

**PROCLAIM PRAYER**

*Loving Father, you so loved the world that you sent us your only Son, that we might believe in Him and have eternal life. May we encounter Jesus Christ anew this day and live the Good News with joy. Through the power of your Holy Spirit, help us to “go out to the whole world and proclaim” our faith with confidence. Give us the courage to witness to the Joy of the Gospel by our words and actions. Help us to become more welcoming and missionary, so that you may be known and loved by all people. We make this prayer through Our Lord Jesus Christ Your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. AMEN*

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**  
**Loose £ 924.06 Envelopes £ 535.58**  
**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR**  
**GENEROSITY**

**RELIGIOUS CHRISTMAS STAMPS** are available for purchase at the post office now. Please buy some and use them for your Christmas post.

**‘THE GOD WHO SPEAKS’, YEAR OF THE WORD 2020.** We will be having sessions at Holy Rood on TUESDAY 10th and 17th DECEMBER IN THE PARISH CENTRE 12.45pm and repeated at 7.30pm. ALL ARE WELCOME to attend one of these. The theme on the 10th of December will be **“COME AND SEE—BECOMING DISCIPLES”** The theme for 17th December will be **“MEETING JESUS IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN”**

**A CREATION CELEBRATION.** You are warmly welcomed to join us at St Bede's Catholic Church on Wednesday 11th December, 7pm to 9.30pm (Church doors will open at 6.30pm for reflection & preparation). This event will focus on climate change and ecological awareness, and will be based on the Encyclical Letter LAUDATO SI' by Pope Francis. Two short films will be shown, accompanied by brief open discussions on the points raised. Afterwards, we will share light refreshments in the Church Hall. All Masses during the preceding weekend of 7th/8th December will focus on this theme, in preparation for this event.

**HOLY ROOD ASCENT GROUP – PROGRAMME FOR DECEMBER 2019.**  
**Friday, 13 December, Canal Cruise** - Meet at Holy Rood Church for 10.15am. Depart from Waterways Experiences, Nash Mills at 11.00am, 3-hour Canal Cruise. Return to Nash Mills at 3.00pm. Bring & Share Lunch. Soup and Bread provided; also mulled wine and mince pies. **Two spare places – as at 19-11-19.** Contact Winnie on 01923 334998, if you're interested  
**Wednesday, 18 December** - Meal at the Moon Under Water, after Midday Mass. **Contact Shirley if you wish to go - everyone is welcome.**