

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE COMING WEEK

MON 14 September	THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS		Sue Shearer's Mother, RIP
TUES 15 September	Our Lady of Sorrows	8:30am 12noon	Celia & Noel Finn, Intentions Dermot Cribben, Anniv
WED 16 September	Ss Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs		Peter Elliott, Anniv Mario Binelli Anniv
THUR 17 September	feria	8:30am 12noon	Malcolm Atkins, Anniv For the Holy Souls
FRI 18 September	feria	6.00pm	Pauline Coleman RIP
SAT 19 September	feria	11am 6pm	Conchita & Aurora Aquino, RIP Roseline Emimie Izuagie, RIP
SUN 20 September	+ 25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8am 9.30am 11am 12.30pm 2.15pm	Joseph Antony, Anniv Berthrand & Charles Okoro, RIP Josie Deane, Anniv Albert Okeke, Anniv Polish Mass

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP

is sponsored for parishioners at this time of need

THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER – We pray that the planet's resources will not be plundered, but shared in a just and respectful manner.

MAKING CONTACT AT HOLY ROOD

Charity No: 233699

Parish Priest:	Fr Derek McGuire	derekmcguire@rcdow.org.uk	(☎Opt 3)
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Office hours: Send an email or phone one of the clergy

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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 13th September 2020 24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ON THE FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

Sunday cycle
Readings Year A
Psalms week 4

We adore thee O Christ and we praise thee. Because by thy Holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.

This week, precisely on Monday 14th September, is our parish feast – The Exaltation of the Cross – that is, the glory, and our veneration of what was once an instrument of torture and death, but is now “the dazzling sign of mankind's redemption”. The crucifix (a cross with an image of the crucified Christ) in Catholic Churches across the world is a constant reminder to us of the redemptive sacrifice of Christ of himself on the cross on Calvary.

Not only does it serve as a constant reminder of the redemptive event, it takes us on a mental pilgrimage to Calvary, where the most powerful and unparalleled event of all time took place and continues to take place at every Mass. Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger in his Theology of the Liturgy reminds us that “The Eucharist is not merely the distribution of what comes from the past, but rather the presence of the Paschal Mystery of Christ, Who transcends and unites all times.” Simply put, at Mass, the sacrifice of Christ of himself and its redemptive benefits are made present to us no less than they were at Calvary over two thousand years ago.

It is only proper then that the penitential mood, the sense of awe and gratitude that the Good Friday liturgy evokes in us should consciously form part of our disposition each time we come to Mass because, “in the Eucharist which is the sacrament of the Church's unity, we all form one single body of which the Lord is the head. We must go back again and again to the Last Supper on Holy Thursday, where we were given a pledge of the mystery of our redemption on the Cross.” (Benedict XVI's Homily – 49th International Eucharistic Congress – Quebec City)

This drama on the Cross on Calvary, as the Church teaches and as is re-presented at every Mass, is not merely human action, nor a meal among friends BUT “the action of Christ the Priest and of His Body which is the Church, a sacred action surpassing all others; no other action of the Church can equal its efficacy by the same title and to the same degree.” (Sacrosanctum Concilium, No. 7) Since in the Eucharist Christ's sacrifice is constantly renewed, Pentecost is constantly renewed, the lay faithful, no less than priests are called upon to be wary of aberrations and irreverence, but must strive to give due honour to the Eucharistic rite in the Eucharistic action.

May we at every Mass continue with reverent adoration of the wood of the Cross on which was wrought the salvation of the world. HAPPY FEAST TO US ALL.

Holy Rood
Catholic Church, Watford



Coronavirus has disrupted all our lives in one way or another. The effects are still being experienced in our everyday living. It has changed the way we celebrate liturgy but it is also having an impact on decisions that have to be made. It is with sadness that I have to let you know that the Cardinal has asked me to move to a different parish in the Diocese in order to take on extra responsibility at this time of change. It has been a joy to journey with you and I have enjoyed my time serving the parish here in Watford and although I have only been here two years, so much has taken place— most of it for the good of the parish. Moves will not happen immediately so I will be with you until January when your new Parish Priest will take over. More details about that and my new appointment next week. I know this is a shock to you but it is also one for me. Let us not look back and lament but give thanks for what we have received and look to the future. Moving is always a difficult time for a priest so I would appreciate your support at this time by not drawing too much attention to my move because there is still work to be done. The positive side is that Fr Joseph and Deacon Neville will be staying with you which gives continuity.

