

## HOLY MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE COMING WEEK

<b>MON 18th May</b>	Easter Feria	Sean Brown RIP. Penny Nadal Intention.
<b>TUES 19th May</b>	Easter Feria	Maisie Brown, RIP Theodore Stuart-Berrisford Intention
<b>WED 20th May</b>	Easter Feria	Tom Finnerty Anniv. Anne Smythe Intention
<b>THUR 21st May</b>	THE ASCENSION of Our LORD	NHS staff and care workers Canon Arthur Jackman Anniv
<b>FRI 22nd May</b>	Easter Feria	Mary Carmody, RIP Grace Ogoli Intention
<b>SAT 23rd May</b>	Easter Feria	Deceased members of Brennan family Esther Pereira RIP
<b>SUN 24th May</b>	<b>+ 7th Sunday of Easter</b>	Catherine, Patrick and Mary Curtin, Richard and Kathleen Gamble and Mr and Mrs Brown, RIP Celestino and Perry Baggayan RIP

### THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP

is sponsored for Our NHS staff and Care Workers of the PARISH

**THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MAY**-We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and to the poor, may be an invigorating influence in the Church. Let us also pray for those who are beginning discernment and formation to become deacons in the church.

### 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>	<b>Send an email or phone one of the clergy</b>		

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 **Important new app:** <https://www.hestia.org/brightsky>

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

Sunday 17th May 2020  
6th SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday cycle  
Readings Year A  
Psalms week 2

Holy Rood  
Catholic Church, Watford



Last week I put in the newsletter Kathleen O'Meara's poem—"And the people stayed at Home" which I was sent by one of the managers of a nursing home nearby. One parishioner contacted me about it and has time to research this. This research unveiled the fact that the poem, attributed to Kathleen O'Meara in the 1800's was in fact "written by Kitty O'Meara, a former teacher and chaplain from Wisconsin in March 2020. So my dear parishioners you received "FAKE NEWS" from your parish priest—for this I am sorry but grateful to our attentive parishioners to keep me right. On a positive note the research opened up a new field to the parishioner as Kathleen O'Meara has a fascinating life and they would never have discovered this, had it not been for last week's mistake. Good can always come from mistakes through the power of God's Hand working in and through us.

The reason for the mistake is that I don't have time to research all the little "gems" that land on my desk or in my email box. I keep my time for researching theological matters so that I don't fall in to heresy and then take you all with me! As you know we are doing our second round of phone-calls (over 750 families to be contacted!) and inevitably people ask the question: "How do you fill your day Father?" The answer is rather simple, we have more time for prayer and with all the parish staff at home, the Admin of the parish has to be done—emails, bills to be paid, newsletters to be prepared, cooking skills are being developed as we have time to experiment with new recipes. Also the cleaning of the house and flower arranging for the altar we use for Mass each day. Painting and decorating and keeping our "postum pacis" clear of weeds and nurturing plants also takes times. Preparation for next year's sacramental programmes is also a feature of our week—looking at doing these in different ways. A lot of our time at present is taken up with families preparing for funerals which can be time-consuming at present as we don't have the opportunity to meet with families and so have to rely of other methods of communication—ZOOM, emails, telephone etc. Other needs of parishioners are met as and when they arise. So days are full but we do look forward to the time when the Government will say that it is safe to open our doors—sooner rather than later.

**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 remain closed 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. Since no one knows when this ban will be lifted, let us continue 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.

**EVERY THURSDAY EVENING**—at 7p.m. a bishop will celebrate Mass in his Cathedral for all our frontline workers in the NHS and our care homes, for the sick and their families. 21 May: Bishop Mark Davies, Shrewsbury Cathedral, 28 May: Bishop Terence Draine, Middlesbrough Cathedral

**16th - 24th May**—Laudato Si' Week. This week is the 5th anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical on care for our common home.

Catholics everywhere are urged to reflect and PREPARE for action. Further details <https://laudatosiweek.org>

**WATFORD TOWN CENTRE CHAPLAINCY**—in the current climate support can be obtained by phoning 07483178582 or by emailing the team: [frances@watfordtcc.org](mailto:frances@watfordtcc.org) for anyone who usually works in the Watford Town Centre and needs chaplaincy support at this time. You may have time to watch the new film which you can find at:

[www.watfordtcc.org/volunteer](http://www.watfordtcc.org/volunteer)

**GETTING MARRIED?** 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.

**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/>

**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. Fr. Derek and Fr. Joseph will work with the

parish volunteer groups, including the SVP, to try and assist you as much as possible.

**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.

**St. Michael's Catholic Grammar School**—is continuing with Admissions timetable as set out for entry **SEPTEMBER 2021** and the same deadlines apply. Please check the website for correct procedure and completed applications can be submitted electronically.

**BEDFORD, MORISON AND CORDERY ALMSHOUSE CHARITY** is offering accommodation for single men and women, over 60 and capable of independent living. The Charity does not offer medical care. Further details contact: Site Manager on 07957945718 or a Trustee on 07785223860

*Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of Philip McMichael—a former curate here in Holy Rood in the 70's. Philip died in the last few weeks.*

*This week we CONTINUE a new round of phone conversations with our parishioners. We have exchanged lists of contacts so you will be hearing a different voice from the last time. It is always good to hear a voice and can be reassuring. The first round of calls has proved very beneficial to us as clergy and has been uplifting to hear your*

**Watford Food Bank continues to receive contributions. People can leave things at the presbytery or you could donate financially—  
[www.watfordfoodbank.co.uk](http://www.watfordfoodbank.co.uk)**

**encouragement and support. We hope and pray we do the same for you all.**

*In the present circumstances, we might be abandoned and forgotten, similar to someone who has been orphaned. However we know that through baptism we are the children of God, he becomes our Father and therefore our identity is to be his sons and daughters. In time of trial, like our own, we need a sure witness that we are not forgotten, hence the promise of the Spirit is both reassuring and comforting.*

A number of people have asked the question as to why we are not streaming our daily Mass. We feel that there is such a variety of churches offering this service that it is not necessary for EVERY church to do this. There is also a tendency to get caught up on numbers and priests might begin to boast as to how many they have watching.

**Standing Order for April—  
£ 5448.00.**

**Thank you to all who contribute using this method—it provides for the church in these times of need.**

#### **FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED**

Philip McMichael, Antonio Savino, Milckey Rodrigues, Antonia Messere, Jim Duff, Wilma Banaag, John McCullagh, Timmy Clancy, Patrick Smith, Ines Mazzone

#### **ANNIVERSARIES**

Tom Finnerty, Canon Aurthur Jackman

**Eternal rest grant to them O Lord**