

## HOLY MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE COMING WEEK

MON 23 March	Lent feria	Martha Farrell, RIP Lily Siatoo, RIP
TUES 24 March	Lent feria	Raj Lincoln, Anniv. Mr & Mrs P. Peralta—Thanksgiving
WED 25 March	THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	Private Intention Michael Corcoran, RIP
THUR 26 March	Lent feria	Deceased Members of Haynes' Family Tim O'Connor—Intention
FRI 27 March	Lent feria	Ignatius Iheanacho, RIP Scaria Joseph, Anniv
SAT 28 March	Lent feria	Noel & Cecilia Finn—60th Wedding Anniv  Teresa Niro, Anniv
SUN 29 March	+5th SUNDAY OF LENT	Pro Populo Jane McGrath, RIP Mary Keating—Intentions  Thomas, N. J., RIP

### CONFESIONS:

### EUCARISTIC ADORATION:

THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MARCH-For the Church in China. We pray that the Church in China persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

### 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)
<b>Office hours:</b> Send an email or phone			

Address: Holy Rood House, Exchange Road, Watford. WD18 0PJ. (01923) 224085

website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/watford/>

**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 22nd March 2020**

**4th SUNDAY OF LENT**

Dear All,

Sunday cycle  
Readings Year A  
Psalms week 4

As we are living in extraordinary times with a virus circulating the whole world, we must continue to keep our minds fixed on God and what lasts. For most of you the topic of conversation last weekend turned from the virus to our new pews. Thank you so much for your encouragement to the parish team for us to be able to bring this issue to the attention of the parish and present a possible solution. Judging from the many comments that we have received both orally and written – either letter or email, the feeling is extremely positive. We include two of the written items received this week as a “flavour” of what has been received. The individual chairs are ready for collection and it would be good if this could be completed by the end of this week.

Hello,

*I am one of the Parishioners who was against replacing the chairs and kneelers with pews but I have to say that the pews look very well indeed, so, congratulations all round.*

Another email:

*Dear Father Derek*

*Congratulations to you and the parish team for the new church pews. Everything in the new furniture compliments the existing structures in the church and looks just great. This is a great achievement and I am so pleased it has at last happened.*

*I thank you and my knees thank you.*

A person commented:

*WOW, WOW, WOW, I never thought the church could look so beautiful – but it does! Excellent decision – so pleased I trusted the Parish team.*

This week Fr. Derek is celebrating 25 years of priesthood. The priesthood is all about SERVICE and that is what we try to do for you as parishioners. Fr. Derek was hoping to be in Scotland celebrating Mass in the church where he was baptised, received First Confession, received First Holy Communion, Confirmation and then Ordination. Due to the issues of the virus, he will be staying put, celebrating Mass here and when the issues of the virus are over, we will celebrate this event as a parish family. Please keep Fr. Derek in your prayers at this special time.



Holy Rood  
Catholic Church, Watford

**HAIL HOLY QUEEN** Hail holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, hail our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us; and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

**FINAL ACT OF PUBLIC WORSHIP** Dear All, It is with regret that I have to inform you that the Bishops' Conference has decided that **ALL** public forms of worship should be suspended in our churches throughout England and Wales. This is obviously due to the CORONAVIRUS pandemic which is disturbing our lives at this present time. Our last public worship was last FRIDAY with our usual Masses – 8.30am and 12Noon. The Stations of the Cross will also took place at 11am. OUR FINAL ACT OF PUBLIC WORSHIP was last FRIDAY evening at 7pm with Stations of the Cross and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 8.30pm. After this time the church will be open each day at 8am and close at 4pm (except Sundays when it will be opened at 8am and close at 6pm) and this will be for personal prayer only. There will be no sacraments during this time – no confessions, no Holy Communion, no baptisms, no confirmations etc. It is unlikely that this ban will be lifted before Easter and so we will all have to unite ourselves SPIRITUALLY in a way that God can show us. On the website there will be a copy of the NEWSLETTER and also for this week a link to the Cardinal's Pastoral Letter for this weekend. The newsletter gives us the link

that we need in order for us to access MASS remotely from home with a number of different options. Myself and Fr. Joseph will be offering Mass privately for the intentions already booked for the coming weeks. However according to the guidelines Deacons are not permitted to be present at these Masses and so our own Deacon Neville will remain at home at this time. Let us continue to pray for a solution to this current issue sweeping through the world. Let us also remember that God is greater than anything and more powerful than a virus – however strong it might seem. Both of us will be praying for the needs of the parish in a particular way during this period. All God's blessings upon you and your families.

