HOLY MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE COMING WEEK

MON 17 August	Feria		Rodrigo Sanchez Intentions Marcel Willems, RIP
TUES 18 August	Feria	8:30am 12noon	Holy Spirit Elio De Mare and Esther Franquera, Anniv
WED 19 August	feria		Georgina Thomas Intentions Fr. Samuel Swanston Anniv
THUR 20 August	St. Bernard	8:30am 12noon	Charles Okoro RIP Deceased members of Dyson Court
FRI 21 August	St. Pius X	6.00pm	Christina Paoli Anniv
SAT 22 August	feria	11am 6pm	John Sexton Anniv Rosa Rita Paoli, RIP
SUN 23August	**+ 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time**	8am 9.30am 11am 12.30pm 2.15pm	Esther Holmes, RIP Edwin Anthony D'Moss, RIP Davide Zippo Anniv People of the Parish Polish Mass

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP
is sponsored for Intentions of Rodrigo Sanchez

THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR AUGUST – We pray for those who work and live from the sea, especially sailors, fishermen and their families.

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:	**Send an email or phone one of the clergy**		

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
Important new app: https://www.hestia.org/brightsk

Hospital Chaplain: Deacon Anthony 07876 526935 or emailing: anthonycurran@rcdow.org.uk

Sunday 16th August 2020
Feast of the Assumption of Our Blessed Mother

Sunday cycle Readings Year A

Psalms week 4

Holy Rood Catholic Church, Watford

The Feast of the Assumption of Our Blessed Lady

Today's feast is the culmination of the life of our Blessed Mother. We know that Mary gave herself wholeheartedly to God's plan of Salvation. The great plan of God involved inviting Mary to be a unique part of this plan by offering her very body to bring forth the Life that would bring Life to all. God assumed her body as well as her soul into eternal glory at the end of her earthly life. This feast reminds us of the rewards of a life lived to the full in the light of our Saviour Jesus Christ. We are called to imitate Mary and give ourselves to God's plan to bring about His Kingdom here on earth by the lives we are living.

During the course of this Pandemic we have experienced many aspects of this Kingdom – taking time to phone people, making sure that our elderly and vulnerable had enough provisions to see them through, the caring nature of our medical staff demonstrating love, compassion and tenderness throughout – lots of different people FORGETTING themselves and coming to the help of others. This is continuing now with our STEWARDS and our CLEANERS who are forgetting themselves by giving time to our church to make it a safe and clean environment in which we can worship God. The new pews/benches have been a great bonus for our cleaners as these are so much easier wipe down instead of having to move kneelers and mop around hundreds if not thousands of legs of chairs. The parish is EXTREMELY GRATEFUL TO ALL OUR HELPERS for allowing us back in to the church. If you could or would like to join the team of volunteers - stewards and cleaners, please contact either Fr. Derek or Fr. Joseph. This is helping to build up God's Kingdom in a very practical way.

We have begun our First Holy Communion celebrations—please keep the children in your prayers at this important time of their life as they begin nourishing themselves with the Bread of Life—Jesus Himself.

We continue our third phase of phone conversations with all those who are on our Parish Database. It does involve a lot of energy for the clergy but is very worthwhile. It is good to be able to give "good news" amidst the amount of doom and gloom that is around. With the introduction of face masks, we have been able to double the capacity of the church whilst continuing to keep a "social distance". This is another step in the right direction. Let's keep up the prayers to support one another through this difficult period. Let us also continue to be diligent and recognise that wearing the face mask is a reminder that we are not through this crisis yet.

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT AT THIS TIME OF PANDEMIC THERE IS *NO OBLIGATION TO ATTEND SUNDAY MASS*. MANY PEOPLE WILL CONTINUE TO "attend" MASS ON-LINE and THOSE MOST VULNERABLE CONTINUE TO BE SHIELDED AT THIS TIME.

Bearing in mind that things will not go back to the norm as before, we have looked at the Bishops' and Government recommendations and for the time being we are going to offer Mass on the following days/times FOR A MAXIIMUM OF 90 PERSONS AT ONE MASS. This means that everyone thinking of attending *ONE MASS per week* MUST REGISTER THEIR NAME—details to follow after the timings. THIS DEPENDS ON HAVING ENOUGH CLEANERS FOR THE DIFFERENT TIMES!