Fr. Derek

Tomorrow is the Feast of The Holy Cross— the feast day of the parish. With Coronavirus pandemic the Chrism Mass had to be postponed. It will take place tomorrow at the Cathedral and the Cardinal has invited us all to be there via LIVESTREAMING. You can access this from the Cathedral website. Due to this there will be no Mass on Monday for the feast day. We will highlight this by saying a special prayer at the end of each Mass and invite all our parishioners to say this prayer everyday for the next eight days.

*O God Almighty, who suffered death upon the cross,
particularly for my sins, be with me.*

Holy Cross of Jesus, have pity on me. Holy Cross of Jesus, be my protector.

Holy Cross of Jesus, take away all bitter pains, Holy Cross of Jesus, take away all evil.

Holy Cross of Jesus, let me walk in the way of salvation.

Preserve me from any temporal accidents, take away any danger of sudden death.

I always adore the Holy Cross of Jesus Christ: Jesus of Nazareth crucified, have pity on me

Make the spirit of evil leave me for all times. AMEN

As we regain some of our everyday practices we are now ready to ask about the availability of some of our parishioners. As Fr. Joseph and Fr. Derek will be taking breaks soon, we will be in need of some extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist to help with the distribution of Holy Communion. If you are willing to take up your ministry once again, please let Fr. Derek, Fr. Joseph or Deacon Neville know your intention. ALSO we would like to invite some of our COUNTING TEAMS to form a once-a-month team to count any money that has been dormant for at least three weeks. Once again if you are willing to take up your position as a

counter – let us know. When we have names we can then make up a rota. If you are a Reader and would like to help out by reading at the Mass you are attending – please email Fr. Derek or Fr. Joseph who will put your name on the list.

THIS WEEK'S MASS TIMES

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

THE CHURCH WILL REMAIN OPEN FOR PERSONAL PRAYER AT THESE TIMES:

TUESDAY 9 AM TILL 12 NOON

THURSDAY 9AM TILL 12NOON

FRIDAY 6.30PM TILL 8PM

CONFESSIONS: Fri 6:30PM AND SAT– 11.30am

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, fill in your name, phone number and declare that you are symptom free and BOOK. Website is: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/watford/events/>. Please wait for the confirmation of the booking which appears on the website page immediately after booking. There is no confirmation email sent.

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 ONLINE OR WITH THE PRIESTS.

THANK YOU TO OUR TEAMS OF STEWARDS AND CLEANERS

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/>

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

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS. Throughout the year we normally have “special collections” for different charities. The Bishops’ Conference has recommended, in the light of the effect of COVID-19, that we only highlight the collections organized by the Holy See and our Diocesan collections. Next Sunday there is a special appeal for the **HOLY PLACES OF PALESTINE** organized by the Holy See. If you would like to donate to this appeal, please place your contribution in an envelope and hand it in to the presbytery or one of the stewards in the church.

STANDING ORDERS FOR PARISH GIVING. Many thanks to our parishioners who have opted to use the STANDING ORDER method – we are hoping to encourage the WHOLE parish to take on this important means of giving to the church. If you would like more information please contact Fr. Derek or Fr. Joseph who will send you out the relevant information.

ALTERNATIVES BABY BOX project is up and running again,. We are in need of first size nappies and baby toiletries. Please put these in the box.

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

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Margaret Skinner, Alex Muir, Marlene Godfrey, Lee It Lim, Elizabeth Moriarty, Victor Gonzalez, Joyce Price, Raymond Mangan.

ANNIVERSARIES

Joseph Augustine, Leelamma Abraham, Mario Betorelli, Dermot Cribben, Peter Elliott, Malcolm Atkins, Mario Binelli.

Eternal rest grant to them O Lord