

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE COMING WEEK

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| MON 30 March | Lent feria | Martha Farrell, RIP Debbie Kennedy, RIP |
| TUES 31 March | Lent feria | Pete Mitchell, RIP. Bernard and Annie Kelly Anniv |
| WED 1 April | Lent Feria | Leelama Abraham RIP Annie O'Neill, RIP |
| THUR 2 April | Lent feria | Joseph Hardwidge and George Howe RIP Maria Grimaldi RIP |
| FRI 3 April | Lent feria | Teresa McGregor Intentions Anthony Kelly, Anniv |
| SAT 4 April | Lent feria | Richard and Michael Corbally Anniv & RIP Cecilia and Noel Finn Intentions |
| SUN 5 April | +Palm SUNDAY OF LENT | Sheila Cain Anniv Charlotte Lenas Capunong Family Intenions |

CONFESSIONS:

EUCCHARISTIC 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

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|-------------------|--------------------------|--|-----------|
| Parish Priest: | Fr Derek McGuire | derekmcguire@rcdow.org.uk | (☎)Opt 3) |
| Assistant Priest: | Fr Joseph Okoro | josephokoro@rcdow.org.uk | (☎)Opt 4) |
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| Parish Secretary: | Martha Stuart-Berrisford | watford@rcdow.org.uk | (☎)Opt 2) |

Office hours: Send an email or phone

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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

**Sunday 29th March 2020
5th SUNDAY OF LENT**

Sunday cycle
Readings Year A
Psalms week 1

**Holy Rood
Catholic Church, Watford**

Dear parishioners,

I am sure that you will agree that this has been the most extraordinary weeks in our lives so far. Things happened so fast that it seems incredible to think that we have not completed our first week of nationwide "lock-down". EVERYTHING has been suspended in our country except emergency services. Clergy is part of this group. Although we cannot serve you in a public way, at daily Mass and the sacraments, we are serving in other ways. Our ministry in the hospital continues along with the clergy of our Deanery and the Deanery of St. Albans. We are all in this together. Our ministry continues to those who are bereaved. Both Fr. Joseph and myself have had funerals this week and we have a few more next week.

We have begun phoning those who are on the parish data-base. Although Deacon Neville is staying at home, he has joined us on this venture and we hope to speak to most of the parish in these days. These situations evoke different responses in each one of us. There is fear around and we need to recognise that. We hope that our gentle voices might bring about a little solace in this fraught situation that we are finding ourselves in. We are not sure if we can offer practical help, but we will try our best if someone is in need.

We are very grateful for your wishes to us at this time. We hope to have covered our data-base by Tuesday of this week—IF YOU HAVE NOT HEARD FROM US EITHER BY PHONE OR EMAIL—PLEASE GIVE US A CALL TO LET US KNOW HOW YOU ARE. Sometimes the phone numbers we have in our data base are incorrect—nothing is perfect in this life—unfortunately.

These are challenging times for all of us but we are seeing wonderful things happening too. Families have time together to enjoy each other's company, there is the time to pray as a family when they cannot come to Church, neighbours are helping those around them, concern is being shown to the vulnerable, phone calls are happening on a daily basis especially to those who are alone. Someone shared a thought with me which I thought was interesting—"We are destroying God's creation and now that creation itself is calling us to re-think in a drastic way. We could not continue on the way we were going, this has stopped us in our tracks and we all have to think in a different way now."

Let us continue to pray for those caring for us during this time—especially our health care professionals and those who keep our hospitals running in a clean and safe manner.



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.

SUSPENSION OF ALL 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 and that **ALL** churches be closed and remained throughout England and Wales till further notice. This is obviously due to the CORONAVIRUS pandemic which is disturbing our lives at this present time. 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. 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

UBI ET URBI BLESSING Last Friday at St Peter's, Pope Francis imparted his apostolic blessing on all people around the world as we go through the storm of the coronavirus pandemic. For his words of encouragement and reflection on the present stormy climate, please follow the link: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-03/urbi-et-orbi-pope-coronavirus-prayer-blessing.html>

GETTING MARRIED? The next marriage preparation course was due to be on the 2nd May at Holy Rood for those intending to marry in 2020/21. in the light of our present situation we are not sure if this will take place but we will keep you updated as and when we have further details. Depending on future developments there may be a disruption to the dates for marriages already booked. This is due to the fact that the Government are giving the public clear guidelines for family celebrations and other social settings. Let us hope and pray that the present situation will pass soon and weddings can go ahead.

ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL Saturday 30th May, 3pm. THIS MASS HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO THE CURRENT SITUATION. All couples will be informed by Martha, our parish secretary.

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.

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

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 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 phone the parish number and dial 3

for Fr. Derek or 4 for Fr. Joseph to book a Mass over the phone.

WEEKLY COLLECTION: Some people have contacted us regarding their Sunday offerings. As we cannot come in to the church at this time, we suggest that you keep aside your weekly offering and when we return to normal practice, you will be able to give your offerings then. We are very grateful to those who give by Standing Order as these continue due to this time of crisis, there is some income for the parish. THANK YOU—it is such a help at this time.

**WEEKLY COLLECTION
NO PUBLIC MASS—no collection.**

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP
is sponsored for
Marie McLoughlin

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

John Cirillo, Lily Siatoo,
Elizabeth Jacques, Lucia Sepe,
Peter Ahern, Kathleen Murphy,
Stuart Bell, John Rellis

ANNIVERSARIES

Bernard & Annie Kelly,
Joseph Hardwidge, George Howe,
Richard Corbally

Eternal rest grant to them O Lord