This WEEK and the following week these Masses are available:

SUNDAY 8am,9.30am,11am,12.30pm
Tuesday 8.30am & 12Noon
Thursday 8.30am & 12Noon
Friday 6pm
Saturday Vigil 6pm.

These Masses will be in accordance with the strict Government guidelines reiterated by the Bishops' Conference guidelines. The Mass will be shorter than usual with a brief homily, no intercessions, etc., Offertory gifts can be left in designated buckets on entry or exit of the church building. This is "to minimise the time that people are congregated in the church building."

CLEANING MUST TAKE PLACE AFTER MASSES. So we are in need of a team of cleaners for the following masses: AFTER ALL SUNDAY MASSES, & Tuesday 12Noon, Friday 10 am and Saturday 6pm. WILL YOU BE WILLING TO HELP IF YOU HAVE ATTENDED ONE OF THESE MASSES?

HOW TO REGISTER YOURSELF TO ATTEND MASS SO THAT WE DO NOT EXCEED THE MAXIMUM CAPACITY OF 90 people. The easiest way to reserve a place at Sunday or weekday mass is to go online to our website and click on the EVENTS page and choose which Mass you would like to attend, fill in your name, phone number and declare that you are symptom free and BOOK. Simple. Website is: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/watford/events/

If you cannot visit the website through the internet please phone one of the clergy OR SEND AN EMAIL TO watford@rcdow.org.uk PLEASE DO NOT TURN UP FOR MASS IF YOU HAVE NOT REGISTERED AND HAD A CONFIRMATION EITHER BY SPEAKING TO SOMEONE OR RECEIVING AN EMAIL BACK.

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/

THANKS TO OUR TEAMS OF STEWARDS AND CLEANERS—THE CHURCH WILL REMAIN OPEN FOR PERSONAL PRAYER AT THESE TIMES:

TUESDAY 9-12NOON,

THURSDAY 9-12NOON,

FRIDAY 6.30-8PM

AND CLOSED SATURDAY MORNING.

CONFESSIONS: FRI—6:30PM AND SAT–12NOON

BAPTISMS. The Government has now given us permission to celebrate baptisms in the near future. It would be good if we could know the number of baptisms that we would be looking at. If you have a child to be baptised please contact Deacon Neville who will liaise with you regarding what might be required and relevant documentation. Please be aware that everyone will be required to wear face masks as there will be close proximity.

Deacon Neville can be contacted by email: nevilledyckhoff@rcdow.org.uk

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.

CHURCH CHAIRS READY FOR COLLECTION—those of you who requested a chair or two and would like to collect them soon, please contact Fr. Derek or Fr. Joseph to arrange a convenient time.

Our beautiful Church and ONE parishioner appeared on the BBC last weekend. If you did not see it and can access BBC iPlayer, you can watch it there. The title of the programme is: STORIES OF US Series 1 and Episode 2. Those of you who have chosen to have a chair or two will realise that you have been given a piece of art to take home that has such a history to it. For our parishioner watch especially at 7minutes and 20 seconds—inspiring.

Watford Food Bank continues to receive contributions. People can leave things at the presbytery or you could donate financially—
www.watfordfoodbank.co.uk

We will continue to send an email to parishioners who have an email address with us. This email contains the WEEKLY NEWSLETTER. Many commented on how good it is to receive this and so we continue to try to make life easier. IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED AN EMAIL AND WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE ONE—please email Fr. Derek and ask him to add your email address.

CARITAS PARISH REPRESENTATIVES– Caritas parish representatives are part of an integral network of people in the Diocese of Westminster supporting vital services and people in need. As a parish representative you will help promote the charitable work of Caritas and its partners. To become a parish representative first obtain the consent of the parish priest then contact caritasreps@rcdow.org.uk or phone 02079316077.

Thank you to all who contribute using the Standing Order method—it provides for the church in these times of need. Month of July—£

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Lee It Lim, Elizabeth Moriarty,
Victor Gonzalez, Joyce Price,
Charles Okoro, Berthrand Okoro,
Raymond Mangan,

ANNIVERSARIES

Elio De Mare & Esther Franquera,
Fr. Samuel Swanston,
Christina Paoli & Family,
John Sexton

Eternal rest grant to them O Lord