Fr. Derek

**LINK TO THE CARDINAL'S PASTORAL LETTER:**  
<https://rcdow.org.uk/cardinal/homilies/pastoral-letter-for-the-fourth-sunday-in-lent-2020/>

**GETTING MARRIED?** The next marriage preparation course is on the 2nd May at Holy Rood for those intending to marry in 2020/21. Space is limited so please reserve a place with the parish office on [watford@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:watford@rcdow.org.uk) if you wish to attend. Please note that for marriage in any Catholic Church, six months notice is required for paperwork and pastoral preparation. It is also important to remember when marrying abroad that many countries require Catholics to have received all their Initiation Sacraments, including Confirmation before marriage in Church.

#### FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Gertrude & Diane Baulk, John Cirillo, Lily Siatoo,  
Elizabeth Jacques, Lucia Seppe,  
**ANNIVERSARIES**  
Raj Lincoln, Scaria Joseph, Teresa Niro  
Eternal rest grant to them O Lord

**THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP**  
is sponsored for  
Avrille Bailey and Family Members

#### **ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY**

**WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL Saturday 30th May, 3pm.**

The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the diocese who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of catholic marriage in 2020. If you are celebrating an anniversary please give your parish clergy the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email and telephone numbers.

#### **PROVIDING SUPPORT DURING THE**

**CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC.** Whilst many of us will have family and friends to support us during the current situation there may be members of our community who will find themselves in need of help and assistance. If you require help during this difficult time please contact the parish on 01923 224 085 and Father Derek and Father Joseph will work with the parish volunteer groups, including the SVP, to try and assist you as much as possible.

**THE MOZART REQUIEM CONCERT** planned to take place on 3rd April in the Church has been postponed. A new date will be arranged in due course.

**SVP QUIZ NIGHT** Thank you to everyone who attended the Quiz Night. A great time was had by all and we raised £973.32. We will be holding other events this year and we hope you will be able to attend.

#### **INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS.**

The 52nd International Eucharistic Congress will be taking place from **14th – 21st September 2020** in Budapest, Hungary. This wonderful week of catechesis, Mass, processions and cultural events will bring together people from around the world to deepen our devotion to the Blessed

Sacrament. The Archbishop of Esztergom-Budapest, Cardinal Erdő, has invited all of us in the Diocese of Westminster to take part. All travel arrangements from England, accommodation and entry to the events is being organised by Tangney Tours, with 5 night and 7 night options available. To find out more and to book, visit [www.iec.tours](http://www.iec.tours)

**THE MASS ONLINE.** If you have access to a computer or smartphone you can follow a live-streaming of Masses online by going to [www.churchservices.tv](http://www.churchservices.tv) or <https://rcdow.org.uk/news/how-to-participate-in-mass-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/> and then search for one of the following parishes and a few more: St Joseph and the English Martyrs, Bishops Stortford; St Teresa of the Child Jesus, Borehamwood; St Mary, Hampstead: St Anselm and St Cecilia, Lincolns Inn Fields, Our Lady of Lourdes, New Southgate; St Monica, Palmers Green; Holy Apostles, Pimlico: Our Lady & St Vincent, Potters Bar: St Thomas More, Swiss Cottage. Mass times are available online.

**MASS REQUESTS/OFFERINGS** If you would like to offer masses for your intentions, please use the blue envelopes at the back of the church. Complete the attached slip, put it in the envelop, seal and post it through the presbytery letter box. Remember to add your contact number.

**MISSIO APPEAL.** Thank you for your support and response to the recent appeal on behalf of Missio. This is much appreciated. If anyone else would like a box, please contact the clergy and a box will be allocated.

#### **WEEKLY COLLECTION**

**Loose £594.80 Envelopes £389.90**  
**MANY THANKS**